

From Anthem Blue Cross

(Information e-mailed to all AVUHSD employees from Risk Management December 16, 2011)



December 2011

To: Subscribers on Anthem Blue Cross PPO Plans

Subject: \$30,000 Limit on Hip and Knee Replacement Surgeries Effective January 1, 2012

We all know how expensive the cost of medical care has become. Part of the problem is there are large differences in cost among medical providers for the same care. Studies show the cost of care doesn't directly relate to the quality of care.

SISC is doing what we can to ensure the money schools and employees pay into the health care system is spent wisely. This will begin to bend the trend in health care. As a part of this effort, SISC is introducing a new program designed to help manage cost. At the same time it will continue to provide members with choice as well as access to quality care.

If you will be scheduling a hip or knee joint replacement on or after **January 1, 2012**, you need to be aware of this program. Your SISC plan payment for hospital charges will be limited to a maximum of \$30,000 for **non-emergency single hip joint replacement or single knee joint replacement surgeries. You will be responsible for any charges above the \$30,000 limit** as well as your deductible and coinsurance.

We have identified hospitals throughout California where the cost for these surgeries is at or below \$30,000. For a list of these hospitals, call the toll-free number on the back of your ID card.

Prior to scheduling a surgery, it is your responsibility to inform the hospital you select of your benefit limitation and confirm the total hospital costs.