

**OFFICE OF THE STATE
COMPTROLLER**

**HEALTHCARE COST
CONTAINMENT COMMITTEE**



**HEALTHCARE POLICY & BENEFIT
SERVICES DIVISION
165 CAPITOL AVENUE
HARTFORD, CT 06106-1775**

June 15, 2022

Dear State Retiree,

After careful consideration through a rigorous competitive bidding process, the Comptroller has accepted the recommendation of the review committee to award Aetna, a Connecticut-based company, the right to negotiate a contract to administer the Connecticut State Retiree Medicare Advantage Plan for retirees and their dependents. Under the Aetna proposal your benefits will not change, however favorable terms in the new agreement will save the state nearly \$400 million. The change in administrators will become effective on January 1, 2023.

Over the coming months, the Office of the State Comptroller will be working with Aetna to finalize and implement the new contract and will ensure the complete continuation of current benefits.

It is important to note what will remain the same for our members following the transition to Aetna.

- You will be able to see any doctor or provider that accepts Medicare just as you can today in the UnitedHealthcare Medicare Advantage plan. The providers must bill Aetna for their services.
- The same services and prescriptions provided under your current coverage will continue to be covered.
- This is not a general Aetna Medicare Advantage plan available to the public. This is a custom group Medicare Advantage plan that will be built to encompass the same level of benefits you have today.
- The plan will continue to offer non-Medicare services just as it does today including hearing aids, naturopaths, acupuncture, and chiropractic services.
- The Aetna Medicare Advantage plan will continue to offer SilverSneakers® to our members at no additional cost.
- Your prescription benefits will remain as they are today. You will not experience a gap, otherwise referred to as a “donut hole”, regardless of the cost of prescriptions covered for you.

What can you expect as we begin to transition our Medicare Advantage plan to Aetna?

- All members currently enrolled in the UnitedHealthcare Medicare Advantage plan will automatically transition to the Aetna Medicare Advantage plan. You will not need to do anything to enroll in the plan. On January 1, 2023, you will begin to use your new Aetna card for your medical and prescription services.

- Beginning late Summer 2022, Aetna will provide direct communication to members and will have a custom transition call center team and a dedicated website to serve State of Connecticut retirees through this transition and beyond.
- Aetna and the Office of the State Comptroller will provide in-person educational meetings in Fall 2022 to allow members the opportunity to meet the Aetna team and ask any pertinent questions you may have.
- Aetna has committed to provide extensive education to all the hospitals and providers our members are currently utilizing so they may better understand the State of Connecticut Retiree Health Plan.

It is very early in the transition process, and we are still working through many of the operational details with Aetna over the coming months.

While change is never easy, we are excited about the transition to Aetna. This transition allows us to meet our commitment to continue to provide the comprehensive health care benefits for you and future retirees.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joshua Wojcik". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "W".

Joshua Wojcik, Director
Healthcare Policy & Benefits Services
Office of the State Comptroller