



## Group News

### **COBRA Update**

On April 15, 2010, President Obama signed into law the Continuing Extension Act of 2010 (CEA 2010).

Major impacts of this Act include:

- CEA 2010 extends the eligibility period for COBRA premium assistance through May 31, 2010. The assistance program was initially created by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA).
- There are two types of Qualifying Events that are subsidy eligible. The first one is an involuntary termination of employment. The second one is a reduction in hours followed by an involuntary termination of employment if that involuntary termination occurs on or after March 2, 2010, and on or before May 31, 2010.
- The eligibility period extension also applies to PA State mini-COBRA (Small Group; 2-19 employees).

These extensions are expected to continue month by month for the remainder of this year.

HM Insurance Group, a Highmark Company, provides employers with a trusted partnership that they can rely on to manage the ongoing demands and changes in COBRA Administration. Please contact your Highmark Client Manager for more information.

### **Inside This Issue:**

#### **Group News:**

- COBRA Update 1

#### **Bulletins:**

- Government Mandates Bulletin – Dependents to Age 26



*On April 15, 2010,  
President Obama  
signed into law  
CEA 2010*

If you have any questions concerning items in this Producer News, please contact your Highmark client manager.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Reginald E. Brown". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Reginald E. Brown  
Director, Producer Affairs, West

**Issue 05-2010 bulletins include:**

- Government Mandates Bulletin – Dependent Coverage to Age 26