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Date: May 1, 1997

To: Benefits Officers

From: Cathy Robinson, Senior Director
Human Resources Administration

Subject: CLARIFICATION OF VISION ISSUES

Medical Eye Services (MES) has advised that annual premium vision plan participants are appearing on their list of COBRA participants in error. This problem may be caused by the campus prematurely distributing COBRA enrollment forms to these participants.

As a reminder, the vision premiums for annual premium participants are prepaid for a consecutive 12-month period. If an employee separates within the 12-months of prepaid coverage, he/she will remain covered until the 12-month period expires. In this case, the COBRA event occurs upon expiration of the 12-month period of prepaid coverage and the COBRA notification should be distributed at that time.

A second issue that has arisen concerns a comparison of current MES benefits to 1996 CSU vision benefits. The coverage provided under our MES contract is identical to the coverage previously provided under the Vision Service Plan (VSP) contract. If you become aware of any contradictory comments or have any questions, please contact systemwide benefits administration at (562) 985-2669.

Thank you.

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Distribution: Presidents
Interim Senior Director, Human Resources
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