



# *Carpenters Southwest Administrative Corporation*

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[www.carpenterssw.org](http://www.carpenterssw.org)

## ***IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT***

### ***FOR ALL ACTIVE AND RETIRED CARPENTERS AND THEIR FAMILIES CHANGE TO UNITED HEALTHCARE EPO***

#### ***NEW MEXICO AND WESTERN TEXAS PARTICIPANTS:***

As you are probably aware, the cost of health care coverage continues to escalate at rates much higher than the cost of other items and services. Because of these escalated rates this is to advise you of a change in EPO medical carriers in New Mexico/Western Texas. Effective January 1, 2010, UnitedHealthcare will provide *UnitedHealthcare Choice EPO* medical and prescription drug coverage for New Mexico/Western Texas participants and their families currently enrolled with Blue Cross/Blue Shield of New Mexico. The UnitedHealthcare Choice plan will provide coverage with little or no change in your current EPO benefits. For those of you currently in the EPO plan and want to stay on an EPO Plan, you will not have to complete any new paperwork. You and your family will be automatically enrolled in the UnitedHealthcare plan, assuming you continue to meet the Trust's eligibility rules. You will soon be receiving new UnitedHealthcare ID cards, which you should begin using for services or supplies, received on or after January 1, 2010.

Under the EPO plan you do not have to sign up with a specific primary care physician, and there are network providers located in all 50 states. You can also go to a specialist without a PCP referral, as long as the specialist is in the EPO network. To verify if your physician is on the exclusive provider network or to locate providers in the network, visit [www.myuhc.com](http://www.myuhc.com) or call UnitedHealthcare at (800) 377-5154. Another advantage of the EPO plan is that your out-of-state eligible dependents can be covered under the plan with the same benefits as in-state eligible dependents.

In addition, we have heard your requests, and Presbyterian Hospital is the hospital signed to the UnitedHealthcare Choice EPO plan. If you want to continue using Lovelace Hospital, you will have the option to change to the Fee-For-Service Plan at open enrollment. If you want to be able to use Presbyterian Hospital, you should change to the UnitedHealthcare Choice EPO Plan.

**Please note that if you want to use Lovelace Hospital, you will need to be on the Fee-for-Service Plan.**

**If you want to use Presbyterian Hospital, you will need to be on UnitedHealthcare Choice EPO Plan.**

If you want to change Plans, your once-a-year opportunity is coming up. You will be receiving information in the next month regarding the Trust's annual Open Enrollment period. **Retirees residing in an EPO service area however, must elect the EPO plan.** If you have any questions concerning the information in this announcement, please contact the Administrative Office where the staff will be happy to assist you. You may also visit the Plan's website at [www.carpenterssw.org](http://www.carpenterssw.org).

Sincerely,

#### **BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

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