



PLUMBERS AND PIPEFITTERS LOCAL 501

NORTHERN ILLINOIS BENEFIT FUNDS

1295 Butterfield Rd., Aurora, IL 60504-8879 • Ph (630) 978-4600 • Fax (630) 978-4616 • email: benefitfunds@ualocal501.org

NOTICE

BENEFIT PLAN IMPROVEMENTS

December 2002

To All Participants in the Northern Illinois Benefit Fund:

The Trustees of your Northern Illinois Benefit Fund are pleased to announce the following improvement in your Plan of Benefits. Please read this notice and keep it with your Summary Plan Description binder for future reference.

NEW MRI, CT SCAN AND X-RAY BENEFIT

The Trustees have contracted with an organization called Med-Link Healthcare Networks, Inc. to provide radiology services (MRIs, CT scans and standard x-rays) for our participants. Med-Link has contracted with numerous radiology offices throughout Illinois and the country to provide radiology services at substantial savings. As you may know, when any type of radiology service is performed, there are always two separate bills: the first for the actual x-ray film and the second for the doctor's interpretation of the film. Med-Link charges one fee that includes both the actual films and the doctor's charge for interpreting the films.

PLEASE NOTE: THIS IS A VOLUNTARY BENEFIT OPTION THAT YOU MAY OR MAY NOT DECIDE TO UTILIZE – IT IS ENTIRELY YOUR CHOICE. However, if you decide to use this new benefit through Med-Link, the fees will be paid by the Fund at **100% with no co-pay or deductible owed by you for medically necessary procedures ordered to diagnose or treat a non-occupational sickness or injury.** The Plan will provide these benefits only for persons eligible for Plan benefits, subject to all Plan exclusions, conditions and limitations.

Enclosed is the Med-Link brochure. Just call the Med-Link telephone number on the brochure and inform them of the type of MRI, CT scan or x-ray your doctor has ordered. They will find the Med-Link office most convenient for you and schedule your appointment. Med-Link will bill the Fund Office directly and you will receive an Explanation of Benefits form as you would for any other physician services, however, with no co-pay or deductible owed by you.

Do not hesitate to contact the Fund Office with any questions you may have on this new benefit.