

Benefit Report – May 10, 2020

Hoping this update finds all members of 584 and their families well. It has been two months since our last report and simply put - our lives have been greatly transformed by this pandemic.

I strongly urge our members to check the Unifor National Website for issues relating to Covid-19 updates, EI, CERB, SUB and Leaves and other related issues. The link is - https://www.unifor.org/en/take-action/campaigns/covid-19-information-resources?v=take_action

Also, because of the uncertainty regarding our SUB plans implicating CERB criteria, potentially affecting those members on lay-off please complete the attached link <https://www.unifor.org/en/take-action/campaigns/dont-deny-sub-plans#newmode-embed-6624-19554>. We are anticipating the Federal Government of Canada to provide a resolution in this matter.

May 4-10 is Mental Health Week and as this pandemic continues to present overwhelming challenges for many, Green Shield is reminding all plan members that help is available through their BEACON Mental Health program. They have also sponsored a new program called Stronger Minds – a no cost initiative that provides crucial mental health support for all. You can check-out Green Shield website with links to the programs mentioned at <https://www.greenshield.ca/en-ca>.

One last note to mention - PRESCRIPTION DRUG COVERAGE LIMITATIONS – 30 DAY SUPPLY

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Ontario government has implemented a 30 day supply limitation on prescription drugs during this time. The idea was to safe guard against hoarding of pharmaceutical drugs potentially causing shortages as part of Ontario's Covid-19 pandemic plan.

The concern is that while the message to all Ontarians is to stay home, except for essential travel – the change from a 90- day fill to a 30- day fill – means more monthly trips to the drug store. It also implicates cost as the dispensing fee is now charged monthly instead of every three months.

For more information on this click on the link from the Ministry of Health

http://health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/drugs/opdp_eo/notices/exec_office_20200320.pdf

I move for adoption of my report.

In sol,

Claudio Parise