

VICTOR L JANECEK

From: "Bohne, William T." <Bill_Bohne@IBEW.org>
To: "Andy Fiery" <ibewsc6gc@cox.net>; <usibsystem16@earthlink.net>; <emobley@feci.com>; <IBEW589@optonline.net>; "Glen Heinz" <ibewsc9@newwavecomm.net>; <kanderson@local134.org>; <ibewsc7@aol.com>; <ibewsc7hbg@aol.com>; <tfwfore@optonline.net>; <vjanecek@msn.com>
Sent: Monday, November 20, 2006 4:07 PM
Subject: FW: Medical Payments to Optometrists

Brothers,

Below please find an email from Nick Stewart of the CRLO which addresses members attempting to have claims paid for routine eye-care by United Health Care. The letter is self-explanatory, and explains that UHC does not cover routine eye-care. While Brother Doyle has recently brought a case to my attention, I would like to know if any other General Chairmen have had complaints from their members pertaining to this issue. If so, please advise.

If you have any questions pertaining to the above, please give me a call or send me an email.

Fraternally,

Bill

From: Stewart, Nick [mailto:StewartN@TCUnion.org]
Sent: Monday, November 20, 2006 4:59 PM
To: Biggs, Danny; Bohne, William T.; Bill Hildenbrand; Dan Elliot - UTU; Dennis Simmerman; Jeff Weisbarth; ncfosc19@sbcglobal.net; Thomas Fisher; Walt Barrows
Subject: Medical Payments to Optometrists

Brothers:

We recently received a few complaints from members who have had claims for medical services from optometrists denied by UHC under GA-23000. Apparently some of these type claims have been allowed in the past in error.

As you know, GA-23000 only covers medical services when performed by legally qualified physicians as listed in the SPD (on or about page 120 of the TCU SPD), which does not include optometrists. In other words, medical services in connection with the eyes and/or vision must be performed by an ophthalmologist in order for a benefit to be paid under GA-23000. Apparently some plans in United's other book of business do include coverage for medical services from optometrists, and in fact some optometrists are in the United POS/PPO networks, which may be the reason why United has sporadically allowed such claims in the past. I have asked United for an explanation as to why some claims have been paid and others denied, and will forward it to you when I receive it.

In an effort to determine how widespread this issue might be, can you please advise me if you have recently received complaints regarding the denial of claims for medical services performed by optometrists under the National Plans?

In solidarity,

Nick Stewart