FRIC Update – May 2017

Meetings are open and are held the first Friday of each month at 11:30 am in 302 USB with the exception of January and June-August.

Highlights of our discussions since the January report include:

1. The Benefits Office continues to monitor and report to us any post-election changes to the Affordable Care Act (ACA) or changes in the ACA that may have an impact on the UI Choice health plan.

2. Effective January 1, 2017, visits to UI Quick Care Clinics by a UI Choice covered member are billed as a Level One provider under UI Choice requiring $5 co-pay at the time of visit. This change improves the administration of the plan for the UI.

3. We had ongoing discussions about what it means to be a Level One provider in the UI Choice plan design and FRIC voted in March to keep the current Level One provider list as is.

4. UI Choice members received a communication encouraging the use of UIeCare when possible. UIeCare has been offered to members since the Fall of 2015 and is available for a variety of minor conditions at no cost. Members are encouraged to see their website at https://uiecare.com/#/home to see how this service may be used for minor medical issues. UIeCare is available for use on a smartphone, tablet, or PC, where members can connect electronically to a provider for non-urgent care.

5. Accountable Care Organization shared savings agreement. FRIC supported an agreement between UI and UIHC Accountable Care Organization that supports population health management to improve quality within the UI Choice member population while managing health care costs. Savings related to improved population health management for calendar year 2017 will be shared between the UI and UIHC per the agreement.

6. We discussed design plan options for the UI Choice Health Plan for calendar year 2018. The committee supported changes to the office visit co-pay/co-insurance structure and ER visit co-pay structure beginning January 2018.

7. Effective March 31, 2017, the TIAA-CREF SP500 Mutual Fund was eliminated and funds were transferred to the Vanguard Mutual Fund due to lower fee (.02% less) for the Vanguard fund. Communications were sent to plan participants prior to the fund line-up change.