

News On The Street

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Employees and Heart Disease

The incidence of cardiovascular disease in the United States is skyrocketing. Costs associated with the management of these conditions are staggering, with estimated direct and indirect costs for cardiovascular disease for this year alone approaching \$395 billion. In addition, chronic conditions related to cardiovascular disease, such as diabetes, are among the leading causes of lost time from work, hospitalization and death.

Fortunately, many of these costly situations are avoidable. Beech Street's Disease Management Program can help employees take charge of their health and enable them to better manage their own conditions. The expected outcomes include better overall employee health and a reduction in lost work days and medical costs.

The program design and implementation are simple:

- Claims data is analyzed to identify employees and/or dependents at risk for developing, or already having, a specific medical condition.
- Those identified are invited to complete a survey to determine both their level of understanding of this medical condition and willingness to reduce their risks and participate in our program of health improvement.
- Selected participants are enrolled in our Registered Nurse (RN) monitored patient education program uniquely tailored to their health needs.
- The RN serves as a coach and personal health trainer, giving each participant support and education while monitoring their progress.
- The RN also coaches to improve participants' compliance with their physician-ordered care plans and to improve their communication skills with their doctors.

Effective management of these healthcare issues and their associated costs is essential. Don't let your organization suffer from employee absenteeism and impaired performance due to avoidable chronic conditions. Contact your Account Manager today for more information or to enroll in this program.

premiums while providing basic coverage to low income workers who may not otherwise seek medical care at all.

These employees include:

- Part-time, hourly workers
- Temporary or seasonal workers
- Independent contractors

Beech Street was one of the first networks to support Limited Benefit Plans and educate providers on their benefits for both consumers and employers. We offer the same nationwide network access and discounted rates to members with these plans as we do to fully-insured members. Because they are able to access the discounted services offered by our participating providers, they can maximize their benefits while obtaining quality care.

Limited Benefit Plans:

- Encourage the use of preventive care
- Improve overall health and longevity
- Minimize healthcare costs

For more information on utilizing our network for Limited Benefit Plans, please contact your Account Manager.

Network Updates

Memorial Hospital Miramar Joins Beech Street's Network

Effective March 1, 2005, Memorial Hospital Miramar has been added to the Beech Street Network in Miramar, Florida.

The hospital is a part of Memorial Healthcare System, a Beech Street partner for several years.

Memorial Healthcare System is a public, non-profit healthcare provider serving South Broward County in

Florida and is one of the nation's largest public health-care systems. Its mission is to provide quality, cost-effective, customer-focused healthcare services to its patients regardless of their ability to pay, with a goal of improving the health status of the community it serves.

Since the opening of its flagship hospital, Memorial Regional Hospital, in 1953, the Healthcare System has grown to also include Joe DiMaggio Children's Hospital, Memorial Hospital West, Memorial Hospital Miramar, Memorial Hospital Pembroke and numerous ancillary facilities, such as Memorial Manor Nursing Home, Memorial Urgent Care Center and Memorial Primary Care Centers.

The Healthcare System offers a full array of medical and surgical services, as well as sophisticated, state-of-the-art facilities, such as Memorial Cardiac and Vascular Institute, Memorial Cancer Institute and the Neuroscience Center.

Memorial Healthcare System was selected by the American Hospital Association from over 5,000 hospitals and health systems nationwide as the first-ever recipient of the "Living the Vision" award, recognizing it as the national model for improving the health and quality of life in the community it serves. It also has been honored by the Studer Group with the "Fire Starter Award" for extraordinary outcomes in developing a culture of service and operational excellence; and was named one of the nation's 100 "Most Wired" hospitals and health systems by *Hospitals & Health Networks* for its innovative, technological approach to patient safety and enhanced quality of care.

For more information on Memorial Healthcare System, visit www.mhs.net.