

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA PIPE TRADES HEALTH & WELFARE FUND

(Active Plan)

SUPPLEMENT No. 5

To: All Participants
From: Board of Trustees
Date: November 2013
Re: Benefit Improvements

KEEP THIS NOTICE WITH THE SUMMARY PLAN DESCRIPTION

Here is a summary of Health & Welfare Fund (Active Plan) benefit improvements starting January 1, 2014:

- The annual maximum benefit limitations (\$100,000 / \$250,000 / \$500,000 / \$1,000,000 / \$2,000,000) will be eliminated.
- Vision benefits will be improved for children under 18. The Plan will pay for an annual vision exam and allow up to \$200 for one pair of glasses or contact lenses every twelve months.
- The \$900 Calendar Year limit on Allergy Treatment benefits for antigens, including injections, will be eliminated.
- The \$10,000 Calendar Year limit on Pain Management benefits will be eliminated.
- Physical therapy visits will no longer be limited to three visits per week or thirty visits per year.
- The \$1,800 Calendar Year benefit limit for Outpatient Speech Therapy will be eliminated.
- Outpatient Cardiac Rehabilitation benefits will no longer be limited to \$1,200 per Calendar Year and no longer limited to three visits per week.
- Skilled Nursing Facility benefits will be paid at 95% of the Blue Shield Contract Rate (in-network) or 90% of the Allowable Charge (previously limited to \$27 per day).
- Insulin Pump supply allowances will not be limited (previously limited to \$160 per month).
- C-PAP device supply allowances will not be limited (previously limited to \$150 per year).
- Sleep Apnea benefits will not be limited (previously limited to \$950 per Calendar Year).
- The \$2,500 Calendar Year limitation on the Dependent Child Special Disability Benefit will be eliminated for essential benefits (e.g., corrective surgery and speech therapy).
- There will no longer be a pre-existing condition exclusion in the Transitioning Employee program.
- Prescription drug benefits will be enhanced with an improved, tiered benefit. You will receive a separate notice about this change.

Revised Summary Plan Description Sections

The following revisions to the Summary Plan Description reflect the improvements discussed above.

Vision Benefits

In Section 11, subsection G of the Summary Plan Description (Vision Benefits), the following paragraph is added:

“Exception for eligible dependent children under age 18: The Plan will pay 100% of the Blue Shield contract rate or the Allowable Charge, as applicable, toward an annual examination, and provide up to \$200 for charges incurred in a 12-month period for fitting and one pair of glasses or contact lenses.”

Allergy Treatment

In Section 11, subsection H of the Summary Plan Description (Allergy Treatment), the first sentence is changed to read as follows:

“The plan will provide up to \$75 per vial of antigens, including charges for the injection, payable at 95%.”

Pain Management

In Section 11, subsection K of the Summary Plan Description (Pain Management), the first sentence is changed to read as follows:

“The Plan will pay 100% of the Blue Shield of California Contract Rate, or the Allowable Charge, whichever is applicable, for pain management services.”

Physical Therapy

In Section 11, subsection L of the Summary Plan Description (Outpatient Physical Therapy), the two references to “3 visits per week not to exceed 30 visits per Calendar Year” are hereby eliminated.

Speech Therapy

In Section 11, subsection M of the Summary Plan Description (Outpatient Speech Therapy Benefits), the reference to “\$1,800 per Calendar Year” is hereby eliminated.

Cardiac Rehabilitation

In Section 11, subsection N of the Summary Plan Description (Outpatient Cardiac Rehabilitation), the following description takes the place of the current description:

“The Plan will pay \$25 per visit.

Skilled Nursing Facility

In Section 11, subsection Q of the Summary Plan Description (Extended Care Facility/Convalescent or Skilled Nursing Facility), the following description takes the place of the current description:

“If a Participant or Eligible Dependent is confined in an Extended Care Facility or Convalescent Care Facility, the Plan will pay a maximum of \$27 per day. If a Participant or Eligible Dependent is confined in a Skilled Nursing Facility, the Plan will pay 95% of the Blue Shield contract rate to Blue Shield providers or 90% of the Allowable Charge to non-Blue Shield providers.”

Supplies for Insulin Pump or CPAP device

In Section 11, subsection R of the Summary Plan Description (Other Services and Supplies), the following paragraphs are eliminated:

Line (ix), item (a), paragraph 4 is eliminated and
Line (ix), item (b), paragraph 4 is eliminated.

In Section 17 of the Summary Plan Description (Medical Expense Exclusions & Limitations), line 26 is replaced by the following:

“Replacement of Durable Medical Equipment within 36 months, including prosthetics.”

Dependent Child Special Disability Benefit

In Section 11, subsection S of the Summary Plan Description (Dependent Child Special Disability Benefit), the following sentence is added to the end of the first paragraph:

“The \$2,500 annual limitation does not apply to essential corrective surgery or essential therapy described in (i) and (ii) below.”

Payment of Certain Claims related to Out-of Network Emergency Medical Services

The Plan was previously amended to improve certain benefits for Emergency Medical Services from out-of-network providers incurred on or after April 1, 2013. Subsequently, the Health & Welfare Fund Trustees approved limited retroactive application of this benefit improvement back to April 1, 2009. High-dollar claims incurred for out-of-network Emergency Medical Services during the period April 1, 2009 through March 31, 2013 were reviewed to identify cases where participants remain obligated to pay balances due on these claims. Where in the Fund’s judgment, based on the individual facts and circumstances of each case, a reasonable resolution can be reached with a provider, the Fund will make an additional payment to resolve a pending claim.

Section 3 (Summary of Active Plan Benefits): Pages 41 through 45 have been revised as shown on the enclosure.