



Trustees of the Southern Interior Health & Welfare Plan

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MEMORANDUM

From: The Board of Trustees
To: Members of the Plan
CC: Local Unions, Participating Employers
Date: December 14, 2022
Re: Upcoming Change to Extended Health Care Benefits



We are writing to inform you of an upcoming change to the Extended Health Care (EHC) benefits provided by the Southern Interior Health and Welfare Plan (“the Plan”).

Currently, EHC benefits are reimbursed at 80% up to \$1,000 claims paid **per family**, per calendar year, and 100% reimbursement thereafter. It was recently uncovered that this provision had been adjudicated by Pacific Blue Cross (“the Insurer”) incorrectly for several years. The Plan Text, which is the legal document that defines the benefits and administration rules of this Plan, states that EHC benefits will be reimbursed at 80% up to \$1,000 in claims paid **per person**, per calendar year, and 100% reimbursement thereafter.

As such, to ensure the rules of the Plan Text are being upheld, the Insurer will reinstate the correct adjudication rules for this provision. This means effective January 1, 2023, Health and Drug benefits will be reimbursed in accordance to the Plan Text, at 80% up to \$1,000 in claims paid **per person**, per calendar year, and 100% reimbursement thereafter.

Please note that neither the Trustees nor the Insurer will request overpayments made due to this error be returned to the Plan.

The Plan Booklet will be updated to reflect this change and an electronic copy will be posted to the Plan Office website. Note, a new Plan Office website will be launching in early 2023 and the current website will redirect you to the new website once the new website is live. Stay tuned for an official announcement!

Please contact the Plan Office at 604-419-2481 or adm@pac.bluecross.ca if you have any questions.