



## WELFARE FUND

16 Court Street · Brooklyn, New York 11241-1003 · Telephone: (718) 624-2600 · FAX: (718) 624-2522

IRWIN SHANES, Administrator

December 1, 2006

### NOTICE OF BENEFIT CHANGE

Dear Member:

As I am sure you are aware, the cost of healthcare is constantly increasing, with new, better, and often more expensive treatments and therapies being developed almost daily. One of the largest contributors to this increase in cost is the cost of prescription medications. Over the past year, the cost of prescription medications to the CSA Welfare Fund has increased by over 20%, largely due to the return of psychotropic and asthma medications to the fund ( from the PICA program ) effective July 1, 2005. In addition, the additional contribution from the city to help defray the costs of these medications expired on June 30, 2006, leaving the fund no choice but to absorb all of these additional costs with no additional income.

After great deliberation and consideration of several alternatives, the Trustees of the CSA Welfare Fund voted to modify the prescription drug benefit, effective January 1, 2007. At that time, the co-payment for medications purchased at a local pharmacy will be 10% for generic medications, 25% for preferred brand-name medications, and 35% for non-preferred brand name medications. Medications purchased through Medco by mail will cost \$ 10 for generic medications, \$ 25 for preferred brand-name medications, and \$ 35 for non-preferred brand name medications. All prescriptions filled through the mail may be filled for a maximum of 60 days. In addition, if a medication is considered a maintenance medication taken for a chronic condition, it now **MUST** be purchased through the mail after an original fill and 2 refills at a local pharmacy. Exceptions to the mandatory mail provision are antibiotics and any other medications that require frequent monitoring to determine correct dosage. The \$ 50 per person/\$ 150 per family annual deductible at the local pharmacy remains in effect.

You will be receiving further information, including mail-order forms and envelopes and a copy of the preferred drug list directly from Medco. In addition, the Medco web site, [www.medco.com](http://www.medco.com), contains Savings Advisor, an on-line tool which will help determine the most cost-effective alternative to medications you may already be taking. If you have not already created a user profile, I encourage you to do so. Once registered, you can use Savings Advisor, order refills, and receive email reminders when you are eligible for refills.

Please contact the fund at the above number should you have any questions regarding this change in benefits.

Very Truly Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Irwin Shanes", written in a cursive style.

Irwin Shanes  
Administrator

BOARD OF TRUSTEES: Jill Levy; Henry Iori; Robert Kazanowitz; Peter McNally  
Ernest Logan; Bruce K. Bryant, Counsel