



PHILADELPHIA

Update

Official Publication of
Teamsters Health & Welfare and
Pension Funds
of Philadelphia and Vicinity

www.teamsterfunds.com

October 2003

Open Enrollment season is upon us . . . But it will be a little different this time

Every year around this time, the Fund has offered non-retired, eligible employees the opportunity to change the medical benefit plan in which they are enrolled. In past years, when members had three options from which to choose, a fold-out brochure was mailed to members' homes in early November. If the member wished to change plans, he or she would have to call and request an application kit, fill it out and mail it back to the Fund office. It became a time-consuming, confusing process.

Now, only two medical benefit options are offered, those being Personal Choice and Keystone HMO. During the Open Enrollment season in the past two years, few members have switched to another plan.

In an effort to simplify this process, the brochure will not be mailed out this year. Rather, if a member wants to switch coverage as of January 1st, he or she can call the Fund office or download the form from the Fund's web site, fill it out and send it back to us. Local Unions have also been given copies of these forms.

Remember, if you do not want to switch coverage, you need not do anything. Your benefit option will remain the same. If you want to switch from Personal Choice to the HMO or from the HMO to Personal Choice, you must request the form, fill it out and return to the Fund office by December 12, 2003.

Anything We Should Know About?

Returned mail isn't fun . . . not to mention a waste of time and money. To ensure you receive your medical and prescription drug identification cards, benefit statements and all Fund newsletters and correspondence, we need to keep our records up-to-date to better serve you. Please let us know of any changes we should have.

- A new address or telephone number.
- A name change.
- Adding a dependent child or spouse.
- A change in your death benefit beneficiary(ies).
- A change or correction of your social security number.

Updated Prescription Drug Formulary Listing Available

Approximately twice each year, the Fund's Pharmaceutical Consultant, Pharmaceutical Care Network (PCN), recommends changes to the Fund's prescription drug formulary listing.

Brand name drugs appearing on this list are covered with a patient copayment of \$10.00 for each prescription. Other covered brand name drugs not appearing on the formulary listing are covered with a \$20.00 patient copayment for each such prescription.

The most recently adopted formulary list may be found on the Fund's web site at www.teamsterfunds.com/For_Members/H&W/Drug_formulary.htm, or you can call our Member Services Department at 1-800-523-2846, ext. 2010 and we'll be happy to mail a listing to your home.

Remember, not all drugs are covered under the Fund's benefit plan, even if prescribed by a physician. Newly released drugs are generally subject to precertification during the first six months of their release, as are injectible drugs or those costing over \$1,500 for a month's supply.

Attention Health & Welfare Fund Participants: Annual Notice Regarding Post-Mastectomy Reconstructive Surgery Benefits

As required by the Women's Health and Cancer Rights Act of 1998, the Health & Welfare Fund's Plan provides (as it always has) benefits for mastectomy-related services including reconstruction and surgery to achieve symmetry between the breasts, prostheses, and complications resulting from a mastectomy (including lymphedema). For more information, contact the Fund's Member Services Department at 1-800-523-2846, option 2.

Important Section Inside This Issue . . .

- Summary Annual Reports for the Health & Welfare and Pension Funds

Teamster Healthy Heart Program Uncovers Unknown Heart Disease, Diabetic and High Blood Pressure Conditions

Earlier this Fall, the Fund, working in conjunction with Cardiac Care specialists at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania and the HeartCam unit at Presbyterian Hospital, piloted a screening program to identify heart disease well before any symptoms surfaced. ***Heart disease and related cardiac problems are the number one illness suffered by the Fund's membership.***

Letters were sent to members residing near Penn Cardiac Centers offering a free screening. If the initial screening indicated that further tests were appropriate, the participant was referred for a non-invasive HeartCam study at Presbyterian Medical Center. If the HeartCam study revealed the need for medical intervention, the participant was referred to a cardiologist or, in less

severe cases, to their family doctor for follow up care.

The results showed that our participants are sicker than they think! Nearly 70% of those who were initially screened met the criteria for a HeartCam. In fact, one of our members had the highest HeartCam score ever recorded, a record you wouldn't be proud of! Because of this screening program, several members who were unaware that they suffered from diabetes or hypertension were diagnosed and are now receiving appropriate medical treatment to prevent their conditions from worsening.

More important, the medical professionals at Penn were convinced that the Fund's program actually prevented some heart attacks and most certainly saved lives!

The Fund's Trustees are now studying the results of this pilot program to determine how it can best be expanded to the remainder of the Fund's population. To be sure, an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure!



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The Funds welcome your comments and suggestions.

*Find us on the World Wide Web at www.teamsterfunds.com
Eat right, exercise regularly, stay healthy, live longer!*

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