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# FOR YOUR BENEFIT

NEWSLETTER OF THE LOCAL 295 IBT EMPLOYER GROUP BENEFIT FUNDS  
VOL. XXIII, ISSUE 1, SPRING, 2024

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## CHANGES IN THE WELFARE FUND

### *NEW PRESCRIPTION BENEFIT MANAGEMENT VENDOR*

Now that EmpirRx is the new PBM vendor for the Local 295 IBT Employer Group Welfare Fund, certain injectable medications are being covered differently.

Please be sure to check with EmpirRx (833-442-3184) to see if your medication is still being covered by the prescription drug plan or if it should be administered through the medical benefit. If covered by the medical plan, please have your providers reach out to Anthem BlueCross BlueShield at 833.293.0659 (for non-oncology drugs) and 888.240.5057 (for oncology drugs) to acquire the necessary pre-authorization.

### *NEW VACCINES POLICY*

Starting April 1, you will have the ability to go to any in-network pharmacy and receive your vaccination without having to pay for any out-of-pocket costs. Be sure to communicate with your provider about getting any of your vaccinations at the pharmacy instead of at their office. Getting them done at the pharmacy will bring savings to both you and the Welfare Fund.

### *EMPIRE BCBS OFFICIALLY BECAME ANTHEM*

On January 1, 2024 the Empire BlueCross BlueShield name officially transitioned to Anthem BlueCross BlueShield. Please be assured that this name transition will have no impact on plans, pricing, networks, coverage, or level of support or service.

The priority was to ensure a simple, seamless transition and to reassure you that you can continue to use the same doctors and hospitals that you do currently.

Feel free to login to Anthem.com now using your same information. Anthem's mission remains the same as it was before: to improve the health of all members of the Tri-State area. The Local 295 Welfare Fund looks forward to the future of healthcare with our partner, Anthem BlueCross BlueShield.

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## PAYER MATRIX

The Board of Trustees of the Local 295 – I.B.T. Employer Group Welfare Fund have chosen Payer Matrix as a new specialty drug program vendor for the Local 295 IBT Employer Group Welfare Fund and are very excited about the potential of this new strategic partnership. This was done to help the Fund mitigate the ever-increasing costs of specialty medications and will yield savings to not only the Welfare Fund, but ultimately to you, too. This innovative approach provides for a relief of select high-cost specialty drugs via manufacturer assistance programs that advocate on behalf of the member to obtain the maximum value at the lowest cost possible. The cost savings of the program will help to ensure the financial well-being of the Welfare Fund and preserve it for the future.



It is recommended that all plan participants using specialty drugs engage with the Payer Matrix advocacy service. If you are NOT eligible for a Payer Matrix identified funding program, Payer Matrix will automatically submit your case to EmpirRx.

Because coordinating specialty prescriptions is complex and requires high-touch care, Payer Matrix will assign you a “Care Coordinator” to be your personal advocate and will reach out to you if one of your medications has an available manufacturer assistance program. They will first give you a “Welcome Call” after which you will need to complete consent and onboarding forms. At that point they will research appropriate funding and sourcing options for the program. Then they will coordinate the details with you and your physician to validate if you qualify for assistance. Once you are approved, your Care Coordinator will work on your behalf to help ensure you receive your specialty medication on time, every month. Payer Matrix then will coordinate with you, your provider, and the pharmacy on administration and will notify you once the medication is shipped. They will also monitor and track compliance and adherence to your medication.



It is important that you engage and cooperate with Payer Matrix to ensure there is no gap in your prescription product access. People eligible for this program have already been contacted, but some have not responded, yet, and still need to do so in a timely fashion.

Please be sure to respond and follow through with the requests from Payer Matrix so that this program can run smoothly. The intent of this important program is to aid the financial well-being of the Welfare Fund. If you want to get connected to a Care Coordinator now you can reach out to 877.305.6202 or email [customerservice@payermatrix.com](mailto:customerservice@payermatrix.com).

If you have any other questions, please contact the Welfare Fund office at 212.308.4200. You can also feel free to contact a Union representative who can also address any concerns and guide you with this process.

## MENTAL HEALTH

*As May is National Mental Health Month, it is time for a friendly reminder to be aware of your mental health. We encourage members to continue to stay on top of this and follow these additional health tips to improve both your mental and physical health:*

- *Get a good night's rest consistently*
- *Practice identifying your emotions*
- *Cut out or cut down your alcohol consumption*
- *Improve your diet*
- *If you need help please reach out to Teamster Center Services at 212.308.4200*

## THE WOMEN'S HEALTH AND CANCER RIGHTS ACT OF 1998 CARE NOTICE

### YOUR RIGHTS AFTER A MASTECTOMY -

If you have had a mastectomy or expect to have one, you may be entitled to special rights under the Women's Health and Cancer Rights Act of 1998 (WHCRA).

A federal law known as the Women's Health and Cancer Rights Act of 1998 (WHCRA) requires group health plans and insurance companies that provide coverage for mastectomies to provide certain mastectomy related benefits or services to persons covered by the Welfare Fund. This Plan has historically provided the benefits required under the WHCRA and continues to make these benefits available to eligible persons.



*all stages of reconstruction of the breast on which the mastectomy has been performed;*



*surgery and reconstruction of the other breast to produce a symmetrical appearance; and*



*prostheses and treatment of physical complications of mastectomy, including lymph edema.*

Coverage for these benefits or services will be provided in a manner determined in consultation with the eligible person's attending physician. If you are eligible in the Plan and currently receiving, or in the future receive benefits under this Plan in connection with a mastectomy, you are entitled to coverage for the benefits and services described above in the event that you elect reconstruction of the affected breast.

Eligible dependents are also entitled to coverage for these benefits or services on the same terms. Coverage for the mastectomy-related services or benefits required under the WHCRA will be subject to the same deductibles and coinsurance or co-payment provisions, if any, that apply to any other medical or surgical benefits provided by the Welfare Fund.



### PROSTATE SCREENINGS

*As June is National Men's Health Month, it is time for a friendly reminder to get screened for prostate cancer. Although we focused on these screenings last summer, The Local 295 Welfare Fund wants members to be aware of the critical need to be screened for this life-threatening disease. As you may recall, we hosted several, highly successful Health Fairs last year which raised awareness and encouraged members to take charge of their own health. We encourage members to continue to stay on top of this and get their screening for prostate cancer done.*

LOCAL 295 IBT EMPLOYER  
GROUP PENSION TRUST FUND AND  
EMPLOYER GROUP WELFARE FUND  
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## **ARE YOU ALIVE CERTIFICATIONS**

**The annual “Are you alive?” notices were mailed out to all pensioners / beneficiaries that are in pay status. Once you receive it, please be sure to have your own notice notarized, signed by you, and returned to the Fund Office by mail only. Unfortunately, they cannot be faxed.**

**If you are employed now, we also request that you provide employment information from the previous year.**

**It is critically important to note that failure to return this certification in a timely manner will result in a suspension of your benefit.**

**In addition, we want to remind you to please keep both your address and telephone number current with the Welfare and Pension Funds.**

**If you should happen to forget to return the form, please send it back as soon as you can. Your benefit will be reinstated the first of the following month, after receipt of the form. It will be paid retroactive to the date your benefit was suspended.**