

Memo to all School Board Members

PROVINCIAL STANDARDIZED EXTENDED HEALTH PLAN UPDATES

March 27, 2023



Dear School Board Members,

The Unionized Support Staff Provincial Standardized Extended Health Plan (Standard Plan) will be updated, and minimum levels of dental coverage will be put in place **July 1, 2023**. Please see the summary below showing the bargained extended health plan improvements.

As the West Vancouver School Board support staff is currently participating in the Standard Plan, this memo provides information on the following:

- Benefit improvement summary
- Pacific Blue Cross Microsite
- How are mid-year improvements to paramedical services adjudicated

Benefits Improvement Summary:

All school district Support Staff dental plans will be updated to provide a minimum level of coverage, which is outlined below:

Plan	Current Dental Plan	Coverage as of July 1, 2023
Basic Services	Plan pays: 80%	Plan pays: 85%
Major Services	Plan pays: 50%	Plan pays: 60%
Orthodontic Services	Plan pays: 50% Lifetime Maximum: \$1,000	Plan pays: 60% Lifetime Maximum: \$1,000

The Standard Plan will also be updated effective July 1, 2023 to include the following improvements:

Benefit Provision	Current Health Plan	Coverage as of July 1, 2023
Vision Care	\$550 per 24 months	\$625 per 24 months
Eye Exams	\$75 per 24 months	\$125 per 24 months
Hearing Aids	\$1,000 per 5 years for Adults and per 2 years for Children	\$4,000 per 5 years for Adults and per 2 years for Children
Acupuncturist	\$500 per year	\$600 per year
Naturopath	\$500 per year	\$600 per year
Physiotherapist	\$900 per year	\$1,000 per year
Podiatrist/Chiropodist	\$500 per year	\$600 per year
Psychologist	\$850 per year	• Addition of Clinical Counsellors & Social Workers • \$1,500 per year (combined maximum for Psychologist, Clinical Counsellors & Social Workers)
Speech therapist	\$500 per year	\$600 per year

Please note, there will be no open enrollment period for individuals within the school district who have previously elected not to participate in the Standard Plan.

Pacific Blue Cross (PBC) Information Microsite

PBC has developed a website specifically for those groups that are participating in the Standard Plan to provide information regarding the plan design and answers to frequently asked questions. A link to the microsite will be shared once updates are completed, which will include information on benefit improvements to the Standard Plan.

How are mid-year improvements to paramedical services adjudicated?

As the benefit improvements will happen within the calendar year, see below for claims adjudication:

- Any eligible expenses incurred prior to July 1, 2023 will be adjudicated by PBC based on the current plan provisions.
- Any eligible expenses incurred on or after July 1, 2023 will be adjudicated based on the maximums outlined within the attached plan improvement summary.

For example, your current Physiotherapist maximum is \$900 per person per calendar year. If a member has already been reimbursed \$900 for this service, any further Physiotherapist services incurred on or after July 1, 2023 would be eligible up to an additional \$100 for the remainder of the year (as the calendar maximum for this service will be increasing to \$1,000 per person per calendar year). Expenses over \$900 that were incurred prior to July 1, 2023 are not eligible to be reimbursed with the additional \$100.

Should you have any questions regarding these updates, please contact us at the WVMEA office.

Sincerely,

Catalin Fota, Business Manager

Phyllis Van Rhyn, Business Agent