

# **Benefits Booklet**

# **CUPE**

Edmonton General Continuing Care Centre Grey Nuns Community Hospital

Alberta Blue Cross Group Number: 22131

Effective Date: January 2024





# **General Provisions**

#### Maximum

\$1,000,000 combined maximum per Participant each Benefit Year applicable to all Benefits excluding Out of Province Emergency Travel Benefits.

Out of Province Emergency Travel Benefits are subject to a maximum of \$5,000,000 in Canadian funds per Participant per incident.

# **Termination of Benefits**

Benefit Coverage terminates at 11:59 PM on the last day of the month in which the Member retires or terminates employment, with the exception of Out of Province Emergency Travel Benefits which terminate at 11:59 PM on the last day of the month in which the Member retires, terminates employment or reaches 70 years of age.

# **Employee**

A person who is an eligible Employee of the Contract Holder. An Employee must belong at all times to the class or classes of Employees covered by this Health and Dental Plan as specified in the Benefit Summary. All Employees must be residents of Canada and be eligible for benefits under the provincial government health care programs in the province of residence in order to be eligible for coverage.

In order to be eligible for all benefits under this Health and Dental Plan, an Employee, must be required to satisfy the required waiting period and work the minimum number of hours per week as required by the Contract Holder.

All Employee individual applications should be completed and submitted to Blue Cross within 31 days of the start of their eligibility period.

# **Dependent**

The Employee's eligible Spouse and Children as defined below:

1. Spouse shall mean a person who is legally married to the Employee, or who is not legally married to the Employee but has continuously resided with the Employee for not less than 12 consecutive months having been represented as members of a conjugal relationship (common-law).

The Member requesting coverage for a common-law spouse must give written notice to Blue Cross. Unless such written request is made, the person legally married to the Member shall be considered to be the covered spouse. A common-law spouse becomes ineligible when the relationship ends. If the relationship is resumed, the 12 consecutive month cohabitation provision must be met again.

The Employee cannot claim a status of legally married and common-law at the same time. Only 1 spouse, as defined above, can be covered during any 1 period of time.

2. Children shall mean the Member's natural, adopted, stepchildren or children for whom the Member is a legal guardian who are dependent upon the Member for financial care and support. The legal guardian must provide proof of legal guardianship prior to adding the Dependent to their plan (this does not apply to natural, adopted or stepchildren of the Member). Children of the Member's common-law spouse shall be covered provided the children are dependent upon the Member for financial care and support.

# **General Provisions**

# **Dependent continued**

Such children must be:

- (a) unmarried,
- (b) under 21 years of age, not working more than 30 hours per week, and
- (c) less than 21 years of age; or, if 21 years of age but less than 25 years of age, they must be attending an accredited educational institution, college or university on a full-time basis (a minimum of 3 courses or 15 hours per week). Dependent children in an apprenticeship program will not be eligible for coverage.

The children of the Employee's common-law spouse shall be covered provided the children are dependent upon the Employee for financial care and support.

Unmarried and unemployed children 21 years of age or older shall qualify, if they are dependent upon the Member by reason of a mental or physical disability, and became totally disabled prior to attaining age 21, and who have been continuously disabled since that time. Unmarried and unemployed children who became totally disabled while attending an accredited educational institution, college or university on a full-time basis prior to their attaining age 25, and have been continuously so disabled since that time shall also qualify as a Dependent. The Member must apply for continuous coverage within 31 days of the Dependent's 21st birthday.

All changes to add or delete eligible Dependents must be made in writing to the Benefit Plan Administrator who will notify Blue Cross electronically.

# Misrepresentation/Fraud

Coverage for Participant may be suspended or terminated by Blue Cross immediately, without notice, if a Participant:

- assists a person to obtain, or attempt to obtain, Benefits for which such person is not eligible;
- assists or knowingly participates in any act with a Provider that has the purpose or effect of enabling the Provider or a Participant to submit false, misleading or fraudulent claims; or
- makes any false statements, knowingly provides false information or withholds material information to obtain benefits for which he is not eligible.

The Member must reimburse Blue Cross for any amounts received from Blue Cross in such circumstances.

Blue Cross may, in its discretion, from time to time, review the qualifications, practices and claims of Providers and deem certain Providers ineligible. In such case, Blue Cross reserves the right, in its sole discretion, to refuse to accept claims submitted to it by or on behalf of a Participant in relation to that Provider.

# General Provisions

## Disclaimer

This material summarizes the important features of your group program. It is prepared as information only; and does not, in itself constitute an Agreement. The exact terms and conditions of your group benefits program are described in the Health and Dental Plan document held by your employer. In the event of a discrepancy between this booklet and the Health and Dental Plan document, the Health and Dental Plan document will be deemed accurate.

# Confidentiality, Security & Privacy

Personal information is the foundation of Blue Cross' business. Without specific, individual information about plan Members and their Dependents Blue Cross cannot administer their health and dental benefits. As a health-information based organization, Blue Cross has always operated within a culture of confidentiality; respecting and maintaining the privacy and security of all of the personal information it holds. Blue Cross has developed information privacy and security policies and procedures to guide the actions of anyone working for us, from the moment we begin receiving customers' personal information to enroll them to disposing of it when no longer needed. These are summarized on our web site at: <a href="www.ab.bluecross.ca">www.ab.bluecross.ca</a> or are available upon request by calling Blue Cross.

# **Conversion Privilege**

# **Conversion Privilege**

If a Member's coverage ceases because of termination of employment, or termination of membership in the class of Employees eligible for coverage under this Health and Dental Plan, then the Member may apply within 31 days of the termination date of this Health and Dental Plan to convert to one of the programs available to individuals through Blue Cross at that time.

The conversion option is also extended to Dependents. In the event of loss of coverage due to a change in status, or the Member's death, a spouse or dependent child may apply within 31 days of the change to convert to one of the programs available to individuals through Blue Cross at that time.

#### **Survivor Benefit**

In the event of a Member's death, Blue Cross will continue Health and Dental Benefits for the surviving Dependent(s) commencing the first day of the month following death and will be effective for a period not exceeding 90 days.

# Conversion Privileg

# **Schedule of Benefits - CUPE**

# **Health Benefits**

# **Health Benefits**

**Prescription Drugs** 

Payment Basis: Direct Bill

Coverage Level: 80%, unless otherwise indicated

Hospital

Coverage Level: 100%

**Extended Health** 

Coverage Level: 100%

**Voluntary Emergency** 

Travel

Coverage Level: 100%

Benefit Period: 90 Days

Vision Care

Not Applicable

**Benefit Year** 

April 1st - March 31st

# **Claiming Benefits**

- 1. Prescription Drug benefits are provided on a direct payment basis. Upon presenting your Blue Cross identification card, most pharmacies will bill Blue Cross directly.
- 2. Hospital benefits are provided on a direct payment basis. Upon presenting your Blue Cross identification card, most hospitals will bill Blue Cross directly.
- 3. Extended Health Services are covered on a reimbursement basis. The Member must pay the provider, obtain an official receipt and submit this to Blue Cross along with a fully completed Extended Health Services Claim Form.
  - Claim forms may be obtained from any pharmacy, your employer, the Alberta Blue Cross website (<a href="http://www.ab.bluecross.ca">http://www.ab.bluecross.ca</a>) or from your local Blue Cross office.
- 4. Emergency Travel benefits should be claimed on a Travel Claim Form which is available at any Blue Cross office.

**NOTE:** Payment of allowable expenses will be made providing a claim is submitted within 12 months of the date such expense was incurred.

# **Summary of Benefits - CUPE**

# **Health Benefits**

#### **Health Benefits**

**Prescription Drug Benefits** 

Eligible Drugs: Drugs defined as Eligible Drugs in the current

Alberta Blue Cross Drug Benefit List®

**Aerosol Holding Chamber:** \$40 in a consecutive 24 month period

Allergy Serums: Included

Contraceptive Drugs: Drugs with a duration of action greater than

(Other than Oral) 100 days are limited to \$250 per Participant in a 60

month period

**Diabetic Equipment:** 

Flash Glucose Monitoring

System Reader (Intermittent) 1 per Participant in a 24 month period

Flash Glucose Monitoring

System Sensor (Intermittent) 30 sensors per Participant in a 12 month period

Diabetic Supplies: Included Coverage Level: 100%

Fertility Products: Included

**Insulin:** Included Coverage Level: 100%

Sexual Dysfunction Products:IncludedSmoking Cessation Products:IncludedVaccines:IncludedWeight Loss Products:Included

## **Definitions**

- 1. **Alberta Blue Cross Drug Benefit List:** A listing created and varied from time to time and published by Blue Cross which contains the drugs, drug products and their respective restrictions, limitations and other criteria, defined as Benefits under this Contract.
- 2. Eligible Drugs: Drugs defined as Eligible Drugs in the current Alberta Blue Cross Benefit List.
- 3. **Sexual Dysfunction Products:** Drugs with at least one Health Canada indication for treatment of sexual dysfunction, as defined by Blue Cross.
- 4. **Smoking Cessation Products:** Drugs with at least one Health Canada indication for smoking cessation, as defined by Blue Cross.
- 5. **Vaccines:** Drugs with at least one Health Canada indication for use as a vaccine as defined by Blue Cross.
- 6. **Weight Loss Products:** Drugs with at least one Health Canada indication for weight loss, as defined by Blue Cross.

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# **Hospital Benefits**

Private/Semi-Private Rooms\*: Direct payment basis

Auxiliary Care: \$360 per Participant each Benefit Year

Outpatient Expenses: Out of Province

# **Definitions**

1. **Hospital:** An institution located in Canada which is licensed and operates under any federal or provincial health insurance act or law, with facilities to provide active in-patient treatment and care. The term hospital, as used in this Health and Dental Plan, shall not include a rehabilitation hospital, rest facility, nursing home, convalescent home, health spa, hospice, clinic or institutions to treat substance abuses.

- 2. **Auxiliary Care:** The care provided to the Participant for long term or chronic illnesses in an auxiliary hospital or a publicly funded general active treatment hospital located in Canada.
- 3. **Private Room:** A room in a Hospital facility which holds only 1 bed.
- 4. **Semi-Private Room:** A room in a Hospital facility which holds only 2 beds.

## Limitations

 \* Services are subject to a usual, customary and reasonable daily maximum as determined by Blue Cross.

**Extended Health Benefits** 

Accidental Dental: \$1,000 per Participant per accident for repair,

extraction and/or replacement of natural teeth

**Ambulance Services:** To a maximum set in the current Blue Cross

schedule of ambulance rates

**Ancillary Services:** 

Blood and Blood PlasmaIncludedLaboratory ServicesIncludedOxygen and AdministrationIncluded

Radium and Radioactive

IsotopesIncludedX-ray ExaminationIncluded

**Blood Testing Monitor:** \* \$175 per Participant once in any 5 year period

**Diabetic Equipment:** 

Insulin Pump \* \$5,000 lifetime maximum per Participant

Insulin Pump Supplies Included

Eye Examinations: 1 eye examination per Participant in any 24 month

period for Participants between 19 and 64 years of age

Foot Orthotics: \* \$200 per Participant each Benefit Year

**Hearing Aids:** \* \$500 per Participant in any 24 month period

**Home Nursing Care:** \* \$10,000 per Participant in any 3 year period

Ileostomy, Colostomy Supplies,

Urinary Kits and Catheters: Included

Joint Injectable Materials: \* Included

Mastectomy Prosthesis: \* \$200 per single or \$400 per double once per

Participant in a 24 month period

**Medical Aids:** 

Casts, CanesIncludedCervical CollarsIncludedCrutchesIncludedSplintsIncluded

Stump Socks 6 pair per Participant each Benefit Year
Surgical Stockings \* 2 pair per Participant each Benefit Year

Traction Kits Included
Trusses Included

\* \$200 per Participant in any 24 month period

# **Medical Durable Equipment:**

Apnea Monitors \* Included \* Included **Breathing Monitors** Extremity Pump \* Included Head Halters \* Included Hospital Bed Rails \* Included Iron Lungs \* Included Manual Hospital Beds \* Included Manual Wheelchairs \* Included Nebulizers \* Included Neuromuscular Stimulator \* Included \* Included Parapodium Peak Flow Meter \* Included SAD/LUX Lamp \* Included Shoulder Harness \* Included Sputum Stand \* Included \* Included Suction Pumps

Approved Medical Durable Equipment

Repairs, Accessories and Supplies Included

# Orthopaedic Shoes:

\* 1 pair per Participant each Benefit Year

# **Paramedical Practitioners:**

Acupuncturist \$35 per visit, to a maximum of \$700 per

Participant each Benefit Year

Chiropractor \$35 per visit, to a maximum of 20 visits per

Participant each Benefit Year

Massage Therapist \$50 per visit, to a maximum of \$1,000 per

Participant each Benefit Year (Refer to Limitation #4)

Naturopath \$35 per visit, to a maximum of \$700 per

Participant each Benefit Year

Osteopath \$35 per visit, to a maximum of 20 visits per

Participant each Benefit Year

Physiotherapist \$35 per visit, to a maximum of 20 visits per

Participant each Benefit Year

Podiatrist/Chiropodist \$50 per visit, to a maximum of \$1,000 per

Participant each Benefit Year

Psychologist/Master of Social Work/

Addictions Counselor \$3,000 per Participant each Benefit Year

Speech Language Pathologist \$35 per visit, to a maximum of 20 visits per

Participant each Benefit Year

Permanent Braces: \* Included

Brace Repairs Included

**Prosthetics:** \* Conventional artificial limbs and eyes, excluding

myoelectric controlled prosthesis

## Limitations

- 1. \* Benefits must be purchased on the written order of a Health Care Professional.
- 2. Acupuncturist Eligible expenses for services provided by a registered Acupuncturist.
- 3. Chiropractor Eligible expenses for services provided by a licensed Chiropractor.
- 4. Massage Therapist Eligible expenses, on the written order of a physician, for therapeutic massages provided by a registered Massage Therapist to treat a medical condition.
- 5. Naturopath Eligible expenses for services provided by a licensed Naturopath.
- 6. Osteopath Eligible expenses for services provided by a licensed Osteopath, once all provincial government funding has been fully accessed.
- 7. Physiotherapist Eligible expenses for services provided by a licensed Physiotherapist, once all provincial government funding has been fully accessed.
- Podiatrist/Chiropodist Eligible expenses provided by a licensed Podiatrist or Chiropodist for services or supplies which are not funded in whole or part by a provincial government health program.
- 9. Psychologist/Master of Social Work/Addictions Counselor Eligible expenses for individual or family counselling, including assessment, provided by a Chartered Psychologist, Master of Social Work or Addictions Counselor for treatment of mental or emotional illness.
- 10. Speech Language Pathologist Eligible expenses for services provided by a licensed Speech Language Pathologist, once all provincial government funding has been fully accessed.

# **Emergency Travel Benefits**

Benefits are provided as a result of a Medical Emergency which occurs outside the Participant's province of residence.

**Benefit Period:** 90 Days

**Maximum:** \$5,000,000 in Canadian funds per Participant per

incident

**Restrictions:** Emergency Travel Benefits will only cover the first

90 days per trip

Accidental Dental: \$2,000 per Participant per accident to natural or

permanently attached artificial teeth

Air Ambulance: Included

Ambulance Services: To the nearest qualified medical facility

Cremation or Burial: Cost of cremation or burial at place of death, to a

maximum of \$2,500

**Dental Pain Relief:** \$300 per Participant per trip **Diagnostic Services:** Laboratory services and x-rays

**Drugs:** Included

Expenses to Visit the Covered Person:

Transportation One round trip economy airfare

Meals/Accommodation \$250 per day to a maximum of \$2,500 per incident

Hospital Accommodation: Included

**Identification of Deceased:** 

Transportation One round trip economy airfare

Meals/Accommodation \$250 per day to a maximum of 3 days per incident

**Incidental Expenses:** \$50 per day to a maximum of \$500 per inpatient per

hospital stay

Meals and Accommodations: \$250 per day per Participant to a maximum of

\$2,500 per incident for unavoidable additional expenses when remaining with a sick or injured

travelling companion

**Medical Aids:** 

Casts, CanesIncludedCrutches, SlingsIncludedSplints, TrussesIncluded

Temporary Wheelchair

Rental, Walkers Included

**Medical Evacuation:** 

Air AmbulanceIncludedRepatriationIncluded

**Nursing Care:** On the written order of a physician during and

following hospitalization

Outpatient Expenses: Included

**Paramedical Practitioners:** 

Chiropractor\$300 per Participant per tripPhysiotherapist\$300 per Participant per tripPodiatrist/Chiropodist\$300 per Participant per trip

Physicians and Surgeons Fees: Included

**Return of Deceased:** Cost of preparation and homeward transportation to

province of residence, excluding the cost of a coffin,

to a maximum of \$7,000

**Return of Dependent Children:** Cost of one way economy airfare per child for the

return of Dependent children

**Return of Personal Items:** Cost of the return of luggage or personal items to a

maximum of \$500 per Participant per incident

**Return of Pet(s):** Cost of one way transportation for the return of

accompanying pet(s) to a maximum of \$500 per

incident

**Travel Assistance:** In the event of a Medical Emergency contact must

be made with the travel assistance service

**Vehicle Services:** \$1,000 per incident

#### **Limitations and Exclusions**

- 1. Blue Cross may not accept liability for hospitalization and related services if the travel assistance service is not contacted within 24 hours of admission. Failure to contact the travel assistance service may result in the payment of medical expenses being denied or delayed.
- 2. Blue Cross, in consultation with the attending Provider or travel assistance medical service advisor, reserves the right to transfer the participant to another hospital or return the participant to their province of residence. If a Participant is medically able to return to their province of residence and refuses to comply with the transfer request, Blue Cross will be absolved of any further liability, whether related to the initial incident or not.
- 3. Blue Cross will not pay for services if travel is booked or commenced contrary to medical advice or if medical attention is anticipated during the travel period. Blue Cross shall have the right to obtain medical information from the Participant's physician(s) and may request an assessment by an independent physician(s) or specialist(s).
- 4. This coverage is only available to Participants who are covered by a Canadian provincial government health program.

- 5. Blue Cross will not pay for services if expenses are incurred when the participant could have been returned to the province of residence without endangering their life or health, even if the treatment available in their province of residence could be of lesser quality or if the participant must go on a waiting list for that treatment.
- 6. Benefits are not covered if emergency medical care expenses are incurred in a country, region or city, when a written formal notice was issued by the Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development of the Canadian government, or its equivalent, prior to the departure date advising Canadians to avoid non-essential travel or avoid all travel to that country, region or city unless the incident is unrelated to the posted warning.
- 7. Blue Cross may request proof of departure upon receipt of claim. Claims must be supported by receipts from commercial organizations.
- 8. Blue Cross shall not pay for any Benefit relating to pregnancy or childbirth complications, including treatment for the newborn, if the Medical Emergency occurs after the 32nd week of gestation or is a result of the deliberate inducement of a miscarriage.
- 9. Blue Cross will not pay for expenses incurred due to:
  - seeking medical advice, surgery, a second opinion or treatment, intentionally or incidentally, even if the trip is on the medical recommendation of a Provider or
  - abuse of medication, toxic substances, alcohol or the use of non-prescription drugs; or
  - driving a motorized vehicle while impaired by drugs, toxic substances or an alcohol level of more than 80 milligrams in 100 millilitres of blood; or
  - commission of or attempt to commit, directly or indirectly, a criminal act under legislation in the area of commission of the offense; or
  - participation in an insurrection, war or act of war (declared or not), the hostile action of the armed forces of any country, service in the armed forces, hijacking, terrorism, participation in any riot or public confrontation, civil commotion, or any other act of aggression.
- 10. Blue Cross will not pay for the following unless prior approval is received from the travel assistance provider and are subject to the discretion of Blue Cross:
  - medical evacuation air ambulance services, or
  - medical evacuation repatriation, or
  - friend/family hospital visits, or
  - friend/family identification of deceased, or
  - vehicle services, or
  - return of Dependent children, or
  - return of personal items, or
  - return of pet(s).

# **Schedule of Benefits - CUPE**

# **Dental Benefits**

# **Dental Benefits**

**Basic** 

Coverage Level: 80%

Extensive

Coverage Level: 50%

Maximum: \$3,000 per Participant each Benefit Year

**Orthodontic** 

Coverage Level: 50%

Maximum: \$3,000 lifetime per Participant

**Fee Schedule** 

Usual and customary dental fees as determined by Blue Cross

**Benefit Year** 

April 1st - March 31st

# **Claiming Benefits**

 Dental Claim Forms may be obtained from your Health Care Professional's office, your employer, the Alberta Blue Cross website (<a href="http://www.ab.bluecross.ca">http://www.ab.bluecross.ca</a>) or from your local Blue Cross office.

The Dental Claim Form must be completed by the Health Care Professional at the time the dental treatment is provided.

The Health Care Professional may elect to bill Blue Cross directly for payment, or he may choose to collect the cost of services from the patient. It is then the patient's responsibility to forward the completed Dental Claim Form to Blue Cross for reimbursement.

**NOTE:** Payment of allowable expenses will be made providing a claim is submitted within 12 months of the date such expense was incurred.

# **Summary of Benefits - CUPE**

# **Dental Benefits**

# **Dental Benefits**

**Basic Benefits** 

Adult: Participants 19 years of age and older Child: Participants under 19 years of age

**Diagnostic Services:** 

Complete, Comprehensive 1 lifetime per Participant per Health Care

and General Oral Exams Professional

Limited, Recall 1 per Participant per Health Care Professional in any

or Specific Oral Exam 6 month period

Complete Series/Panoramic

Imaging1 set per Participant in any 24 month periodBitewing Imaging1 set per Participant in any 6 month period

Periapical ImagingIncludedOcclusal ImagingIncludedEmergency ExamsIncluded

Consultations Only when performed by another Health Care

Professional

**Preventive Services:** 

Polishing 1 time unit per Participant in any 6 month period

Fluoride Treatment 1 per Participant in any 6 month period

Space Maintainers Included
Pit and Fissure Sealants Included

**Restorative Services:** 

Restorations Included

**Oral Surgery:** 

Oral Surgery Included

**Endodontics:** 

Pulpal/Root Canal Therapy 1 per tooth in any 24 month period

**Periodontics:** 

Scaling and Root Planing 10 time units per Participant in any 12 month period

General Anesthesia: When required in the course of dental treatment

**Denture Services:** 

Relines and Rebasing 1 service per denture in any 24 month period

Adjustments Included

Repairs Included where a further impression is not required

Pre-Authorization Amount: \$800

# **Definitions**

- Diagnostic: Procedures to assist in evaluating the existing condition to determine the required dental treatment.
- 2. **Endodontics:** Treatment of the tooth pulp, root canal and periapical area of the tooth root.
- 3. **Oral Surgery:** Procedures for extractions and other oral surgery related to teeth and the tissues supporting the teeth.
- 4. **Periodontic:** Procedures that emphasize the examination, diagnosis and treatment of the tissues that surround and support teeth.
- 5. **Preventive:** Procedures to prevent or minimize adverse conditions of teeth.
- 6. **Restorative:** The provision of amalgam, and tooth colored filling restorations, prefabricated full coverage restorations, and tooth colored direct application veneers to restore form and function for the treatment of carious lesions.
- 7. **Time Unit:** Selected services which are performed in 15 minute intervals are considered to be 1 Time Unit.

# **Extensive Benefits**

# Prosthodontic Appliances (Limited to one of the following services per tooth):

Crowns 1 in any 5 year period when tooth cannot be

adequately restored to form and function with a

filling

Fixed Bridges 1 in any 5 year period

Inlays and Onlays 1 in any 5 year period when tooth cannot be

adequately restored to form and function with a

filling

Processed Veneers, Jackets1 in any 5 year periodPosts and Cores1 in any 5 year periodGold Restorations1 in any 5 year period

Removable Appliances:

Complete Dentures 1 upper and/or 1 lower per Participant in any 5 year

period

Partial Dentures 1 upper and/or 1 lower per Participant in any 5 year

period

Major Denture Repairs:IncludedBridge Repairs:IncludedPre-Authorization Amount:\$800

## **Definitions**

1. **Prosthodontic:** The provision of fixed (crowns or bridges) or removable (complete or partial dentures) appliances used in the replacement of teeth.

# **Orthodontic Benefits**

# **Diagnostic Services:**

General Orthodontic Exam 1 lifetime per Participant per Health Care

Professional

CephalogramsIncludedFacial/Intraoral PhotographsIncludedDiagnostic ModelsIncludedConsultation and Case PresentationIncluded

Habit-Breaking Appliances: Included

**Interceptive, Interventive, Preventive:** 

Fixed or Removable Appliances Included
Functional Appliance Therapy Included
Formal Banding Treatment Included

**Pre-Authorization:** Treatment Plan Required

# **Definitions**

1. **Orthodontic:** Procedures for preventive and corrective techniques to position teeth in a normal and harmonious relationship and bite.

# **Summary of Benefits - CUPE**

# **Health Spending Account**

**HSA Benefit Year:** January 1st - December 31st

Minimum Payment Amount: \$50 twice per month

\$15 following each quarter

Credit Allocation: Credits are deposited to your HSA by your employer

on an annual basis.

Carry Forward: Unused HSA Credits carry forward for 12 months

from the end of the Benefit Year in which they were

allocated.

**Run Off:** A 2 month run-off period will exist after the end of

each Benefit Year to submit claims.

**Grace period:** Upon termination of employment, you have a 2

month grace period in which to claim for services

incurred prior to your termination date.

# Health Spending Account Non-Taxable(HSA)

## Benefits of an HSA

You can draw on your HSA to pay for many health related expenses that would not otherwise be covered by your core health or dental plan - all in a tax advantaged manner.

Allowable expenses must be deemed an eligible medical expense by Canada Revenue Agency to be eligible for payment through your HSA. All expenses must meet Canada Revenue Agency's listing of eligible medical expenditures. Any medical or dental costs incurred by you or your dependents may be reimbursed through your HSA as long as they are not eligible for payment through provincial health care, and meet Canada Revenue Agency's requirement for a deduction on your tax return

## **Expanded Dependent Eligibility**

Canada Revenue Agency permits a broader definition of dependents for expenses claimed through your HSA - the perfect solution if you need to cover expenses for extended family members who are not eligible under your core benefit plan.

# **Carry Forward**

Your HSA carries forward credits. You can carry forward unused credits for 12 months from the end of the Benefit Year in which they were allocated.

A 2 month run-off period will exist after the end of each Benefit Year. This run-off period shall allow active Members to claim for prior Benefit Year claims with prior Benefit Year Credits.

Allowable expenses incurred in the prior Benefit Year not claimed within that Benefit Year or the subsequent run off period will be forfeited.

# **How Your Health Spending Account Works**

- When you submit a Health or Dental claim to Blue Cross, any unpaid portion or ineligible
  expense is automatically transferred into your HSA. Even claims submitted electronically by a
  pharmacy, dental office or other health care professional that have unpaid balances are
  transferred into your HSA.
- If you coordinate benefits (COB) under a spousal or other employer plan, the unpaid portion of your claim must be submitted to the other plan first for their reimbursement prior to being paid through your HSA.
- Claims to your HSA are assessed against the available credits in your account. Your employer
  will inform you of the amount credited to your HSA at the time your account is established and
  annually thereafter.
- You may submit claims for allowable expenses you want to pay through your HSA only and not through your core plan. For this you must complete and submit an HSA claim form accompanied by any original receipts or payment statements from another insurer.
- Upon termination of employment, you have a 2 month grace period in which to claim for services incurred prior to your termination date. The only funds available to pay allowable expenses that are incurred prior to your termination date are existing credits in your HSA. Any credits remaining after the grace period are forfeited.
- Annually, new credits allocated cannot be expensed (paid receipts) prior to the calendar year in which the credits are deposited/available.

# **Summary of Benefits - CUPE**

# **Wellness Spending Account**

WSA Benefit Year: January 1st - December 31st

Minimum Payment Amount: \$50 twice per month

\$15 following each quarter

Credit Allocation: Credits are deposited to your WSA by your

employer on an annual basis.

Carry Forward: Unused WSA Credits carry forward for 12 months

from the end of the Benefit Year in which they were

allocated.

**Run Off:** A 2 month run-off period will exist after the end of

each Benefit Year to submit claims.

Grace period: Upon termination of employment, you have a 2

month grace period in which to claim for services

incurred prior to your termination date.

# Wellness, Professional Development and Family Care Account (WSA)

# Benefits of a WSA

You can claim many expenses through your Wellness Spending Account (WSA) that would not otherwise be covered. Expenses incurred by you which fall under the following WSA categories are eligible for coverage. The Eligible Expenses in each category are not comprehensive and are limited to the extent that they are deemed reasonable by Blue Cross. Products and services that are deemed a non-taxable medical expense by Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) are ineligible.

## **Enhanced Benefits**

## **Health Support**

Products and services that improve health and wellbeing

- Smoking cessation programs
- Weight management program fees
- Natural health products
- Stress management programs
- Nutritional counseling
- Nutritional supplements and meal replacement products (e.g. meal replacement shakes and protein powder)

#### **Fitness and Sports Activity**

Participation in physical activity that promotes good health

- Fitness centre membership
- Physical activity fees (e.g. gym drop in fees, lift tickets)
- Sports league / team membership
- Instruction for physical activities / lessons

## **Fitness/Sports Equipment**

Fitness and sports equipment that promotes good health

- Fitness equipment (e.g. treadmill, elliptical)
- Sports equipment (e.g. hockey sticks, skates and pads, bicycle helmet)
- Athletic footwear
- \* Excludes clothing

## **Professional Development**

Supports continuous learning and career development

- Professional membership fees
- Course, seminar, conference or class (e.g. fees, books, texts, etc.)

# **Professional Development Travel**

Supports travel associated with professional development activities

- Transportation to course, seminar, conference or class
- Parking
- Hotel accommodation
- Meals

#### **Personal Interest**

Supporting continuous learning in personal interests

- Photography courses
- Pottery classes and supplies
- Art classes and supplies
- Text books associated with personal interest courses

#### **Family Care**

Attendant care and facility costs

- Child care
- Elder care
- \* Excludes domestic services, registration or finders fees, costs related to afterschool activities (field trips, children's camps)

# **Personal Computing and Mobile Digital Devices**

Products and services for personal computing, planning, scheduling and communication

- Computer and peripherals
- Computer equipment repairs
- Software (non-gaming)
- Internet service and data usage fees
- GPS
- Cell phone and accessories
- Digital devices that can access the internet (e.g. iPad, iPod Touch)
- E-readers
- \* Excludes MP3 players without internet connection, gaming (consoles, equipment and games) and printer paper

## Legal and Financial Advice

Expenses associated with legal and financial advice

- Legal fees
- Financial advisor fees
- Accounting fees (including tax preparation)

#### **Pet Care**

Expenses associated with caring for a personal pet

- Doggie Daycare
- Kennel/boarding fees
- Pet funeral expenses
- Pet insurance
- Training and obedience fees
- Veterinary expenses
- \* Excludes cost of purchasing, grooming costs, pet accessories, pet food and pet supplies

# **Commuting To Work**

Transportation costs associated with commuting to work

- Transit passes/bus tickets
- Parking
- Cab fare

# **Ergonomic Support**

Products associated with ergonomic devices

- Ergonomic back supports/rests
- Ergonomic foot rest

# **Safety and Security**

Expenses associated with making your life safer and more secure

- Home security systems, security cameras or lights
- Smoke/CO2 detectors
- Handrails\*\*
- Snow tires
- Fire extinguisher
- Locksmith services
- Bathroom aids\*\*
- Walking aids\*\*
- First aid kits
- Vehicle emergency safety kits
- Fireproof safe
- Flash lights/head mounted lights
- Home owners insurance
- Eye, face, ear and body protection equipment and clothing
- \* Excludes firearms, ammunition and trail cameras
- \*\* Not eligible if there is an associated prescription, as this is CRA eligible

<sup>\*</sup> Excludes private vehicle related expenses

<sup>\*</sup> Excludes seat cushions or pillows and office furniture

# **EXCLUSIONS**

- Any services provided by a family member
- Claims for spouse or dependents (all receipts must be in the employee's name)
- Clubs where the singular focus is not physical activity
- Any classroom or correspondence course provided by a non-accredited institution
- Technology that is recreational/non-work related (computer games, cameras, etc.)
- Supplies (paper, toner, cartridge, etc.)

# How Your Wellness, Professional Development and Family Care Account (WSA) Works

- Claims to your WSA are assessed against the credits in your account, as allocated by your
  employer and at a level determined by your employer. Your employer will inform you of the
  amount credited to your WSA at the time your account is established and annually thereafter.
- When submitting claims for expenses to your WSA, submit a claim form accompanied by any receipts or payment statements.
- Your WSA carries forward credits. You can carry forward credits for up to but no more than 12 months from the end of the Benefit Year in which they were allocated.
- A 2 month run-off period will be available immediately following the end of each Benefit Year. This run-off period shall allow Members to direct Blue Cross to reimburse for prior Benefit Year expenses with prior Benefit Year Credits.
- Upon termination of employment, you have a 60 days in which to claim for services incurred prior to your termination date. The only funds available to pay expenses that are incurred prior to termination, are existing credits in your WSA. Credits ceased to be earned upon termination, and those remaining after the grace period are forfeited to the employer.
- Annually, new credits allocated cannot be expensed (paid receipts) prior to the calendar year in which the credits are deposited/available.