

ADVISORY LETTER

BY E-MAIL

AL 26 - 07

December 5, 2007

TO: ALL FIR MEMBER COMPANIES

Gentlemen and Mesdames:

Re: “Blue Net” Drug Card and B.C. PharmaCare Formulary

In the next week you should receive some information from Pacific Blue Cross regarding the new Drug Card and PharmaCare Formulary. The purpose of this letter is to provide you with some background on how the new card will work and its effect on your employees.

Employees covered by the new FIR-USW Coast Master Agreement will be provided with a Pacific Blue Cross “Pay-Direct” Drug Card, effective January 1, 2008. This will allow prescription drugs to be paid in full at the Pharmacy with no need for employees to file receipts by mail to get reimbursement.

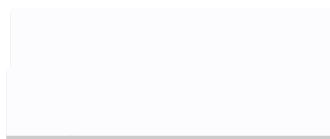
However, the new card will be based on the BC PharmaCare Formulary, and only prescription drugs approved for use by BC PharmaCare will be eligible for payment. In some cases, the Formulary may pay for the generic form of a specific drug but not the brand name drug. For certain medical conditions, the Formulary may include the medically recognized drug treatment, but not the more expensive drugs used to treat the same condition.

The transition to the Formulary will require some adjustments for employees. The Pacific Blue Cross literature, which will be sent out during December, will refer employees to a process to be followed if the drug the Doctor prescribes is not covered by the Formulary. Basically, the Doctor should be asked to prescribe an appropriate substitute drug covered by PharmaCare or to make a Special Authorization Request to PharmaCare to allow the non-PharmaCare drug to be covered for the specific patient.

To allow for a smooth transition of the Formulary, non-PharmaCare prescribed drugs purchased in the first three months of 2008 will still be eligible for reimbursement under the EHB Plan. However, for these drugs, reimbursement receipts must be submitted to Pacific Blue Cross, as in the past, and only receipts received by Pacific Blue Cross by March 31, 2008 will be eligible for reimbursement.

Please contact us if you require more information on this subject.

Yours very truly,

A rectangular area that has been redacted, likely containing a signature or name.

Thomas J. Getzie
Vice President, Education and
Benefits Administration

TJG:jc