

Ask the Welfare Fund – May 2008

Question: I am an Assistant Principal in the Bronx, and really need a new pair of glasses. I requested, and received a voucher in time for the February school break, but did not use the voucher. I would like to get my glasses during the April break, but the voucher expired. What should I do?

Answer: Please return the expired voucher to the Welfare Fund, and request a new one. We must receive the expired voucher before issuing a new one to keep our auditors happy (and who doesn't like happy auditors!). Since the voucher indicates eligibility to receive services when presented to a participating optical center, we must receive the expired one before we issue a new one. Also, if you spend money beyond the value of the voucher, please make sure the store indicates the additional amount you paid so that we may process your union supplement, if you are due for one.

Question: I am a retired principal. I am in the GHI health plan, but use my wife's prescription drug plan because it has lower co-payments. I submitted my 2007 co-pays receipts, and received the welfare fund reimbursement. However, I am a member of the retiree chapter, and haven't yet received the chapter check. When will I receive this check?

Answer: With the arrangement we have with the City of New York and GHI, we get prescription history electronically for those retirees using the GHI drug plan. This allows us to automatically generate both welfare fund and chapter claims, so the chapter reimbursement typically arrives within a few days of the welfare fund check. For those not in the GHI plan, we must prepare a claim manually for the welfare fund reimbursement. These claims do not automatically generate the chapter reimbursement. Chapter reimbursements for these "manual" claims is done on a quarterly basis. According to our records, your chapter check was printed the last week of March, and you should have received it. If you have not yet received the check, please give me a call and we'll investigate the situation.