

Benefits Rep's Report

March 25, 2009

This has been a very eventful time for the Benefits Office with all of the off and on weeks of work along with our reduction of work force along with many retirees and all of their questions. If I have been tardy in getting back to some of you I truly apologize and you will hear from me soon, I'm trying to coordinate my calls to the ones of highest priority which have a time restriction. Hopefully this is not viewed as an excuse but the reason for the delay.



We met for the Joint Benefits Committee meeting on Feb 24 and 25 with settlement of a number of open issues. All diagnostic test including lab and x-ray will be covered the same as it was with Cigna at 100% coverage with no coinsurance charges. Subrigation (auto accidents with auto insurance being responsible for med coverage instead of BCBS) has been corrected and will be administered the same as it was with Cigna. BCBS will pay the initial cost and the auto insurance coverage will repay BCBS for that initial coverage.

There was a number of other issues discussed and some are in the process of changes getting made to the coverage positions BCBS has taken to match what we had with Cigna's administration of our negotiated plan which includes orthotics. We also discussed the many changes in the Cobra insurance coverage employers have to administer per the stimulus package our new government administration has passed. Nothing has been given to us in detail on what these changes were but I will pass this information on as soon as I get it. Zenith will also be aware of these changes and should be sending information concerning this to all affected employees. We should have avoided the many foul ups we had with previous layoffs because of getting most affected employees the Cobra form prior to the layoff so we're not dependent on the mail system to distribute the information.

We had good attendance to the meetings concerning the layoff and hopefully had information helpful to all attending.

In closing I want to remind everyone with any questions at all to call the Benefits Office or get in touch with our Local 3520 Office to get me your phone number, e-mail address or home address.

Thanks,

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