

# NEW YORK CITY DISTRICT COUNCIL OF CARPENTERS

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April 2015

### **Re: Summary of Material Modification to NYCDCC City Carpenters Prescription Drug Benefit for Drugs Covered by the PICA Program**

Dear NYCDCC City Carpenter:

As an NYC employee, you should already be enrolled, at no additional cost to you, in a city prescription drug program known as PICA. The PICA Program is a prescription drug benefit that is provided to all NYC employees, non-Medicare retirees, and their eligible dependents who are enrolled in a health plan offered by the City's Health Benefits Program. It is made available through the joint efforts of the City of New York Office of Labor Relations and the Municipal Labor Committee. The PICA Program covers medications in two drug categories:

- INJECTABLE  
Most injectable medications not requiring administration by a health care professional (self-administered).
- CHEMOTHERAPY
  1. Medications used to treat cancer.
  2. Medications used to treat the side effects of chemotherapy.

Because of changes that are being made to the NYCDCC City Carpenters prescription drug benefit, you will be required to use PICA in order to have coverage for injectables and chemotherapy.

**Effective May 1, 2015, your NYCDCC prescription drug benefit will not cover prescription drugs that are covered by the PICA Program, and you will only be able to obtain these drugs through PICA and not through the NYCDCC Welfare Fund. This change is being made to control costs and ensure continued future viability of the NYCDCC prescription drug benefit.**

If an injectable or chemotherapy medication is not covered by PICA, you may still obtain it through the NYCDCC Welfare Fund, contingent upon the rules of the Plan for covered medications.

## **Example**

A City Carpenter participant is eligible for both the City's PICA Program and prescription drug benefit coverage under the NYCDCC Welfare Fund. He/She receives a prescription for an injectable medication that is covered under the PICA Program and presents it to his/her local pharmacy. Prior to this change, the pharmacy would process the prescription under the NYCDCC Welfare Fund. However, effective on or after May 1, 2015, since this injectable is covered by the PICA Program, the first time this participant attempts to fill it at the pharmacy, he/she will be rejected. The participant (or the pharmacist) should then call Express Scripts. Express Scripts will advise that the prescription was denied because alternative coverage is available through the City's PICA Program and offer instruction on how to have the prescription filled under the PICA Program.

## **What Should You Do Next?**

- If you do not have a PICA card, you will soon be receiving one in the mail from the City of New York.
- If you do not have a PICA card and do not receive one in the mail within one month of your receipt of this letter, you should contact Civil Service Affairs Representative, Martin Lydon, from the New York City District Council of Carpenters at (212) 366-3396. Mr. Lydon will make arrangements to have your card sent to you.
- If you would like to learn more about the PICA Program, you can visit the NYC Office of Labor Relations website at [http://www.nyc.gov/html/olr/html/health/pica\\_prog.shtml](http://www.nyc.gov/html/olr/html/health/pica_prog.shtml).

**If you have any questions, you can contact the NYCDCC Benefit Funds' Member Services Department at (800) 529- FUND (3863).**

Sincerely,

NYCDCC Benefit Funds