

The Fund Office Report

Important News About Your Employee Benefit Programs in the Construction Trades Branch of Steamfitters' Local 638

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Vacation Plan Payout Checks

The semiannual Vacation Plan disbursements will be processed the second week of October. For those members who have enrolled in direct deposit, otherwise known as Electronic Fund Transfer (EFT), disbursements will be processed on October 7th and the funds should be received in your bank account on file on October 8th. For those members who will be receiving a check by mail, checks should be processed and mailed from the Fund Office by Friday, October 9th. You should receive the check by Friday, October 16th, at the latest.

Please remember, you may enroll at any time to have your benefits paid by the Fund Office through direct deposit. To enroll in direct deposit, you can find the EFT Authorization Form online at www.steamfitters.com in the Forms section or call the Fund Office at (212) 465-8888, option 9 to be mailed a copy of the form. To enroll in direct deposit directly on the member self-service link, go to www.steamfitters.com and select Construction Trades Benefits and click on "Member Login".

For those members who have direct deposit and have changed or closed the account on file, please contact the Fund Office at the above number immediately.



CARES Act Effect on Your Healthcare Reimbursement Account (HRA)

The Federal CARES Act, created this year in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, significantly expanded items which can be reimbursed through your HRA. The CARES Act was officially signed into law on March 27, 2020. While certain provisions are temporary, the provisions for OTC medications and menstrual products (as described below) are both permanent and effective retroactively to January 1, 2020.

Over the Counter (OTC) medications are now reimbursable without a prescription or doctor's note. The FDA defines OTC medications as a drug product marketed for use by a consumer without the need of a supervising health care professional in order to obtain the drug. Popular examples include pain relievers like acetaminophen (Tylenol) and ibuprofen (Advil, Motrin), cough suppressants such as dextromethorphan (Robitussin) and antihistamines like loratadine (Claritin).

While OTC medications are now reimbursable without prescription, nutritional supplements, herbal remedies, and most vitamins are not considered drugs or medication by the FDA. These items are recognized as food and still require a doctor's note or prescription for reimbursement.

Though prescriptions are no longer necessary for OTC medications to be reimbursed through your HRA, you still need to provide documentation to show proof of a valid expense. The documentation should include the date the item was purchased, the cost of the item, and a description of the item. This information is generally provided on a grocery or drug store receipt.

Additionally, menstrual care products are considered as medical care and are, therefore, eligible for reimbursement through the HRA. Menstrual care products are defined as tampons, pads, liners, cups, sponges or other similar items used in respect to menstruation. Contact the Disbursement Dept. at option 8 with any question regarding this HRA expansion.



Vision Care Benefits

Vision Care Benefits are available to you and your qualifying dependents. This benefit will reimburse you for the cost of eye exams, frames, and /or lenses, including contact lenses.

Vision Care Benefits are available in the maximum amount of \$300 per person each calendar year. Please note that the Welfare Fund will no longer be accepting handwritten itemized bills for reimbursement unless accompanied with proof of payment documentation (cancelled check, credit card statement, etc.).

Term Life Insurance Reimbursement

As part of the Security Benefit Fund, this benefit can be utilized for reimbursement of the premium expense associated with an annual term life insurance policy belonging to a participant or that of a legal dependent. In order to apply for this benefit and receive reimbursement, the appropriate application must be completed and submitted along with a copy of the term life insurance premium notice and proof of payment documentation (cancelled check, credit card statement, etc.). Please note that the “face” value of the term life insurance policy cannot exceed \$1 million and you may not submit a policy that is over one year old. If you have any questions regarding this benefit, please call the Fund Office at (212) 465-8888, menu option 8 for the Disbursements department.



TeleHealth

Telehealth, otherwise known as telemedicine, allows you to see your doctor from the comfort of your own home with the help of a webcam or your mobile phone. Telehealth doctors treat common health issues like a cold, the flu, a fever, rashes, allergies, and more, and are a great choice when your regular doctor isn't available. This remote option allows you to follow social distancing and quarantine guidelines, hence its recent spike in popularity during the pandemic. Not to mention, it is convenient and time-saving, avoiding long waits at an urgent care or emergency room. Other advantages include: access, affordability and quality. Keep in mind that the Empire EPO LiveHealth Online, a 24/7 program, is available through an easy downloadable app, and allows you to access any doctor you choose on-line via video or telephone. For more information, contact the Welfare Fund at (212) 465-8888, Option 4.

ACTIVE & NON-MEDICARE PARTICIPANTS

Express Scripts—SaveonSP Copay Assistance Program Commenced



Beginning July 1, 2020, the Welfare Fund has been collaborating with SaveonSP to help our participants and family members save money on certain specialty pharmacy medications.

SaveonSP works in conjunction with our current pharmacy program through Express Scripts. Participants in the SaveonSP program will continue to receive their specialty pharmacy medications through Accredo, Express Scripts' specialty home delivery provider. They will receive these pharmacy medications free of charge (\$0) with no copay. SaveonSP will coordinate manufacturer's copay assistance program to provide savings both to the participant or family member and to the Welfare Fund. Participants and family members who do not elect to participate in the voluntary SaveonSP program will be responsible for a much higher copay on specialty pharmacy medications. Therefore, it is extremely important for participants and family members that have been contacted by SaveonSP to enroll in the program.

The list of specialty pharmacy medications included in the program and the copay the participants and family members will be responsible to pay if they do not enroll in the program can be provided by the Welfare Fund. If you have any questions about this program, please contact the Welfare Fund at (212) 465-8888, option 4.

Retired Participants Receiving a Disability Pension Benefit

Retired participants receiving a disability pension benefit will soon be receiving “Your New Benefit Amount” letter from the Social Security Administration (SSA). You will be required to submit a copy of this letter to provide proof of your continued receipt of Social Security disability benefits when the Pension Fund conducts its annual audit. Please send the letter you receive from SSA to the Fund Office or make sure to keep it until you receive our Annual Audit letter requesting the same. If you have any questions on this subject, please call the Fund Office at (212) 465-8888, menu option 3 for the Pension department.

Return to Work Pensioners

If you have a minimum of 750 hours earned in 2020 you are eligible for an additional year of Pension credit. An additional Pension credit for 2020 becomes payable effective February 1, 2021 at the earliest. For an application, contact the Fund Office at (212) 465-8888, menu option 3 for the Pension department. Your application must be submitted at least 30 days prior to your benefit effective date. As an example, if your effective date is January 1, a valid application must be received no later than January 1, 2021. **Please be aware, benefits are not paid automatically, you must apply.**

Return To

WORK

Demographic Information

In order to be kept up to date with all the latest news and information from the Fund Office, please ensure that all your contact information such as home phone number, cell phone number, and email address are correct. You can change and update this information anytime using the member login section of steamfitters.com or using My Fund Office app on your mobile device or tablet.