

Alliance Alert

The Public Employee Benefits Alliance (PEBA) was created by a group of Texas Government leaders working together for over a year to develop strategies to manage the rising costs of healthcare benefits. PEBA was established in January 2006 and was created pursuant to Chapter 791 of the Texas Government Code, the Purchasing Program Chapter 271 of the Texas Local Government Code and all other applicable provisions of Texas Law. PEBA membership is open to all Texas local governments who pay an annual membership fee and execute a PEBA Participating Interlocal Agreement. However, local governments who are members of one of the political subdivision Pools will obtain automatic annual PEBA membership through the participating Pool. An additional per proposal fee is established for proposal participants for all non-Pool members.

PEBA's mission is to support the individual members by providing: negotiation services to manage the spiraling cost of healthcare and related benefits, working together through the alliance procurement model to purchase healthcare and related benefits a competitive price, and provide contractual negotiations which will include vendor service accountability requirements. In order to accomplish this mission, PEBA makes a commitment to negotiate on behalf of the membership affordable, high-quality healthcare and related benefits and services.

The Public Employee Benefits Alliance (PEBA) Board met on July 18, 2014 to review the proposals that were received for a **Centers of Excellence International Provider Network**. The PEBA Board awarded the proposal to **WorldMed Assist**.

PEBA and WorldMed Assist will hold an International Network webcast Education Meeting on:
Tuesday October 28th @ 10am CT

This centers of excellence international provider network will allow PEBA members access to a full-service, high-quality medical travel benefit program through WorldMed Assist. The WorldMed Assist organization was one of the first international tourism organizations, was founded in 2006 and is very well-respected in the medical tourism industry. WorldMed Assist offers a smaller network than their some of their competitors, which promotes a strong relationship with the facilities and medical professionals.

With WorldMed Assist, PEBA member employers will get an experienced, well-managed Medical Travel program supported by insurance industry professionals, medical practitioners, IT professionals and marketing communications specialists.

Following are some of the benefits PEBA's member employers will realize by partnering with WorldMed Assist to add a Medical Travel benefit option to its health plans:

- COHC reductions through WorldMed Assist's high quality low cost Centers of Excellence abroad
- Improved medical outcomes from internationally recognized facilities and surgeons
- Enhanced healthcare plan including reduced out-of-pocket costs for members/patients
- Seamless integration of the International option into the domestic plan
- Assistance with plan documentation updates
- Assistance with benefit plan risk mitigation analysis
- Assistance with promotion of plan to member groups
- A team of professionals dedicated to making each patient's Medical Travel experience the best it possibly can be.

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WorldMed Assist will allow each PEBA employer to select from one of the two pricing options for their group, an Annual or a Per Employee Per Month (PEPM) pricing option. If an employer selects the PEPM option, they would pay monthly installments, with a minimum requirement of 12 months. For more information on pricing options, employers should contact PEBA at (512) 719-6768 or PEBA@iebp.org.

Below is a list of some of the most common procedures that WorldMed Assist facilitates for patients:

ACL repair	Hysterectomy
ASD and VSD	Inguinal Hernia Repair
Bilateral adrenalectomy	Kidney Transplant, Laparoscopic (Recipient and Donor)
Bone Marrow Transplant	Knee Replacement, Bilateral
CCSVI Liberation treatment	Knee Replacement, Unilateral
Cervical Disc Replacement	Lap Band Removal
Clavicle repair	Lap Band Surgery
Colectomy, Anterior Resection	Liver biopsy
Colonoscopy	Liver Transplant (To be quoted on case to case basis)
Colonoscopy - polyp removal	Men Executive Check up
Complex Ablation Treatment	Mitral Valve Repair
Coronary Angioplasty	MV and AV Replacements
Coronary Artery Bypass Graft (CABG)	Nephrectomy, Radical
Cyberknife treatment	Partial Thyroidectomy
da Vinci Prostatectomy	Root canal treatment, single tooth
Dental crown	Rotator Cuff Repair
Discectomy, Microsurgical	Spinal cord stimulator (SCS)
Duodenal Switch	Spinal Fusion and Decompression and Anthroplasty
Gallbladder Removal - Cholesystectomy	Three-Level Lumbar Disc Replacement
Gastric Bypass(RNY), Laparoscopic	tonsillectomy
Gastric Sleeve	Transssphenoidal Surgery - Pituitary Adenomas
Hiatal hernia	TURP
Hip Replacement, Bilateral	Two-Level Cervical Disc Replacement
Hip Replacement, Unilateral	Women Executive Check up
Hip Resurfacing, Bilateral	
Hip Resurfacing, Unilatera	

PEBA will provide interested PEBA Members with a Letter of Intent that must be executed prior to accessing the benefit.

For political subdivisions that have not joined PEBA and/or did not participate in the proposal process, it is not too late. Political subdivision employers may still access the PEBA Alliance contracts if they are current with the PEBA Annual Membership Fee, Proposal Costs, Late Fee and Interlocal Agreement. PEBA has demonstrated proposal success due the PEBA membership cooperation and support.