New IRS Reporting Requirement, to verify your UC SHIP, ACA-compliant coverage:

1. Is UC SHIP required to report my Social Security Number (SSN) to the IRS on an annual basis?

Yes, as a self-funded health plan, UC SHIP is required by the IRS to report the name, address, SSN, and dates of coverage for all plan members, including mandatory students, voluntary students, and dependents who are covered under the Plan. Insurance Companies must also report their plan members to the IRS, so if you're covered under a fully insured private plan or your parent's plan, the insurance company will report this information to the IRS each year.

2. What if UC does not have SSNs for me or my dependent(s)?

If the university does not have your SSN, you will receive a letter from Wells Fargo Insurance Services in the next few months and asked to provide your SSN and/or that of your enrolled dependents(s). For more information, visit http://www.irs.gov/Affordable-Care-Act/Individuals-and-Families/Individual-Shared-Responsibility-Provision.

Health plans are required by federal law to attempt several times to obtain SSNs numbers for members when their SSN is missing.

2. What is the purpose of this new IRS reporting requirement?

The purpose of annual reporting to the IRS is to verify that individuals have health care that is compliant with the Affordable Care Act law so they will not incur tax penalties. The ACA requires most Americans, including college and university students, to be covered under a qualified health care plan most of the year. Fully insured and self-funded healthcare plans must be qualified as providing Minimum Essential Coverage.

When does this new law take effect?

For 2014, citizens were asked to check a box on their tax return indicating they were covered under a qualified health plan. 2015 is the first calendar year for which your name, address, SSN, and coverage dates must be reported to the IRS. The first report is due to the IRS by March 31st, 2016 to reflect coverage for calendar year 2015.

How do I prove that I have qualified coverage?

When the IRS filing has been completed, you will receive a Form 1095-B. You can use the information on the Form on your 2015 tax return to verify that you had qualified coverage in 2015.