



## Teamsters' National Benefit Plan (“the Plan”)

Dear Benefit Plan Members:

We are once again pleased to provide you with an update regarding your coverage under the Teamsters' National Benefit Plan. As always, we encourage you to contact our office should you have questions regarding your participation in the Plan, 604-552-2650.

Gail Johnson, Administrator

### Improvement to Claim Processing for Prescription Drug Coverage

As you know, the Plan provides coverage for drugs approved for sale in Canada for the treatment of illness or disease which are available only by prescription and when prescribed by a Physician. Drugs determined to be “Lifestyle” drugs such as those for weight loss and those for cosmetic purposes are excluded.

Your prescription drug card when presented at the pharmacy provides direct payment for those drugs covered under the **B.C. Pharmacare formulary**. Until recently, for payment of **non-formulary drugs**, the Plan required confirmation that a member's physician requested **Special Authority** from Pharmacare. Once the Plan received confirmation of Pharmacare's response, whether approval or denial, the Plan would provide coverage for the drug.

The Plan's Trustees have recently agreed to address members' concerns over the difficulty of the Special Authority process. As such, effective March 1, 2009, having ones' physician request Special Authority from Pharmacare **will no longer be required for coverage of non-formulary drugs. However, direct payment through your Drug Card will not work unless a reply to a Special Authority request has been received.**

**If members do not wish to request Special Authority, the Plan will provide coverage once a member pays for the drug and submits the receipt to our office** on an Extended Health claim form. Please contact our office if you require forms for this reimbursement process or if more convenient, forms can be downloaded from this website under Benefit forms.

***It is important for members to be aware that the failure to request Special Authority from Pharmacare, means that expenses that would normally be satisfying the Pharmacare deductible will not be doing so.***