

Ask the Welfare Fund October 2008

UPDATE: If you are a retired New York City employee enrolled in Medicare, and paid more than the base amount of \$ 93.50 per month for your Medicare Part-B coverage in 2007, you can receive reimbursement for the extra amount that you paid. Simply follow the instructions that were included with your 2007 reimbursement check in August: Send proof of the extra amount you paid in 2007 (such as a copy of an electronic deposit to your account of end-of-year report from Medicare to NYC Office of Labor Relations, Medicare Premium Reimbursement, 40 Rector St, 3rd Floor, New York NY 10006. Reimbursement will be made later this fall.

Question: I am a newly appointed AP. I recently received a bill from the UFT Welfare Fund for prescription drugs I purchased on September 5th. Can you help me with this?

Answer: Sure. When you change positions from teacher to a supervisory position, it takes the Department of Education a few weeks (hopefully) to switch your records from a teacher payroll line to a supervisory line. We receive a report from the Department of Education at the end of September, which we use to determine eligibility. We have an agreement with the UFT Welfare Fund to reimburse expenses incurred by our members in the transition from UFT to CSA. Please send us a copy of the UFT letter and we will reimburse the UFT the amount we would have paid for your medications. We will send you a copy of the check we send the UFT, and you will be responsible for paying the UFT the difference between the amount they billed and the amount we paid. This reciprocal agreement works for dental procedures as well, as well as for the (rare) case when a supervisor reverts to a teaching position, in which case we bill the UFT for any benefits you used before the UFT restored your coverage.

Question: I am a retired principal getting my medications through the GHI Enhanced Medicare Part-D drug plan. I am now at the catastrophic level and paying 5% of the drug costs. I read your article on prescription drugs and saw that I am eligible to have these copayments reimbursed. What do I have to do to get reimbursed for these costs?

Answer: Please send us **both pages** of the Explanation of Benefits you receive from Express Scripts/GHI. The first page identifies you, and shows that you are in the catastrophic level, but does not itemize the drugs. The second page itemizes the drugs, but does not identify who used the drugs. In order to reimburse your costs, we need both pages. We will the reimburse 100% of the co-pays you paid over the TrOOP limit of \$ 4,050 with not deductible to a maximum of \$ 5,000. In January, your benefit will reset and you will once again start paying 25% of the cost of the medication