

Ask the Welfare Fund – March 2013

Question: I am a retired AP who is not yet Medicare eligible and enrolled in the GHI-CBP health plan. A friend told me I could get my prescription drug co-payments reimbursed. How do I do this?

Answer: Your friend is correct. Simply make a copy of each of the four quarterly reports you received from Express Scripts/GHI showing your co-payments for 2007 and send them to the CSA Retiree Welfare Fund. We have an arrangement with New York City and GHI that allows us to receive prescription history electronically. Once we receive it, and verify that it is complete, we process the reimbursements in the order they were received. We are scheduled to receive the file by mid-February, so our reimbursement checks should be out by the end of March.

Question: I was just appointed as an Interim-Acting Assistant Principal, and finally received my proper pay last paycheck. The UFT billed me for dental work and prescriptions I received just before I was appointed. Why did they do this? Do I have to pay this?

Answer: First, Congratulations and welcome to the CSA. As you learned, it can take the Department of Education several weeks and pay periods to update their records with your new position. We have a long-standing agreement with the UFT Welfare Fund that they will continue to provide benefits to members who may be in a CSA position until the Department of Education updates its records. The charges you mentioned were incurred the month you were finally paid as a supervisor. Please send us the statements from the UFT Welfare Fund and the rejection from your dentist. We will reimburse the UFT Welfare Fund what they paid for your medications and have the dental claim paid through our dental plan.

Question: I am an active Principal. I had a new child 18 months ago, and have tried four times through my payroll secretary to add her to my health plan. I am completely frustrated and don't know what else to do. Can you help me get my child covered?

Answer: Certainly. That is why we are here. You faxed us the paperwork (enrollment form and birth certificate), and a welfare fund staff member went in person to the Department of Education health and Welfare office and waited until your records had been updated.

This highlights something I mention at every membership meeting, both active and retiree. Whenever you have a change in life status, such as adding a dependent, dropping a spouse after a divorce, adding a new spouse or domestic partner, you **MUST** inform all parties that maintain your records. You must file paperwork with your payroll secretary or HR department for the City provided health plan and contact the Welfare fund as well. The Fund and health plans do not routinely pass personal information back and forth due to privacy regulations, so it is your responsibility to ensure all parties are notified.

We have developed relationships with staff at all the health plans and city agencies so that we can help expedite things when necessary, but it is still your responsibility to initiate the status updates.