

Department of Civil Service

Employee Benefits Division

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BENEFITS BULLETIN

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FROM:

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Subject:

3-Tier Drug Plan Effective May 1, 2004 For AFSCME Employees Enrolled in the State Health Plan PPO

Advisories are issued from time to time to state agencies and others to communicate general personnel information.

Effective May 1, 2004, there will be changes to your prescription drug co-pay. The State Health Plan PPO currently has a 2-Tier drug plan. Tier-1 is comprised of generic drugs and Tier-2 is comprised of brand name drugs. The member co-pay is \$7 for Tier-1 (generic) and \$15 for Tier-2 (brand name).

The recently negotiated AFSCME Agreement includes a change in your State Health Plan PPO prescription drug benefit. Effective May 1, 2004, the prescription drug benefit will be modified from the current 2-Tier drug plan to a Preferred/Non-preferred drug program. This Preferred/Non-preferred program includes the addition of a new third tier with a \$30 co-pay. This third tier is comprised of Non-preferred brand name drugs that have a generic equivalent drug (\$7 co-pay) or a therapeutically or chemically equivalent preferred brand name drug (\$15 co-pay) available. The \$30 co-pay will apply whenever a drug from the new third tier is dispensed even if your doctor includes "DAW" (dispense as written) on the prescription.

The attached abbreviated list identifies Generic (Tier-1), Preferred/Formulary (Tier-2), and Non-preferred/Non-Formulary (Tier-3) drugs. To check the co-pay for drugs you may be taking, visit Express Scripts website at <http://www.express-scripts.com> or contact Express Scripts at (800) 505-2324. The Preferred/Non-preferred list of drugs is updated periodically as new drugs are added.

Only you and your doctor can make decisions about your health care. Be sure to ask your doctor if a generic or preferred brand name drug might be right for you. Whenever possible, your doctor can prescribe another drug for you, and you will get the medicine you need at the lowest possible cost.

Please call Express Scripts at (800) 505-2324, if you have any questions concerning your drug co-payment.