Our mission is to provide cost-effective, high quality benefits for University of Minnesota graduate assistants, fellows and trainees. Every six years, we’re required to conduct a bidding process for the health plan administrator. This process ensures we offer plans with excellent and affordable benefits.

We recently completed the University-required bidding process for the Graduate Assistant Health Plan. The committee reviewing bids included University students and staff, and focused on vendor affordability, health plan network and service needs. The committee chose Blue Cross and Blue Shield (BCBS) of Minnesota as the new health plan administrator, effective September 1, 2019.

**Health plan changes, effective September 1, 2019**
- The health plan administrator, from HealthPartners to BCBS.
- Provider network, the BCBS world-wide network is broader than the current HealthPartners network.
- ID cards, you will receive new ID cards from BCBS once the 2019-2020 plan year begins on September 1.
- The wellbeing program and resources will change.

**What is not changing**
- Your health benefits and coverage levels will remain the same.
- Your dental benefits and coverage levels will also remain the same.

You do not need to take any action now. During fall open enrollment, you will have the opportunity to review and make changes to your coverage if needed. We’ll send you additional information later this semester and as open enrollment approaches.

Please contact our office with questions in the meantime.

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