

The Fund Office Report

OCTOBER 2004

STEAMFITTERS & METAL TRADES MEMBERS

EMPIRE BLUE CROSS ISSUES NOTICES REGARDING CANCER RELATED BENEFITS AND PROTECTING MEMBERS' PERSONAL INFORMATION

Empire wants to be sure that all members receive the best possible care when they get sick. The following cancer-related benefits are available to you and your covered family members:

- Members are entitled to get a second medical opinion. You are covered for a second opinion office visit and any associated diagnostic tests related to a cancer diagnosis or recurrence.
- Members can receive hospital care for an inpatient hospital stay following a lymph node dissection, lumpectomy or mastectomy for the treatment of breast cancer.
- Members can get reconstructive surgery for the following breast cancer-related treatments: reconstruction of the breast on which a mastectomy has been performed; symmetrical reconstruction of the other breast to produce a symmetrical appearance; prostheses and treatment for complications resulting from a mastectomy including lymphedema.

The manner in which medical services are provided are strictly between the member and his or her physician. However, you must pre-certify your treatment or any inpatient stay with the Medical Management Program at 800.553.9603.

Empire has established strict policies and procedures to comply with all federal and state privacy laws and regulations. New York State requires that information about these policies and procedures be periodically disseminated to its members. The following is a summary of the guidelines:

- Empire will not disclose a member's information except as permitted by the member or as permitted or required by law. Each member's personal information is considered confidential and is only used in accordance with Empire's Privacy Policies and Practices that restrict access to and disclosure of all confidential information.
- Access to personal information on the Empire website is protected through registration processes and passwords that identify and authenticate users. Empire meets strict, detailed federal standards for protecting electronic communications.
- A member's right to privacy extends to all forms of contact including telephone and written correspondence.
- Empire employees have limited access to member information based on their responsibilities. Access is provided only to those employees who need to know information about a member to provide the products or services that a member needs.
- Empire maintains physical, electronic and procedural safeguards that comply with all legal requirements. Empire does not see mailing lists that contain member names, addresses and personal information.

For more information on either the cancer-related care or privacy information please go to the Empire website — www.empireblue.com or call the toll-free 800 number on the reverse side of your ID card.

NEW EMPIRE BLUE CROSS ID CARDS ISSUED TO METAL TRADES' MEMBERS; STEAMFITTERS NEXT UP IN 2005

Late September found new Empire Blue Cross ID cards in the mailbox of all covered Metal Trades' members. These new ID cards no longer contain your Social Security Number in the interest of protecting your privacy. The new ID numbers are randomly selected by computer. If you have not received your new ID card please contact the Fund Office Help Desk at Ext. 244 for assistance.

In early March 2005 all covered Steamfitters' members will receive similar ID cards with the randomly selected ID number. Keep an eye out for them!

Metal Trades and Steamfitters:

ADDITIONAL HIPAA INFORMATION

FOR THE RECORD: The Trustees of the Metal Trades Branch Welfare Fund, the Steamfitters' Industry Welfare Fund and the Steamfitters' Industry Security Benefit Fund have access to Protected Health Information in the normal performance of their duties and responsibilities. They are not employees of the aforementioned funds and do not have Business Associate Agreements. The Trustees are legally required to protect the information that is brought to their meetings and to guard the privacy and confidentiality of said information.

TRUSTEE CHANGES

Thanks To A Departed Trustee

A man who loved harness racing as much as he loved the construction industry, Ron Spinelli served as an Employer Trustee on the Construction Trades Funds for some eleven years until his death on August 1, 2004. Spinelli, owner of Anron Heating and Air Conditioning, Inc., served as a Trustee for eight years on the Welfare Fund and for the past three on the Vacation Plan. We extend our condolences to his wife, Patricia, and to the entire Spinelli family.

"Bon Voyage" To Three Other Trustees

After a decade as a Trustee on the Security Benefit Fund Robert Bartels has retired. With a similar ten year tenure, William Roche has resigned as a Trustee of the Steamfitters' Welfare Fund. Stanley Berger, who since January 1995 has been a Trustee on the Service Fitters' Industry Educational Fund, stepped aside when he assumed the position of President-Elect of the Mechanical Contractors Association of America. Many thanks to these gentlemen for all their hard work and time over the years.

New Trustees Named

Charles Krass has been added as a Trustee on the Metal Trades Branch Welfare and Pension Funds and the Service Fitters' Industry Educational Fund effective as of May 2004. Thomas McCann, in June, accepted a position as a Trustee of the Vacation Plan. Most recently this month, Christopher Sheeran became a Trustee on the Security Benefit Fund. Rounding out the new Trustee appointments, John Fanneron (April 2004) and Raymond Hopkins (August 2004) were named as Employer Trustees on the Service Fitters' Industry Educational Fund.