

December 1, 2006

TO: Campus Benefit Eligible Employees
RE: New CSU Vision Plan Carrier Effective January 1, 2007
CSU VSP Group Number: 12292796

We are pleased to announce that effective January 1, 2007, Vision Service Plan (VSP) will provide administration of vision benefits and claims on behalf of the employer-paid California State University (CSU) Vision Plan. VSP is replacing Medical Eye Services (MES)/Blue Shield, which will administer CSU vision benefits through December 31, 2006.

Who Is VSP?

Founded in 1955, VSP is dedicated solely to providing eyecare wellness benefits through an exclusive network of independent eye doctors. These independent eye doctors are an important component of VSP's focus on eye health, diseases and conditions, and are grouped in the VSP Select Network, which has approximately 17,000 providers.

WHAT WILL VSP PROVIDE?

▪ **More Convenient Customer Service Hours**

VSP offers extended customer service hours, and their representatives are available Monday - Friday, 5:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. and on Saturday, 6:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. via their toll-free telephone number: **(800) 877-7195**.

▪ **Account Information Access**

VSP has an automated Interactive Voice Response (IVR) system and Website that is available 24 hours a day, for the purposes of providing personalized information on eligibility, plan coverage, past service, online messaging to customer service, as well as information regarding doctors in the VSP Select Network. The VSP website is: **<http://www.vsp.com>**.

▪ **Commitment to Eye Health**

VSP has developed a comprehensive Eye Health Management Program that includes: eye education, Patient Eyecare Report, Diabetes Awareness Program, communication with participants' Primary Care Physician (PCP), and Eye on Health, an annual eye wellness newsletter.

WHAT'S NEW FOR THE CSU VISION PLAN IN 2007?

Beginning in 2007, the following benefit plan enhancements will be offered to eligible CSU employees:

▪ **Benefit Plan Enhancements**

- *The in-network frame allowance increases from \$90.00 to \$95.00;*
- *The out-of-network frame allowance increases from \$45.00 to \$60.00;*
- *The in-network contact lens allowance increases from \$110.00 to \$120.00;*
- *Polycarbonate lenses are covered for dependent children in-network up to age 23, instead of age 12; and*
- *Discounts of approximately 15% for laser correction surgery are available.*

▪ **Frequency of Benefits Access Now Based on Calendar Year Perspective**

All benefits eligible employees and their dependents can access vision services through VSP, effective January 1, 2007, even if benefits were accessed under the MES/Blue Shield plan.

Effective also in 2007, the frequency of benefits will be based on a calendar year perspective, and not on a rolling basis calculated from the last date of service. For example, if an employee has an eye exam in February 2007, he/she will be eligible for another eye exam on January 1, 2008, or thereafter.

▪ **Ease of Claims Processing**

Claim forms are no longer required when using standard in-network benefits. Employees that choose to use a non-VSP provider must submit an itemized bill to VSP in order to receive reimbursement based on out-of-network allowances. A claim form, however, is still required for video display terminal (VDT) benefits whether using a VSP Select Network doctor or a non-VSP provider. Employees who meet the CSU requirement for VDT coverage must obtain the form from Human Resources Department, or employees may download the form from the HSU Human Resources website, under "Benefit Forms".

Please see the Member Benefits Summary for additional coverage information, including co-payments and out-of-network allowances at <http://www.humboldt.edu/~hsuhr/employee/benefits/docs/TL-BEN2006-11-Website.pdf>