

Telecommunication Workers  
Pension Plan  
Basic Extended Health Care Plan



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| <b>Group Name and Policy Number</b> |
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**The Trustees of the Telecommunication Workers  
Pension Plan (TWPP)**

**Retirees - Basic Extended Health Care Plan**

**Policy Number 909889**

**Reissue Date: January 1, 2016**

## Introduction

This booklet contains information about your Group Benefits. Please keep it in a safe place. It is intended to summarize the principal features of your plan. All rights to benefits are governed by the Group Contract.

**The Group Policy contains a provision removing or restricting the right of the Member to designate persons to whom or for whose benefit insurance money is to be payable.**

**The Group Contract does not permit a Member or Dependent to designate a personal representative or a beneficiary to receive benefits.**

Defined terms are capitalized (e.g. Dependent). Pacific Blue Cross (PBC) is referred to as “we”, “us”, or “our” in this booklet. We will refer to you, the retiree/Member, as “you” or “your” in this booklet.

Pacific Blue Cross, the registered trade-name of PBC Health Benefits Society, is an independent licensee of the Canadian Association of Blue Cross Plans.

Coverage is provided through:

**Pacific Blue Cross**  
Extended Health Care (EHC)

Please refer to the Table of Contents to help you locate the appropriate section in this booklet. If you require additional information, please contact your Plan Administrator.

## **Privacy Policy**

We have a Privacy Policy which governs our collection, use, and disclosure of personal information (including personal health information) about individuals who are Members or Dependents. The Privacy Policy requires us to keep such personal information confidential, but does permit use and disclosure of personal information in limited circumstances consistent with the proper administration of group benefit and insurance coverage plans.

A copy of our current Privacy Policy can be obtained from us on request and is also available on our website: [www.pac.bluecross.ca](http://www.pac.bluecross.ca). By participating in the group benefit and insurance plans, and submitting claims under those plans, you are consenting to the collection, use, and disclosure of your personal information pursuant to the terms of our Privacy Policy.

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## **Schedule of Benefits**

The Schedule of Benefits contains a brief summary of your benefits. Please refer to the appropriate page in this booklet for a more detailed benefit description.

|                             |  |
|-----------------------------|--|
| <b>Extended Health Care</b> |  |
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|                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| <i>Deductible</i> | <p>\$50 per person or family each calendar year.</p> <hr/> <p>If in any calendar year the Eligible expenses do not exceed the Deductible, the Eligible expenses incurred during the last 3 months of the calendar year may be applied against the Deductible for the next year.</p> |
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|  |   |  |     |
|--|---|--|-----|
| <i>Reimbursement</i>   | <table border="1"> <tr> <td style="vertical-align: top;"><b>In-Province/Territory</b><br/>Eligible Expenses and<br/><b>Out-of-Province/Territory</b><br/><b>within Canada</b><br/>Non-Emergency Eligible<br/>Expenses:</td> <td style="vertical-align: top; text-align: right;">80%</td> </tr> </table> | <b>In-Province/Territory</b><br>Eligible Expenses and<br><b>Out-of-Province/Territory</b><br><b>within Canada</b><br>Non-Emergency Eligible<br>Expenses: | 80% |
| <b>In-Province/Territory</b><br>Eligible Expenses and<br><b>Out-of-Province/Territory</b><br><b>within Canada</b><br>Non-Emergency Eligible<br>Expenses: | 80%   |  |     |

|  |      |
|--|------|
| <b>Out-of-Province/Territory</b><br><b>within Canada</b> Emergency<br>Eligible Expenses: | 100% |
|--|------|

After \$1,000 has been paid for a person or family in a calendar year, further Eligible expenses for that person or family within that year will be reimbursed at 100%, subject to the Contract maximums for this benefit.

|                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| <i>Plan Maximum</i> | <p>The maximum amount of benefits payable for a Member or Dependent is \$25,000 in a 24 month period.</p> |
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This maximum may be reinstated after each 24 month period of continuous membership. If we have paid \$25,000 for any one illness or injury in any 24 month period, reinstatement and entitlement to benefits will be considered only when we receive satisfactory evidence of complete recovery and return to good health.

|                               |                                     |
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| <i>Dependent<br/>Children</i> | <p>See definition of Dependent.</p> |
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## **Definitions**

### **Coverage effective date**

means the day after your coverage terminates under another group plan, provided you apply for Benefits within the Enrolment grace periods.

### **Deductible**

means the initial portion of the Eligible expenses, which you must pay before we will reimburse charges for any Eligible expense.

### **Dentist**

means a doctor of dentistry who is duly qualified and licensed to practice dentistry in the area where the service is provided. For the purposes of this booklet, Dentist may also mean dental specialist, denturist, or dental hygienist, depending on the services each may provide.

### **Dependent**

means any of the following persons for whom coverage is provided under this Plan:

- 1) one Spouse of the Member
- 2) any unmarried child, stepchild, legally adopted child, or legal ward (but not a foster child) who is under age 21 and financially dependent on you or your Spouse, and
- 3) of any age if the unmarried child is also in full-time attendance at a recognized educational institute, and

- 4) any unmarried handicapped child of any age who is living with and is financially dependent on you and/or your Spouse and is incapable of self-sustaining employment. Handicap status is subject to approval by us. The Dependent must become handicapped while covered as a Dependent under Clause 2 or 3 above.

The Member must be prepared to prove that an individual claimed as a Dependent falls within these requirements.

**Duplicate coverage**

means that you (and your Dependents) are eligible to claim certain benefits under more than one plan.

**Enrolment grace period**

means within 4 months from the coverage effective date.

**Fee guide**

means the Canadian provincial/territorial dental Fee guide that contains dental services and fees in effect on the date the dental services are performed. For Alberta, the Fee guide means the current Alberta Blue Cross Usual and Customary fee guide.

**Fee schedule**

means the Pacific Blue Cross Fee schedule that contains eligible dental services, financial limits, treatment frequencies, and fees in effect on the date the dental services are performed.

**Member**

means a Retiree or other person who has coverage under the Contract.

**Participating employer**

means an employer with employees eligible to receive a pension from the TWPP.

**Retiree**

means a person who is in receipt of pension payments from the TWPP.

**Spouse**

means your legal Spouse or a person who has been living with you in a common-law relationship for at least one full year and who is publicly represented as your Spouse.

**Member Information/Access to Records**

- 1) Each Member who becomes insured under the Group Contract/Policy must receive an ID card if covered for Extended Health Care and/or Dental Care, and for all benefits a booklet outlining the benefits, the circumstances under which the insurance terminates, and the rights of the Member upon termination of the insurance. We will not be liable or responsible for errors or omissions, which occur when; our booklet is altered in any way. A booklet issued to or held by a Member who, for any reason, is not entitled to insurance under the Group Contract/Policy, is not valid.
- 2) Only the Member and Dependent(s) are entitled to the benefits of this Contract/Policy. A Member's coverage may be suspended immediately, without notice, if that Member or a Member's Dependent assists an ineligible person to obtain, or attempt to obtain, benefits to which they are not entitled. The persons involved must repay any amounts obtained in this manner to us. Any other fraudulent action by a Member or Dependent to obtain or attempt to obtain benefits will have similar consequences.
- 3) Use of an ID card by a person who is not entitled to coverage may result in prosecution of that person.
- 4) The terms of the Group Contract/Policy govern if they conflict with the information in a booklet.
- 5) Upon request, and at no charge to the Member, we will provide the Member with one copy of:
  - a) the Member's application for coverage
  - b) the current Contract/Policy
  - c) any written statement or other record provided to us as evidence of insurability of the Member.
- 6) A Member's access to the documents identified in clause 5 extends only to relevant information about a claim under the Group Contract/Policy or denial of such a claim.

- 7) A Member's access to the documents identified in clause 5 is subject to the *Personal Information Protection Act* and to the *Insurance Act* and their Regulations.

## **Integration with Government Plans**

Extended health care benefits are intended to supplement and not overlap benefits under government plans such as the Medical Services Plan and Fair PharmaCare Program of British Columbia. You are required, as a condition of coverage, to take all reasonable steps to qualify and obtain the fullest extent of coverage, benefits, contribution, or reimbursement available under all applicable government plans. We will also make payment only where permitted by provincial legislation or other applicable law.

## **Effective Date of Coverage and Enrolment**

If you are eligible for coverage, you must complete an application card within the Enrolment grace period to ensure that your coverage starts on the correct effective date.

You should apply for Dependent coverage (when applicable):

- 1) on the same date you apply for your own coverage, or
- 2) within the Enrolment grace period if you have a new Dependent.

If we do not receive your application card within the required time limits, please refer to the Late Application section.

Provided you and your Plan Administrator have complied with our enrolment rules, your coverage effective date is shown on our website at [www.pac.bluecross.ca/caresnet](http://www.pac.bluecross.ca/caresnet) or from your Plan Administrator.

Should you require additional information about when your coverage starts, please contact your Plan Administrator.

## Late Applicants

If you did not apply during the Enrolment grace period but request coverage later (for yourself and/or your Dependents), ask your Plan Administrator to explain the requirements for late enrolment in your Group Plan. Note: Different benefits may have different requirements – evidence of insurability or retroactive premium payment. In some instances, coverage may be denied.

## Beneficiary

This plan does not permit you or your Dependents to designate a personal representative or a beneficiary to receive benefits. Any benefit amount owing will be paid to your estate or to you for a deceased Dependent.

## Identification (ID) Cards

We will issue identification (ID) cards for distribution by your Plan Administrator.

You may be asked to substantiate that an individual you claim as a Dependent meets the definition of Dependent for your group.

## Claims

- 1) All claims must be submitted to us in English.
- 2) We pay eligible claims when we receive all the required information within the required **time limits**. We encourage you to become familiar with the time periods allowed for claiming benefits. Under the Claims sections, we fully describe the claiming deadlines for each benefit. No payment will be made if we receive your claim after the time limits described in this booklet.

- 3) We may reject your claim if sufficient information is not provided to enable a full assessment of the claim, or if an attempt is made, except through unintentional error, to make an excessive claim, or if a claim is made for a person who is not entitled.
- 4) The necessary claim forms are available from your Plan Administrator or on our website at [www.pac.bluecross.ca/caresnet](http://www.pac.bluecross.ca/caresnet)

## **Duplicate Coverage**

If you and your Spouse are eligible for member coverage through the same employer, please check with your Plan Administrator to see if Duplicate coverage is allowed for extended health care benefits.

If you and your Spouse have coverage through different employers and you are both enrolled for similar benefits, Duplicate coverage is allowed.

If you are eligible for Duplicate coverage, you and your family should discuss both plans (and what portion of the benefits you pay) to determine whether it is to your advantage to enroll under more than one plan.

Your Plan Administrator will advise you if you are eligible to waive certain benefits under this group plan.

## **Coordination of Benefits**

If Duplicate coverage is allowed, we pay claims based on the rules of the Canadian Life and Health Insurance Association guidelines. They are:

- 1) The Member is always the primary claimant. The Spouse is always the secondary claimant.
- 2) Dependent children are always covered primarily under the parent who has the earliest birthdate in the year (month and day).
- 3) In situations of separation or divorce, the following order applies:
  - a) the plan of the parent with custody of the child
  - b) the plan of the Spouse of the parent with custody of the child
  - c) the plan of the parent not having custody of the child

- d) the plan of the Spouse of the parent in c) above.
- 4) Total reimbursement shall never exceed 100% of the Eligible expenses.

## **General Exclusions**

- 1) We will not be liable for any portion of an expense for which you or your Dependent is entitled to reimbursement:
  - a) under any other group or individual benefit plan or insurance policy, or
  - b) due to the legal liability of any other party.
- 2) In no event will benefits be payable for expenses resulting directly or indirectly from, or in any manner or degree associated with, any of the following:
  - a) intentional self-inflicted injury while sane or insane, war, whether declared or undeclared, or any act of war, or participation in a riot, insurrection, or civil commotion
  - b) active duty in the military forces of any nation or international organization, or in any civilian noncombatant unit which serves with such forces in combat
  - c) a direct or indirect attempt at, or commission of, an indictable offense under the Criminal Code of Canada or similar law of any other country
  - d) false pretences or fraudulent misrepresentation
  - e) any injury, illness, or condition for which care is provided or may be provided or available without cost by public authorities or by a tax-supported agency, including preventive treatment and services available under any Workers' Compensation Act or similar plan.

## **Legal Action**

For insured benefits, every action or proceeding against us for the recovery of benefits payable under the Group Contract/Policy is absolutely barred unless commenced within the time set out in the *Insurance Act*.

## **Termination of Coverage**

Generally, your coverage (and any Dependent coverage) terminates if you cease to be covered under the government plan (ie. Medical Services Plan of BC), or if the group plan terminates, etc. For further details on termination of coverage, please have your Plan Administrator refer to the Group Contract.

## **Right of Recovery**

You are financially responsible for any claims paid by us on your or your Dependent's behalf after coverage is terminated from your benefit plan. You agree to reimburse us for these payments upon receipt of our invoice.

## **Survivor Benefit**

If you die while covered under this plan, coverage for your Dependents will continue until the earliest of the following occurs:

- 1) the date your Dependent ceases to be a Dependent other than as a result of your death
- 2) the date the Contract is terminated
- 3) the date your Dependent becomes eligible for coverage under a similar group plan.

## **Conversion to an Individual Plan**

Should your group coverage terminate for any reason, you may purchase an individual plan from Pacific Blue Cross if you live in British Columbia, or an individual plan offered by your local Blue Cross organization if you live elsewhere in Canada.

To convert coverage you must ensure that your application and full payment is received by us or Blue Cross within 60 days of the date your group plan terminates. To be eligible to convert, you must have

had coverage under a group plan with the same benefits for at least 6 months. Coverage will become effective immediately after your group coverage terminates.

If you qualify for one of our individual plans under the conversion option, we will waive the Pre-existing condition contained in the individual plan.

**Pre-existing condition**

means any illness or condition for which you receive medical attention, consultation, diagnosis, or treatment in the 12 month period before you apply for the individual plan.

Call our Individual Products Department at 604 419-2200 for an application form.

If you are converting to an individual plan offered by Blue Cross, contact your local Blue Cross organization for full details before your group coverage terminates.

## **Individual Travel Benefits**

Individual coverage is also available from us. Call 604 419-2200 or 1 800 USE-BLUE (873-2583) outside the Lower Mainland for information.

## **CARESnet**

CARESnet is an online service from Pacific Blue Cross that offers you convenient and secure access to your benefit information 24 hours a day. Information about benefit coverage, claim status, and easy access to claim forms are the enhanced services CARESnet provides. To access CARESnet, visit our website: [www.pac.bluecross.ca/caresnet/](http://www.pac.bluecross.ca/caresnet/)

## Extended Health Care

The Extended Health Care (EHC) plan is designed to help you pay for specified services and supplies incurred by you and your Dependents, when not provided under a government health plan or by a tax-supported agency.

### Definitions

#### **Eligible expense**

means a charge for any service and/or supply included in this booklet as a benefit that:

- 1) in our assessment is a customary charge medically necessary for health care and maintenance, or to maintain or restore teeth, and
- 2) was ordered or referred by a Physician, Dentist, or a primary healthcare nurse practitioner (PHCNP), unless otherwise specified in the benefit description, and
- 3) is not a cost normally paid (in whole or part) or provided by a government plan or any other provider of health coverage, and
- 4) is incurred while your coverage is valid. An expense is "incurred" on the date the service is provided or the supply is received.
- 5) Is provided by a Practitioner or provider approved by us.

It does not include any payment to a pharmacy or a Practitioner (demanded or received by balanced billing, extra billing, or extra charging), which represents an amount in excess of the schedule of costs prescribed by the government plan. Provincial/territorial plans low cost alternative and reference drug programs will not be applied unless specified in this booklet.

#### **Physician**

means an individual who is duly qualified and licensed to practice medicine or surgery, or both, in the area where the service is provided, but excludes a Physician residing with or related to you or your Dependent.

**Practitioner**

means a person currently licensed, certified, or registered to practice a profession by the appropriate licensing, certification, or registration authority in the jurisdiction where the care or services are provided or, where no such authority exists, has a certificate of competency from the professional body which establishes standards of competence and conduct for the profession, and is acting within the scope of that license.

**In-Province/Territory Eligible Expenses**

Your EHC plan covers reasonable and customary charges for the following services and supplies when medically necessary, and prescribed, ordered, or referred by a Physician, Dentist, or primary healthcare nurse practitioner. Unless otherwise indicated, the maximums included here are on a per person basis.

- 1) Hospital  
The additional charge for semi-private or private room accommodation in a hospital or the extended care unit of a hospital. Charges for rental of a telephone, television, or similar equipment are not covered.
- 2) Emergency ambulance
  - a) charges for licensed ambulance service to and from the nearest Canadian hospital equipped to provide the type of care essential to the patient
  - b) air transport will be covered when time is critical and the patient's physical condition prevents the use of another means of transport
  - c) emergency transport from one hospital to another, only when the original hospital has inadequate facilities
  - d) charges for an attendant when medically necessary.

3) Drugs and medicines

Charges for drugs and medicines in a quantity we consider reasonable, and

- a) which are dispensed by a pharmacist, Physician, Dentist, or a primary healthcare nurse practitioner, including:
  - i) life sustaining drugs
  - ii) insulin preparations, testing supplies, needles, and syringes for diabetics
  - iii) vitamin B12 for the treatment of pernicious anemia
  - iv) allergy serums when administered by a Physician or primary healthcare nurse practitioner, or
- b) which legally require a prescription from a medical provider legally authorized to do so.

Those drugs and medicines which are not covered by provincial/territorial plans will not be considered Eligible expenses under this plan.

Dispensing fees are eligible under the plan.

4) Practitioners

Professional services of the following Practitioners to the maximum amounts indicated per calendar year, but excluding appliances and tray fees. *Only the services of a private duty nurse require referral by a Physician or primary healthcare nurse practitioner.*

- a) acupuncturist .....\$200
- b) chiroprapist.....\$200
- c) chiropractor .....\$200
- d) dietician .....\$200
- e) massage practitioner ..... no calendar year limit
- f) osteopath.....\$200
- g) naturopath.....\$200
- h) physiotherapist..... no calendar year limit
- i) podiatrist.....\$200
- j) psychologist.....\$200
- k) speech language pathologist .....\$200
- l) private duty care by a registered nurse for a person with an acute condition in the person's home or in a hospital in the patient's province/territory of residence.

5) Dental Accident

Dental treatment by a Dentist, which is required, performed, and completed within 52 weeks after an Accidental injury which occurred while covered under this EHC plan, for the repair or replacement of natural teeth or prosthetics. No payment will be made for temporary, duplicate, or incomplete procedures, or for correcting unsuccessful procedures.

**Accidental**

means caused by a direct external blow to the mouth or face resulting in immediate damage to the natural teeth or prosthetics and not by an object intentionally or unintentionally being placed in the mouth.

We pay benefits based on eligible dental services and financial limits in our current Fee schedule, and we pay the fees in our current Fee schedule or, if applicable, the Fee guide in the province/territory of service.

6) Medical aids and supplies provided by a medical supplier (as approved by us)

Charges for the following services and supplies:

- a) oxygen
- b) ostomy and ileostomy supplies
- c) walkers, canes and cane tips, crutches, casts, and trusses
- d) splints and collars (but not elastic or foam supports), rigid support braces and permanent prostheses (artificial eyes, limbs, larynxes, and mastectomy forms), when prescribed by a Physician, physiotherapist, chiropractor, or a primary healthcare nurse practitioner, as medically necessary after diagnosis of the patient. Myoelectrical limbs are excluded, but we will pay the equivalent of a standard prosthesis
- e) mastectomy brassieres to a maximum of 1 brassiere per breast prosthesis to a maximum of 2 per lifetime
- f) charges for the following items to the maximum amounts indicated per calendar year:
  - i) stump socks ..... no limit
  - ii) surgical stocking..... 2 pairs
- g) wigs and hairpieces required as a result of medical treatment, injury, alopecia areata, alopecia universalis or alopecia totalis to a lifetime maximum of \$500

- h) orthopaedic shoes and orthotics
    - i) when prescribed by a Physician, podiatrist, chiropractor, or a primary healthcare nurse practitioner, as medically necessary after diagnosis of the patient, 1 pair of custom made orthopaedic shoes per lifetime (including repairs) and modifications to stock item footwear. A custom made orthopaedic shoe is one fabricated from raw materials and specifically designed for the patient, based on a three-dimensional volumetric model of the patient's foot and lower leg, or
    - ii) when prescribed by a Physician, podiatrist, chiropractor, physiotherapist, or a primary healthcare nurse practitioner, as medically necessary after diagnosis (including an in person biomechanical assessment) of the patient, 1 pair of custom made orthotics per lifetime. A custom made orthotic is one fabricated from raw materials using a three-dimensional volumetric model of the patient's feet
  - i) hearing aids and repairs for Dependent children only, to a maximum of \$400 in a 60 month period. Batteries, recharging devices, and other such accessories are not covered. Replacement will be covered only when the hearing aid cannot be repaired satisfactorily.
- 7) Standard durable medical equipment
- a) Preauthorization is required from us for expenses in excess of \$5,000
  - b) Charges for standard durable medical equipment when rented from a medical supplier. If unavailable on a rental basis, or required for a long-term disability, purchase of these items from a provider may be considered.
  - c) Repairs to purchased items. We will replace the item when it can no longer be made functional. We may request trade-in or return of replaced equipment.
  - d) Reimbursement on rental equipment will be made monthly and will in no case exceed the total purchase price of similar equipment.
  - e) Standard durable equipment includes:
    - i) manual wheelchairs, manual type hospital beds, and necessary accessories – electric wheelchairs and hospital beds will be covered only when the patient is incapable of

operating the manual equivalent, otherwise we will pay the manual equivalent

- ii) medical heart and blood glucose monitors, and cardiac screeners
- iii) speech processors and headsets when prescribed for profound deafness subject to a 5 calendar year period
- iv) bi-osteogen systems and growth guidance systems (when recommended by an orthopaedic surgeon)
- v) breathing machines and appliances including respirators, compressors, percussors, suction pumps, oxygen cylinders, masks, and regulators
- vi) insulin infusion pumps for diabetics – when basic methods are not feasible
- vii) transcutaneous electric nerve stimulators (TENS) when prescribed for intractable pain
- viii) transcutaneous electric muscle stimulators (TEMS) required when, due to an injury or illness, all muscle tone has been lost.

8) Medical Examinations

Charges of a Physician or primary healthcare nurse practitioner for medical examinations required by government statute or regulation for employment purposes provided such charges are not payable under a collective agreement.

## **Disease Support Programs**

This benefit offers you and your Dependents faced with a cancer diagnosis the opportunity to obtain tools to improve recovery and survival during and after cancer treatment. A team of Physicians and health care practitioners work with the patient to assist in recovery, improve quality of life and help prevent cancer recurrence. The programs are supported by current research and are intended to integrate with conventional treatments.

Services available, including but not limited to:

- 1) Support groups.
- 2) Tools for patient to take charge of their health.
- 3) Natural approaches to prevention and treatment.

- 4) Multidisciplinary team of Physicians and health care practitioners.
- 5) Individualized cancer survivorship plan.

Conditions and Limitations:

- 1) Diagnosis of cancer by patient's Physician.
- 2) The cancer diagnosis must have occurred within 24 months of referral by the Physician to the program.
- 3) Any service covered by the Government plan is ineligible for reimbursement.
- 4) The lifetime maximum benefit is \$300 per covered person.

For additional information visit the website at [www.inspirehealth.ca](http://www.inspirehealth.ca) or to arrange an appointment call 604 734-7125.

## **Out-of-Province/Territory Non-Emergency Eligible Expenses within Canada**

We will reimburse you (and your Dependents) for non-emergency Eligible expenses incurred while travelling outside your province/territory of residence (within Canada) subject to the Deductible, in-province/territory reimbursement percentage, and maximums. We will not reimburse any expenses payable or provided under a government plan.

## **Out-of-Province/Territory Emergency Eligible Expenses within Canada**

While travelling outside your province/territory of residence (within Canada), benefits are payable for the following Eligible expenses incurred IN AN EMERGENCY ONLY and when ordered by the attending Physician. Non-emergency continuing care, testing, treatment, and surgery, and amounts covered by any government plan and/or any other provider of health coverage are not eligible.

- 1) Local ambulance services when immediate transportation is required to the nearest hospital equipped to provide the treatment essential to the patient.

- 2) The hospital room charge and charges for services and supplies when confined as a patient or treated in a hospital, to a maximum of 90 days.

If reasonably possible, we should be notified within 5 days of the patient's admission to hospital. When the patient's condition has stabilized, we have the right, with the approval of the attending Physician, to move the patient by licensed ambulance service to the hospital nearest the patient's home which is equipped and has space available to provide further medical treatment. Where transportation would endanger the patient's health, the 90 day limit may be extended with our expressed written consent.

- 3) Services of a Physician and laboratory and x-ray services.
- 4) Prescription drugs in sufficient quantity to alleviate an acute medical condition.
- 5) Other emergency services and/or supplies, if we would have covered them inside your province/territory of residence.

## Exclusions

The following are not included as Eligible expenses under your EHC plan:

- 1) except as specifically included in this booklet: dentures or dental treatments, hearing aids, eyeglasses, contact lenses, surgical lens implants, or examinations for the prescription or fitting of any of these, x-rays, hospital coinsurance, vitamins and/or minerals, erectile dysfunction drugs, medications used to treat or replace an addiction or habituation, support stockings, orthotics, arch supports, transportation charges incurred for elective treatment and/or diagnostic procedures or for health or health examinations of any kind, and professional services of Physicians, Dentists, or primary healthcare nurse practitioners, or any person who renders a professional health service in the patient's province/territory of residence
- 2) general anesthetic, medications used to prevent baldness or promote hair growth, food replacements or supplements, infant food, HCG injections, drugs not approved for sale and distribution in Canada, and medications available without a prescription
- 3) except as specifically included in this booklet: anti-obesity drugs, sclerosing agents, contraceptives, drugs and supplies for smoking cessation, fertility drugs, and any drug, vaccine, item or service

classified as preventive treatment or administered for preventive purposes, and which is not specifically required for treatment of an illness or injury

- 4) allergy testing unless rendered by a naturopath
- 5) personal comfort items, items purchased for athletic use, air humidifiers and purifiers, services of Victorian Order of Nurses or graduate or licensed practical nurses, services of religious or spiritual healers, occupational therapy, services and supplies for cosmetic, or experimental purposes, public ward accommodation, rest cures, and medical laboratory tests
- 6) charges for completion of forms or written reports, communication costs, delivery and mailing or handling charges, interest or late payment charges, non-sharable or capital costs levied by local hospitals, or charges for translating documents into English
- 7) any payment to a pharmacy, a Practitioner, Physician, Dentist, or a primary healthcare nurse practitioner (demanded or received by balanced billing, extra billing or extra charging) which represents an amount in excess of the schedule of costs prescribed by the government plan
- 8) that portion of a claim normally covered by the government plan which has been refused on the basis that the claim was not submitted within the government plan's time limits
- 9) expenses incurred, outside your province/territory of residence, due to elective treatment and/or diagnostic procedures, or complications related to such treatment
- 10) expenses incurred outside Canada
- 11) expenses incurred, outside your province/territory of residence, due to therapeutic abortion, childbirth, or complications of pregnancy occurring within 2 months of the expected delivery date
- 12) charges incurred outside your province/territory of residence for continuous or routine medical care normally covered by the government plan in your province/territory of residence
- 13) expenses of a Dependent hospitalized at the time of enrolment
- 14) services performed by a Physician, Dentist, or a primary healthcare nurse practitioner, who is related to or resident with you or your Spouse
- 15) services, medical supplies or equipment rendered by a provider or Practitioner not approved by Pacific Blue Cross
- 16) fees for ambulance services when an ambulance is called but not used

- 17) ambulance charges for work related illness or injury assessed by the Workers' Compensation Board to be your employer's responsibility
- 18) retroactive coverage and payment of any expense, including drugs that receive special authorization from provincial/territorial plans
- 19) any other item not specifically included as a benefit.

## **Claims**

### **Electronic Claims**

- 1) When submitting an electronic claim you must:
  - a) complete the claim form online and submit it electronically to us
  - b) keep original receipts and documentation to support the claim for 12 months from the date you submit the claim to us
  - c) if the claim is selected for review by us, you must submit the original receipts and supporting documentation within 21 calendar days. If we do not receive this information within this time, your claim will be refused.
- 2) We reserve the right to remove your ability to submit electronic claims if you provide false, incomplete or misleading claims information. In such circumstances you will have to submit paper claims with supporting receipts and documentation.
- 3) You must provide explanation or proof to support the claim or any other information we consider necessary.
- 4) We must receive an electronic claim by June 30th of the calendar year following the year in which the expense was incurred. If your electronic claim is selected for review by us, we will accept the original receipts and supporting documentation after the June 30th deadline, but within 21 calendar days (see 1c) above) from the date of electronic submission. We will not accept a faxed or scanned claim form and/or receipts.
- 5) Payment of the claim will be directed to you, unless we agree to your request to assign payment directly to a third party.

### **Paper Claims**

- 1) Because we do not return receipts after the claim is processed, we suggest that you keep a photocopy of the receipts that you submit

to us. We will send you a remittance statement for your records each time you submit a claim.

- 2) If you have Duplicate coverage, please review the *Coordination of Benefits* section under General Information. Two separate claim forms (one for the primary plan and one for the secondary plan) must be completed. The remittance statement from the first plan must be submitted to the second plan. Because claims information regarding the other plan is not retained on our files, be sure to provide information on the second plan on both claim forms. Incomplete claims will be returned for clarification.
- 3) Certain medical expenses are covered under the provincial/territorial plans. If you submit your claim to us before you submit your claim to the provincial/territorial plans, we will deduct what the provincial/territorial plans would normally pay from your EHC claim. The balance of the EHC claim is then paid according to the plan design selected by your employer.
- 4) Accumulate receipts and when reasonable reimbursement is due, submit a claim as follows:
  - a) Obtain a claim form from your Plan Administrator or on our website at [www.pac.bluecross.ca/caresnet](http://www.pac.bluecross.ca/caresnet)
  - b) Follow the instructions on the claim form. To avoid delay in claims payment, please include original receipts and all other requested information with your claim. (Photocopies of receipts are acceptable only when accompanied by a claims payment statement from another carrier).
  - c) We suggest you submit claims within **90 days** from the date the expense was incurred. However, we must receive your claim by **June 30<sup>th</sup>** of the calendar year following the year in which the expense being claimed was incurred. If not, your claim will not be paid under any circumstances.  
**Example:** We must receive your receipts for 2016 before June 30, 2017.
  - d) We must receive the original claim form and original receipts. We will not accept a faxed or scanned claim form and/or receipts.



