



April 5, 2006

Provider Services Department

## **PHARMACY UPDATE**

The Santa Barbara Regional Health Authority will be pursuing the addition of a Specialty Pharmacy program within the next few months to augment the current pharmacy benefit and to aim at improving utilization and case management to our membership served by certain types of specialty therapies. The area of Specialty Pharmacy is a relatively new field (approximately 10 years) and has drastically evolved during the past 3-5 years in particular. It is fast becoming, if not already there, "a standard" amongst health plans.

This type of robust value enhanced service comes alongside of significant savings to the plan while improving care to our membership. Through a defined specialty vendor and as a value added component, our plan and our membership can experience significant case management opportunities. In addition, auto-dispensing or auto-shipping would be replaced by dedicated customer service representatives calling members on a defined schedule to discuss therapy and answer questions thereby bringing the members' medication needs up to a defined threshold. The type of specialty pharmacy service we seek to partner with will offer 24/7 pharmacist and nurse phone support to help triage members' questions on therapies, products and disease states.

A Request for Information (RFI) application is now available on our website, [www.sbrha.org](http://www.sbrha.org), under the "Breaking News" section. If you are interested in being considered for this program, we will be accepting applications until April 30, 2006. If you have any questions regarding this program, please contact our Director of Pharmacy Services at extension 142. If you do not have Internet access and would like the application faxed or mailed to you, please contact the Provider Services Department at extension 237.