

**AMALGAMATED WELFARE TRUST FUND**

**IMPORTANT: PLEASE READ THIS NOTICE CAREFULLY. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, PLEASE CALL THE FUND OFFICE AT (800) 882-5556.**

This notice is a Summary of Material Modifications (SMM) for the Amalgamated Welfare Trust Fund Local 371 (the "Fund") as required by the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA). It describes changes to the information presented in your Summary Plan Description (SPD), other plan communications and any previous SMMs. Please share this SMM with your family and keep it with your SPD booklet so you have it when you need to refer to it.

**The changes that are summarized here apply to prescriptions for new medication issued to participants and their eligible dependents on or after January 1, 2020.**

**I. Adoption of Step Therapy Protocols for Medication**

Effective January 1, 2020, the Plan has been amended to adopt Step Therapy protocols for medication. Most medical conditions have several medication options, even though their clinical effectiveness may be the same. The use of Step Therapy protocols provides the treatment that is needed, usually at a lower cost.

Certain medications will be classified as Step 2 medications, and will require you to try a Step 1 medication before a Step 2 medication will be covered. If you have questions regarding whether a medication you will be prescribed will be classified as a Step 2 medication, you can contact the Fund Office or Optum Rx, who is the Fund's pharmacy benefit manager. You are encouraged to talk about your treatment and medication options with your physician. The medication that is subject to Step Therapy Protocols may change from time to time depending on the results of ongoing reviews that are conducted.

**II. Adoption of Prior Authorization Requirements**

Effective January 1, 2020, the Plan has been amended to adopt prior authorization for specific medications that are prescribed. The list of medications that are subject to prior authorization can be accessed by signing into your Optum Rx account.

If you must take a medication that requires prior authorization right away, there are two options. First, you can ask your treating physician if a sample is available. Second, you can request a short-term supply of five (5) days or less from your pharmacy. You will be responsible for the full cost at that time. However, if the prior authorization request is approved, then your pharmacist can fill the rest of your prescription and the Fund will reimburse you for any out of pocket cost.

The medication that is subject to prior authorization requirements may change from time to time depending on the results of ongoing reviews that are conducted. You, your pharmacist or your doctor can start the prior authorization process by contacting Optum Rx, who is the Fund's pharmacy benefit manager. Optum Rx will work with your doctor to get the information needed for the review. Once it receives a finished prior authorization form from your doctor, it will conduct a review within a few days and send you and your doctor a written communication indicating the decision.

**III. Adoption of Quantity Limits**

Effective January 1, 2020, the Plan has been amended to adopt quantity limits for specific medications. The list of medications that are subject to quantity limits and the actual limits can be accessed by signing

into your Optum Rx account. The medication that is subject to quantity limits may change from time to time depending on the results of ongoing reviews that are conducted.

#### **IV. New to Market Limits**

Effective January 1, 2020, the Plan has been amended to eliminate coverage for medications that are new to market for the first (6) months following the date on which they are introduced. The six (6) month period is intended to give the Fund and its pharmacy benefit manager the opportunity to review the medication, clinical evidence and determine the appropriate scope of utilization. You, your pharmacist or your doctor are encouraged to seek a pre-determination on any new to market medications that are subject to review at their launch to ensure coverage.

#### **What to Do if I Have Questions:**

**If you have questions about any of these changes, including how they may impact you, please contact the Fund Office or Optum Rx who is the Fund's pharmacy benefit manager. You can also access the information relating to the changes by signing into your Optum Rx account or accessing the information through [https://www.optumrx.com/content/rxmember/default/en\\_us/angular-free/optumrx/Information-Center/education-public.html](https://www.optumrx.com/content/rxmember/default/en_us/angular-free/optumrx/Information-Center/education-public.html)**