What is Health Insurance Marketplace?

Beginning January 1, 2014, the Affordable Care Act (ACA) will require all individuals to purchase health insurance or risk facing penalties. In response to this new policy, and as a way to encourage competition and consumer choice while providing benefit standardization and lowering costs, the ACA has created a Health Insurance Marketplace, also sometimes referred to as a Health Insurance Exchange, for individuals and businesses to comparison shop and purchase health care coverage. The Marketplace will become available to the public October 1, 2013 with coverage effective as of January 1, 2014.

continued on page 2
The primary responsibility for governing and operating the exchanges is delegated to the states, with the federal government (Department of Health and Human Services) setting minimum default standards. If a state chooses not to set up its own exchange system, then the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) can default to the federal exchange in that state. Texas has chosen to use the federal default rather than create its own state exchange.

While all plans on an individual public exchange will offer certain basic benefits, known as “essential health benefits”, such as preventative and wellness services, prescription drug plans and hospital stay coverage, the out-of-pocket costs and full coverage options vary according to each level. There are four different level plans: platinum, gold, silver and bronze. Platinum plans will have the lowest deductibles, but the highest monthly premiums and offer the most coverage. Bronze, on the other hand, will have the lowest monthly premium, but the highest out-of-pocket deductible and offer the minimum coverage.

What does this mean to UTMB?
For employees of UTMB who are currently receiving a benefits package – not much right now. UTMB employees will continue their coverage with BlueCross BlueShield and remain unaffected.

The biggest impact to UTMB will be seen in those who come to seek care and are currently uninsured. For those individuals, guidance will be provided to assist them in navigating their options, so that they may purchase the plan that is most suitable.

Individuals can begin shopping for plans on the marketplace, October 1, 2013 with health coverage starting January 1, 2014. If individuals do not select a plan by the end of open enrollment on March 31, 2014, they may be subject to a fine.

UTMB is designated by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid (CMS) as a Certified Application Coordinator (CAC) organization. UTMB financial counselors are certified to assist individuals in navigating the online Health Insurance Marketplace. Individuals may call 409.772.6464 to schedule an appointment with a financial counselor. Individuals may schedule an appointment by sending an email to financial counseling@utmb.edu.

To find out more information about the insurance marketplace, visit https://www.healthcare.gov/health-insurance-marketplace/. To learn more about the Marketplace and its impact on UTMB, please join us at Health System Brown Bag Lunch on November 13, 2013. Please see the promotion below for more information.

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Health System Brown Bag Lunch: The Health Insurance Marketplace

Wednesday, November 13
Noon
Levin Hall Dining Room

Please join us for an informative discussion with Vice President for Clinical Contracting Services, Becky Korenek, on the “who, what, when, where and why” of the new Health Insurance Marketplace (also called the Health Insurance Exchange), an online shopping network for health insurance.

As part of the Affordable Care Act, beginning October 1, 2013, individuals who do not presently have coverage through their employer will be able to select a health plan from the Marketplace with health coverage starting January 1, 2014.

UTMB employees who are currently receiving a benefits package will not be eligible to purchase from the exchange. UTMB employees will continue their coverage with BlueCross BlueShield and remain unaffected.
**HIPAA/HITECH Right to Request**

**HIPAA / HITECH INFORMATION**

Right to Request a Restriction of Uses and Disclosures

Compliance to the new right to disclose of health information became effective September 23, 2013. Under the new rule, individuals have the right to obtain restrictions on the disclosure of health information in electronic or any other form to a health plan for payment or health care operations with respect to specific items and services for which the individual has paid the covered entity out-of-pocket in full. Refer to The Health System Intranet site for more information about HIPAA/HITECH: Right to Request a Restriction of Uses and Disclosures. [http://intranet.utmb.edu/healthsystem/Resources/HIPAA-HITECH.asp](http://intranet.utmb.edu/healthsystem/Resources/HIPAA-HITECH.asp)

**Saturday Sports Injury Clinic**

If your athlete is injured, we don’t want them to wait to see a specialist. Our expert team of sports medicine physicians and physical therapists are available every Saturday through football season to treat sports injuries right away, from fractures and dislocations to sprains and torn ligaments. We will also have X-rays, MRI’s and CT scans, available as needed.

**Sports Injury Clinic**

Specialty Care Center at Victory Lakes
Saturday 9 am to Noon
August 31 through November 9

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**Clinical Value Analysis**

So you want to change a product...

Your excellent nurse just brought you a nifty product that she picked up at that wonderful conference she went to. This new product promises to work much better than what we have and will therefore be of great benefit to the patient. But what to do next? Well, we hope this clears up the ever complicated process for getting “stuff” at a state facility with a supply vendor contract...

Instructions are now available at [http://intranet.utmb.edu/healthsystem/cva/default.asp](http://intranet.utmb.edu/healthsystem/cva/default.asp).

**EAC CORNER**

UTMB hosted the UT System EAC Meeting on September 25-27. Two representatives from each UT System member institution attended. The UT System EAC is a selected representative advisory group that works with, and on behalf of, The University of Texas System. Each year the EAC meets with the Board of Regents to present information and make recommendations regarding issues of importance to employees of UT System.

The UTMB EAC will be hosting an *Engage and Chat* during the Night Council Meeting on Monday, October 14th at 6 PM. If you would like the EAC to host an *Engage and Chat* with your area, please contact any of the EAC representatives.

We’ll be accepting nominations for next year’s EAC representatives from October 7-25. Please visit our blog for more information: [http://blogs.utmb.edu/EAC/](http://blogs.utmb.edu/EAC/). Elections will be held November 4-22. Members will serve a three year term beginning in January 2014.
CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

John Sealy Construction Activity Affects Bank of Six Staff Elevators

September 16 through October 31

As part of the Concourse Project, improvements will be made to the infrastructure and finishes for the Bank of Six Staff Elevators. Three of the six elevators will be affected and will have service to the first floor only halted during this time period. During this time, all six elevators will be operable for service to all of the upper floors.

Jennie Sealy: The story of our ongoing progress, told in numbers

Con erroneously complete in 2015

LEVEL 10
concrete deck and columns are 60 percent complete

LEVEL 9
concrete deck and columns are 75% complete

Averaging 250 workers per day, with more than 300,000 person hours to date

FUN FACT: Where did the third floor go?

Observant watchers of the construction at Jennie Sealy Hospital have had a lot of great progress to watch lately. But some may be puzzled: what happened to the third floor (see photo)? It’s been skipped, at least in terms of numbering. To handle future threats from high water, the first two floors in the new hospital are as tall as three floors are in a “normal” building or the surrounding facilities. The second level is built 25 feet above sea level; the first floor houses no essential functions. By adjusting the numbering, when patients or staff access the new hospital via one of the connections from adjacent buildings, the numbering will be consistent. They’ll leave the 4th floor, and still be on the 4th floor in Jennie Sealy.
DSRIP Project Update: Expand Specialty Care Capacity through Training for Burn and Trauma Care

UTMB Health is leading a number of Delivery System Reform Incentive Payments (DSRIP) Pool projects as anchor for the Regional Health Partnership (RHP) 2, under the Medicaid 1115 Waiver - Texas Health Care Transformation and Quality Improvement Program. DSRIPs are incentive payments to hospitals and other providers that develop programs or strategies to enhance access to health care, increase the quality of care, the cost-effectiveness of care provided and the health of the patients and families served.

The Burn and Trauma Care project takes a multidisciplinary approach to expanding the training of specialty care providers in burn and trauma care through the collaboration of Burn and Trauma Services of the University of Texas Medical Branch and Shriners Hospital for Children in Galveston. The project also aims to provide a mechanism to help close the gap for underserved populations related to burn and traumatic injuries through an educational outreach program for pre-hospital health care providers and emergency department providers. The program will also help to improve morbidity and mortality rates, long-term outcomes, patient satisfaction and improve overall quality of life for burn and trauma patients.

As part of the Regional Healthcare Partnership Plan, a considerable expansion of clinical outreach and referral programs, along with education, injury prevention and epidemiology programs are anticipated, particularly once eight additional counties are added to RHP 2, including San Jacinto, Polk, Tyler, Angelina, Nacogdoches, San Augustine, Shelby and Sabine Counties.

New Health Information Library Now Available

UTMB’s new online health information library is now available at healthlibrary.utmbhealth.com. Powered by Krames StayWell, the library is written to inform, engage and empower patients and visitors to the site, by providing thousands of articles on adult and pediatric health conditions, tests and procedures, risk assessments, other interactive tools, and frequent news updates. In addition, visitors to the site can also look up information on certain medications (including possible drug interactions), herbs, vitamins and supplements; nutrition and general wellness; tips for healthy living and more.

The tool is consumer-oriented and is licensed for use on both utmbhealth.com and utmb.edu domains. Links from the library pages back to relevant UTMB physicians and departments are being added now and will be online in the coming weeks. If you have questions, comments or suggestions, please contact Marketing and Communications at utmb.health@utmb.edu.
Even if you haven’t been part of the UTMB team for long, you’ve probably noticed there are a lot of initiatives, both internally and across the Houston-Galveston region, that are starting to sound similar to one another.

In this rapidly changing health care environment (an environment that is moving increasingly toward integrated care), many terms contain the words “care” or “connect” in their titles, making it difficult to keep track!

At UTMB, we have recently implemented, or have begun implementing, several new functionalities known as Care Link and Care Everywhere (which includes Care Epic and Care Elsewhere).

To help distinguish between these terms and a few others that are commonly used, a short glossary has been created at http://intranet.utmb.edu/healthsystem/Resources/glossary.asp to define the following terms: Care Link, Care Everywhere, Care Elsewhere, utmbConnect, Greater Houston Healthconnect Health Exchange, and Galveston County Health Exchange.

The Good Samaritan Foundation recently honored 25 UTMB nursing professionals at the 2013 Excellence in Nursing awards, which recognize the profession’s “best and brightest”.

Excellence in Nursing award winners are nominated by their peers and selected by a distinguished committee of nursing leaders. Those nominated must demonstrate passion for the nursing profession and exemplify excellence in teaching, mentoring, leadership and service.

The Good Samaritan Foundation is dedicated to a single issue — increasing the number of highly-trained and dedicated nurses “at the bedside” of Texas patients. Its mission is to support excellence in nursing education and practice, providing grants to nursing schools for faculty development, doctoral research and community outreach.

Good Samaritan Scholars is the nation’s largest privately-supported scholarship program for nursing education, assisting almost 300 students each year. Since 1951, the program has assisted more than 15,000 nurses with more than $15 million in scholarship support.

Please join us in congratulating: Oyebamiji Adebayo, Alviza Shelito, Priscilla Berends, Barbara Bonificio, Valerie Brumfield, Sandra Calapan, Jennifer Casso, Odette Comeau, Pamela Cruz, Pat Davis, Deatra Delcambre, Souby George, Jamie Heffernan, Vitaliy Holubka, Andrea Horne, Jill Kelley, Gail Kwarciany, Leanne Ledoux, Yolanda Leyva, Roselyn Ogunkunie, Phillip Osei-Manu, Barbara Parish, Lou Smith, Chelita Thomas and Soula Wyckoff.
UTMB Cardiac Rehabilitation Program Receives AACVPR Certification

UTMB is proud to announce the certification of its Cardiac Rehabilitation program by the American Association of Cardiovascular and Pulmonary Rehabilitation (AACVPR). The Cardiac Rehabilitation program was recognized for its commitment to improving the quality of life by enhancing standards of care.

Cardiovascular and pulmonary rehabilitation programs are designed to help people with cardiovascular problems (e.g., heart attacks, coronary artery bypass graft surgery) and pulmonary problems (e.g., chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and respiratory symptoms) recover faster and improve their quality of life. Both programs include exercise, education, counseling and support for patients and their families.

The UTMB Cardiac Rehabilitation program participated in an application process that required extensive documentation of the program’s practices. AACVPR Program Certification is the only peer-review accreditation process designed to review individual programs for adherence to standards and guidelines developed and published by AACVPR and other professional societies. Each program is reviewed by the AACVPR Program Certification Committee and Certification is awarded by the AACVPR Board of Directors.

AACVPR-certified programs are recognized as leaders in the field of cardiovascular and pulmonary rehabilitation because they offer the most advanced practices available. AACVPR Program Certification is valid for three years.

Save The Date: Bay Area Heart Walk

Join us at the Kemah Boardwalk!
Heart Healthy Festival begins at 7:30 a.m.
Walk begins at 8:30 a.m.

NO registration fee. The more the merrier!

National Physical Therapy Month

http://intranet.utmb.edu/healthsystem/features/2013PTMonth.asp

Breast Cancer Awareness Month

Seven years ago, Dr. Ojo Olugbenga created a free health fair as a way of giving back to the South West Houston community. This year, at the 7th Annual Health Fair of the Redeemed Christian Church of God Restoration Chapel in conjunction with the Texas section of the American Association of Clinical Chemistry, UTMB Radiology and the Restoration Chapel Branch of the Redeemed Christian Church of God, 250 patients were seen and 43 mammograms were performed.

Dr. Mukaila Raji (UTMB’s Chief of Geriatrics) as well as Professor Anthony Okorodudu (UTMB’s Chief of Clinical Pathology), Dr. Dipo Dada and Dr. Linda Uhegwu (recent graduates from UTMB Internal Medicine Residency program) were amongst the participants at this year’s event.

Doctors left to right: Dr. Keinide Onifade (turquoise green), Dr. Olugbenga Ojo, Dr. Mukaila Raji, Dr. Judith Kwarteng (green scrubs), Dr. Dipo Dada, Dr. Folasade Ojo, Dr. Rasheed Busari, Dr. Ayokunle Ogunye. UTMB Mammographers (left to right): Madeline Goldenschue, Jennifer Thomas, Mary Lauriano, transportation technician Jose Martinez, and the numerous volunteers who donated their time.

Dr. Brent Vasut delivered wonderful care. (Emergency Department)

Dr. Wakili Yarima was fantastic. I could tell he really cared about helping me, and he always kept me informed. (Emergency Department)

UTMB is the most wonderful hospital I have ever visited. The staff was compassionate and willing go out of their way to help someone.

Dr. Guillermo Gomez (General Surgery), Dr. Casey Duncan (Resident Pgl-4) and Dr. Christopher Bates (Resident Pgl-1) are all awesome.

Dr. A. Scott Lea is by far the best physician I’ve ever had. His professionalism, competency, attitude and skill were incomparable. (Internal Medicine- Infectious Disease)

Dr. Mary Claire Haver is an amazing professional! (Ob-Gynecology)

My neurosurgeon, Dr. Aaron Mohanty, and his residents, Dr. David Paulson (Resident Pgl-7) and Dr. Thomas Holbrook (Resident Pgl-2) were fantastic. My oncologists, Dr. Bagi Jana his resident Dr. Siva Mannem (Resident Pgl-4) were excellent, and my radiation oncologists, Dr. Todd Swanson and Dr. Anne Tann (Resident Pgl-2) were wonderful with explanations.

Dr. Michael Silva (Vascular Surgery), Dr. Charlie Cheng (Vascular Surgery), Dr. Zulfiqar Cheema (Vascular Surgery), Dr. Robert Lindeman (Resident Pgl-1) all gave excellent care.

Dr. Anna Monika Rotkiewicz-Piorun is excellent; a very caring and competent doctor. (Victory Lakes Town Center Geriatrics)

I’m lucky to have Barbara Thompson as my PCP. (Texas City Family Health Care Clinic)

Dr. Kathleen Griffis and her staff always treat me with respect, are friendly and very caring. (Women’s Health Care at Bay Colony)

Dr. Avi Markowitz was extremely prompt and helpful with his explanations. I have total confidence in his care. (Internal Medicine)

Dr. Matthew Hay is always great and so are all of the other doctors! (Texas City Pediatrics)

You have wonderful doctors at the clinic; my favorites are Dr. Daneshvari Solanki for pain management and Dr. Kevin McKinney (Endocrinology)

Everyone in the UTMB complex seems to mirror the loving compassion of Donna Sollenberger (Executive Vice President & Chief Executive Officer), whom I met during my stay.

Monica Bain is the best! (PCP, Geriatric/ Stark Diabetes Center)

Dr. Kathleen Griffis went above and beyond to answer all my questions and make me feel comfortable. I did not feel rushed and truly enjoyed everything about her. (Women’s Health Care at Bay Colony)

Dr. Gina Rizzo is the greatest always friendly and explains everything very caring. (Women’s Health Care at Bay Colony)