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It happens every year. Millions of college students reach that pinnacle of success: graduation. What a large percentage of them don't realize is that many reach another pinnacle of sorts; they join the rolls of the uninsured. Scary? You bet, but entirely preventable. In fact, reasonably priced health insurance is easier to obtain than you might think.

Review Parents' Coverage First

The most obvious place to first look for health insurance is at home. Parents should review their current health insurance rules to see if their adult child is still covered. Be aware that most plans restrict adult children anywhere from age 22 to 25. If the child isn't covered outright, he/she may still be eligible for coverage under COBRA through the parent's employer. This can be a costly avenue to take, since the child would be responsible for paying for the parent and employer's cost of the insurance. But, this gives the child coverage through a known entity on a consistent basis.

Blue Short-TermSM Health Insurance - Bridging the Gap

In the event COBRA isn't an option, short-term health insurance exists to bridge the gap between graduation and employment. Generally, as its name implies, Blue Short TermSM Health Insurance is designed to protect you at a minimum of 30 days up

College Graduation = No Health Insurance?

to 180 days. If you still qualify for coverage at the end of the 180 days, you may apply for a second short term policy for up to another 180 days. **SHORT TERM PRODUCTS NEVER RENEW!** Deductibles start as low as \$250 and range all the way up to \$5,000. Short-term health insurance does not cover any preexisting condition. Any condition that occurs during a benefit period will be treated as a preexisting condition for any subsequent benefit period.

Covered Services include:

- *Office visits
- *Prescription drugs - up to a maximum amount \$500 for the term of the policy
- *Diagnostic Services (lab and x-ray)
- *Inpatient hospital & outpatient services
- *Emergency room & urgent care
- *Ambulance
- *Home healthcare - up to 40 visits
- *Hospice
- *Human organ & tissue transplant
- *Durable medical equipment - up to \$2000

Once your deductible has been reached, Blue Short TermSM pays 80% of covered services. You pay the remaining 20% until your total out-of-pocket expense for covered services is met. Once that limit is reached, the plan pays 100% for most covered services, up to the \$2 million lifetime maximum.

Individual Coverage - Better than an Employer's?

It often surprises people to learn that

it may make more sense for a college graduate to invest in an individual health insurance policy - even if they are offered group coverage at their place of employment. If the young adult is a healthy non-smoker, individual policies can be attractively priced, making them a better option than short-term insurance. Coverage can be selective, meaning the applicant is only covered for things that are relevant for him/her, which gets to my earlier point about sometimes being better than group coverage. This is because they can select only those things that they truly need versus a group policy that is often required to cover a general assortment of health services that a new graduate may not require, such as maternity.

College graduation is a time for celebration and the start of a new chapter in a person's life. Don't let the joyous occasion be overshadowed by a lapse in health insurance coverage. Now is the best time to start searching for replacement coverage that will meet

the graduate's needs now and in the future. Give me a call at (314) 923-5532 to discuss your options with Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield.



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