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MANAGEMENT ADVISORY #10-029

DATE: November 23, 2010
TO: Personnel Officers and Benefit Managers
FROM: Suzetta Furlong, Manager
SUBJECT: Purchasing Over-The-Counter Medications and Products in 2011

As a reminder, federal guidelines for Medical Reimbursement Accounts (MRA) have changed regarding the purchase of over-the-counter (OTC) items for 2011.

- You must have a doctor's prescription to be reimbursed for OTC medications from your MRA; for example, if you take a daily OTC allergy medicine, ask your doctor to write a prescription and then submit the prescription and receipt with your MRA claim.
- Often, MRA participants stock up on OTC medications—pain relievers, allergy medication, antacids, etc.—during the grace period (January 1 through March 15) using the previous year's MRA funds. **Starting January 1, 2011, you can only use 2010 funds during the grace period to purchase OTC medications if you have a doctor's prescription.**
- You may continue to be reimbursed for other OTC items, such as band aids and contact lens solution, without a prescription using 2010 funds during the grace period and 2011 funds thereafter.