



Employee Bulletin from the H&W Trustees July 2019

The Trustees of the PPWC – Employer Trusteed Health & Welfare Plan met on June 17th and would like to update you on a number of items relating to your group benefit coverage.

BC PharmaCare Biosimilar Initiative

B.C. PharmaCare announced a biosimilar drug switching initiative on May 27, 2019, which is a first in the Canadian public health care system. This initiative will switch B.C. PharmaCare patients from originator biologic drugs to biosimilar drugs, which are just as safe and effective but less expensive. Initially the program will focus on three biologic drugs (Enbrel, Remicade and Lantus for affected indications) with a phased in approach between May 27, 2019 and November 25, 2019, during which time BC PharmaCare will cover both the originator biologic and the biosimilar.

Effective November 26, 2019, coverage for the originator biologic will only be available through PharmaCare on an exception basis. PBC will mirror the BC PharmaCare program (except as it relates to Lantus until the new year) and require those that are on one of the noted biologics to transition to the biosimilar. Exceptions will be permitted only if the member cannot tolerate biosimilar as determined by BC PharmaCare. For additional information regarding the biosimilar initiative please view the webinar below provided by PBC.

<https://www.pac.bluecross.ca/popups/biosimilar-advisor-webinar/>

Travelling out of Province

The Trustees would like to remind you that you should consider purchasing an individual travel insurance plan before travelling out of province. As a member of the trusteed Plan you are eligible to receive a special discount of 10%. Simply enter your health and dental policy number and the 10% discount will be automatically applied to your purchase through PBC.

If you have a pre-existing condition, you should consult your individual plan insurer to assess your coverage needs and determine what insurance restrictions apply. For example, the PBC plan includes several limitations that you should be aware of; if you have any questions or concerns, you should discuss further with Pacific Blue Cross (PBC). Please visit www.pac.bluecross.ca for more information.

Member Surveys

The Trustees would like to remind you of the two surveys available for you to share your feedback:

- Health and Welfare Plan Survey available online and in PDF on the PPWC National website: <https://www.ppwc.ca/benefit-plans/> to share your general feedback regarding the Plan.
- Disabled Member Survey to be completed once you return from a weekly indemnity or long term disability claim. These surveys can be obtained from your Plan Administrators



Feedback from these surveys will help the Trustees understand any issues or concerns with the Plan, and the disability process from the member's perspective in an effort to continually improve the process.

Drug Supply Limits for Maintenance Medication

Maintenance drugs are used to control and manage a variety of chronic or long-term conditions such as high cholesterol, high blood pressure, and diabetes. The Trustees would like to remind you that Pacific Blue Cross' standard supply for maintenance medication is 100 days. Please remind your physician and pharmacist to provide you with a 100-day supply when getting maintenance medication so that you do not have to visit the pharmacy frequently and incur additional dispensing fee charges.

If a longer supply is needed, Pacific Blue Cross may be able to provide an exception. For an exception, you will need to indicate the reason for a longer supply on the claim form and submit to Pacific Blue Cross for processing.

Index of Employee Bulletin Articles of Interest

The Trustees would like to remind you that an alphabetical list of Articles of Interest taken from Employee Bulletins is available in index form. The index and bulletins are available on the PPWC National website: <https://www.ppsc.ca/benefit-plans/>.

Trustee meeting dates for 2019

October 21, 2019