

U.A. PLUMBERS LOCAL UNION #68
GROUP PROTECTION PLAN

P.O. BOX 8726 • HOUSTON, TEXAS 77249
(713) 869-2592 • FAX (713) 862-4877
TOLL FREE (800) 833-2980



September 2014

NOTICE

Your Group Protection Plan has a very generous Prescription Drug Benefit. The recent move to our use of a "Drug Card" has been met with significant positive feedback from you, our Participants and Members. It has however, caused some unforeseen issues with NON-FDA approved drugs being presented for dispensing at the retail Pharmacies. Most of these problems and situations have been in the form of Compound Medications. While the Trust Fund may cover some Compound Medications, these do require a "Prior Authorization".

Unlike commercially-manufactured prescriptions, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) does not oversee compounding, with the exception of new regulations for facilities producing sterile compounds in bulk. Compound products are not approved by the FDA, as such they are never AUTOMATICALLY eligible under the Plan. Most of these compound medications take some time to prepare by the pharmacy. We are working with our Pharmaceutical Benefits Manager to monitor and manage dispensing of compound medications by facilitating a Prior Authorization procedure.

When Prior Authorization (PA) is necessary for a compound medication, it is to ensure the safe and effective use of the select prescription drugs in the requested prescription. This means that before coverage can be allowed, your Doctor will need to submit a request to Catamaran that confirms you are a clinically approved candidate for the compound medication listed. The pharmacy you are using will have a message in their pharmacy software to contact the PA department of Catamaran for approval. They will provide the Doctor's information over the phone for outreach by the PA team to obtain the information necessary for review. This process is only for the first time the compound medication is ordered by your Doctor and dispensed by your Pharmacy. Refills will be covered under the PA on file after this first time of approval.

If you are now using a Compound Medication, please call your Member Service Department at the telephone number shown on the back of your catamaran Prescription Card to ask about the status of a PA in process. This will need to be done before your next refill can be approved. The PA does not apply to pediatric or chemotherapy compounds.

Sincerely

Plumbers Local 68
Benefits Office