

Sisters and Brothers,

Attached please find an announcement pertaining to the lowering of co-pays for certain types of medical office visits for our members covered under the National Health and Welfare Plan. Due to an interpretation dispute following our last National agreement, some of the visits listed on the attached announcement were being patient co-pay billed at \$35.00, the “Specialist” co-pay rate. Through intense discussions between the Labor and Management members of the National Health and Welfare Plan Committee, on which we sit, we were able to agree on lowering the co-pays for Pediatrics, OB/GYN, Nurse Practitioners, Physicians Assistants, Physical Therapists, and Chiropractors.

Please feel free to distribute and post the attached announcement. If you have any questions pertaining to this issue, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Fraternally,

Bill Bohné, Jr.  
Director – IBEW Railroad Department

## **Important Co-pay Change to Managed Medical Care Program Under the National Health and Welfare Plan and NRC/UTU Plan**

### **Effective for Dates of Service November 1, 2008 and After**

This announcement is to inform certain Railroad employees of the effective date of the new lower Managed Medical Care Program (MMCP) \$20 co-pay for services rendered by the following four specific provider types; *Nurse Practitioners, Physicians Assistants, Physical Therapists and Chiropractors*. The new co-pay will apply to employees covered under the applicable bargaining agreements (i.e., the "new" level of benefits) for the National H&W and NRC/UTU Plans. This change in co-pay levels will occur effective November 1, 2008 on a "date of service" basis, meaning that such office visits occurring on and after 11/1/08 will be processed at the new, lower co-pay level of \$20, regardless of your medical vendor (UnitedHealthcare, Aetna and Highmark).

Based on this change under MMCP, a \$20 co-payment applies to each office visit to any in-network provider included in the following list:

- General Practice
- Family Practice
- Internal Medicine
- Pediatrics
- Obstetrics/gynecology (co-pay applies to initial visit only, per pregnancy)
- Nurse Practitioners
- Physicians Assistants
- Physical Therapists
- Chiropractors

Note that visits to providers not listed above will be considered Specialist visits, and a higher co-pay (i.e., \$35) will apply.

If you have any questions, please call the Customer Service number provided on the back of your ID card.

**IBEW RAILROAD DEPARTMENT**