

April 2020

***To All Insured Construction Members
Operating Engineers of Manitoba Local 987
Health & Welfare Trust Fund***

To assist members during the slowdown of activity in the construction industry and dealing with social distancing due to the COVID-19 public health emergency at this time, the Board of Trustees has implemented the following changes to the benefit plan design:

New Healthcare Benefits – vCare, Healthcare Navigation, Cancer Assistance and Medical Second Opinion

Not surprisingly, we have received numerous calls from Members concerning services that might be available to access medical assistance (Physicians and Specialists) quickly and efficiently from home. A further complication to Members and their families is the fact that many do not presently have Family Physicians in addition to those who do not know where to turn when experiencing severe medical complications (i.e. Cancer).

As such, in addition to the People Connect mental health tool previously introduced, **effective May 1, 2020, the Trustees are coordinating the extension of new proactive products** whereby you and your eligible dependents will have the ability to access primary healthcare support via secure text and video chat through vCare, a Virtual Healthcare benefit accessible through an app on your mobile device or computer. This is likely a new future direction for receiving medical care, in particular now with COVID-19 and social distancing concerns this is a way to allow you to also address medical issues without having to go to a medical clinic. Additional complementary benefits are also being added. We summarize the new benefits below:

- **vCare:** Personalized medical support with healthcare providers via secure text and video chat to address your healthcare needs from the comfort of your home or any other convenient location
- **Healthcare Navigation:** Assistance with navigating the public healthcare system, providing a single point of contact throughout diagnosis, treatment and rehabilitation to ensure continuity of care
- **Cancer Assistance:** Personalized assistance navigating and understanding cancer treatment by oncology nurses and specialists to ensure you get the right treatment at the right time
- **Medical Second Opinion:** Offers consultation and recommendations to confirm the best course of action about your treatment plans or options

Please refer to the attachments for more information on these new benefits.

To enroll for vCare, you will be required to provide your Policy # and Certificate # (Member ID) – these can be obtained from your Prescription Drug card. If you do not have these, they can be provided by the Plan Administrator.

To register, you must go to the vCare link on the Union website or you can access directly via the secure link <https://vcareregistration.com>. When registering, you will be required to create your individual password. As a first time user, you will then be directed to download the app (search for **Akira Healthcare**) from Google Play or the iOS store, and will then require your email address and password to access vCare.

Access to Healthcare Navigation, Cancer Assistance and Medical Second Opinion are through contacting Compass Health Care Navigation at 1-866-883-5956. You will be asked to provide your name, Member ID (can be obtained from your Drug Card), your Union Local and possibly your Provincial Healthcare # (depending on the nature of your call).

As a reminder, the **People Connect mental health tool** can be accessed at www.pcpeopleconnect.com.

To also assist Members with social distancing at this time, the Plan will be partnering with Pocket Pills, a digital pharmacy, to offer home delivery of prescription drugs. While the Plan will benefit from the lower dispensing fees they charge compared to most other pharmacies, it is the convenience of this provider and ease of their online platform that we wish to highlight. More information on this service will be forwarded to Members in the near future. In the meantime, please be aware that most pharmacies will provide home delivery of prescriptions drugs upon request.

Healthcare Spending Account – application of self-payments

The Plan will temporarily allow for an automatic reimbursement of Members self-payments, for May and June coverage, from their Healthcare Spending Account (HSA). Although self-payments are not generally eligible to be reimbursed under a HSA, it will be allowed for the short-term to assist members through this difficult time.

Although our office is currently closed to visitors, we are maintaining regular office hours. You can contact our office at 204-942-4438, toll free at 1-888-204-1234, or email 987admin@coughlin.ca. If you require other assistance please visit our website: www.coughlin.ca.

Yours sincerely,

**COUGHLIN & ASSOCIATES LTD.
CONSULTANTS & ADMINISTRATORS**

**AS PER THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
OPERATING ENGINEERS OF MANITOBA LOCAL 987
HEALTH & WELFARE TRUST FUND**

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