

On March 3, 2008, the Commissioner of Administration announced that starting July 1, 2008, the Select Benefits Health Plan will begin covering "well baby" exams, which includes preventative health and early detection for newborns to toddlers age 24 months according to the guidelines of the American Academy of Pediatrics.

The Health Benefits Evaluation Committee discussed this issue at several meetings and, after reviewing the data available, decided it was cost effective and appropriate, hence the HBEC passed it to the Commissioner with a recommendation that it be approved.

Providing this coverage is simply the right thing to do; no young mother should ever be forced to decide between baby formula and a recommended medical exam for her child. Also, although there is an up-front cost to the program to add this coverage, the data reviewed suggests that providing this coverage will actually save money in the long run. Buck Consultants reviewed the data available for the HBEC and suggested that while providing this added coverage will initially cost the Select Benefits program about fifty cents per member per month, it should ultimately result in savings.