

SEAFARERS HEALTH AND BENEFITS PLAN

5201 Auth Way
Camp Springs, Maryland 20746-4275
(301) 899-0675

Margaret R. Bowen
Administrator

May 23, 2018

Dear Plan Participant:

The Trustees of the Seafarers Health and Benefits Plan (SHBP) regularly evaluate the benefits available from the Plan in an effort to better serve the Plan's participants. I am pleased to notify you about two new benefits and a benefit increase that were recently approved by the Trustees, which will go into effect during the next few months.

Increase in Hearing Aid Benefit

In the past, the SHBP provided a \$350.00 benefit towards the purchase of a hearing aid every 5 years. **Effective July 1, 2018, this benefit is being increased to \$3,000.00 every 3 years.** This \$3,000.00 benefit may be used toward the purchase of one or two hearing aids; however, \$3,000.00 is the maximum benefit amount you may receive in a 3 year period. The hearing aid benefit is available to eligible employees at the Core-Plus and Core benefit levels. Dependents are not eligible for hearing aid benefits.

New Infertility Benefit

Until now, SHBP did not cover services to diagnose the cause of infertility, or to treat infertility. **Effective July 1, 2018, all eligible employees and their spouses at the Core-Plus and Core benefit level are eligible for benefits to diagnose infertility.** The Plan will pay for these services in the same manner as the Plan pays for doctor's visits and diagnostic tests for any other health condition. **The Plan will also pay up to \$10,000.00 per eligible employee or spouse to treat infertility.** Once this \$10,000.00 is used, the Plan will not provide any additional benefits for treatment of infertility.

New Sterilization Benefit

The SHBP previously excluded coverage for tubal ligation and for vasectomy. **Effective June 1, 2018, the SHBP will provide benefits for both of these procedures.** Employees and their spouses at the Core-plus and Core benefit are eligible for these benefits. Dependent children are not eligible for benefits for sterilization. The Plan will not pay for the reversal of a vasectomy or tubal ligation.

If you have any questions about these benefits, or if you speak a language other than English and need translation services, please contact the Plan at 1-800-252-4674.

Sincerely,

Margaret R. Bowen
Administrator

SPANISH:

ATENCIÓN: si habla español, tiene a su disposición servicios gratuitos de asistencia lingüística. Llame al 1-800-252-4674

ARABIC:

ملحوظة: إذا كنت تتحدث العربية، فإن خدمات المساعدة اللغوية تتوافر لك بالمجان. اتصل برقم 1-800-252-4674

TAGALOG:

PAUNAWA: Kung nagsasalita ka ng Tagalog, maaari kang gumamit ng mga serbisyo ng tulong sa wika nang walang bayad. Tumawag sa 1-800-252-4674

