

# South Bay Hotel Employees, Restaurant Employees Trust Funds

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Administered by  
Welfare & Pension Administration Service, Inc.

November 17, 2021

**TO: All Eligible Participants of the  
South Bay Hotel Employees, Restaurant Employees Welfare Fund**

**RE: Extension of Temporary Change in Eligibility Hour Requirement  
Gene-based, Cellular and Other Innovative Therapies (GCIT) - Effective January 1, 2022**

*This is a Summary of Material Modification describing changes to your health plan adopted by the Board of Trustees. Please be sure that you and your family read this notice carefully and keep it with your benefit booklet for future reference.*

## **Extension of Temporary Change in Eligibility Hour Requirement**

In their continuing effort to help Participants during the Coronavirus pandemic, the Union and Employer trustees of your health care plan have agreed to extend the lower hours requirement to obtain coverage through December 31, 2022 (October hours for December coverage). 80 hours per month are required to maintain one month of coverage.

## **Gene-based, Cellular and Other Innovative Therapies (GCIT)**

Effective January 1, 2022, Gene-based, Cellular and Other Innovative therapies (GCIT) are covered only if provided by a participating provider and those who are manufacturer approved to administer the drugs. No benefits are provided for out-of-network providers.

GCIT products are FDA-approved therapies that are intended to treat or cure previously untreatable, often fatal, conditions. GCIT covered services include:

- Cellular immunotherapies.
- Genetically modified oncolytic viral therapy.
- Other types of cells and tissues from and for use by the same person (autologous) and cells and tissues from one person for use by another person (allogenic) for certain therapeutic conditions.
- All human gene-based therapy that seeks to change the usual function of a gene or alter the biologic properties of living cells for therapeutic use. Examples include therapies using:
  - Luxturna® (Voretigene neparvovec)
  - Zolgensma® (Onasemnogene abeparvovec-xioi)
  - Spinraza® (Nusinersen)
- Products derived from gene editing technologies, including CRISPR-Cas9.
- Oligonucleotide-based therapies. Examples include:
  - Antisense. An example is Spinraza.
  - siRNA.
  - mRNA.
  - microRNA therapies.

## Travel and Lodging

Since travel may be required for a member to utilize the provider most appropriate for their type of GCIT service, the following are reimbursable expenses when a GCIT provider is used:

- Lodging Expenses
  - The benefit payable for lodging expenses is up to \$50.00 per person for patient and one companion, \$100.00 total per night
- Eligible Modes of Transportation
  - Coach Class airfare
  - Taxi
  - Bus
  - Train
  - Ferry
  - Shuttle
- Maximum Reimbursement for Travel & Lodging Expenses
  - The maximum reimbursement for all travel and lodging expenses is \$10,000.00 per episode of care.

## Non-Reimbursed/Non-Covered Expenses:

- Alcohol/tobacco
- Car rental
- Entertainment (e.g., movies, visits to museums, additional mileage for sightseeing, etc.)
- Expenses for persons other than the patient and his/her designated support person
- Gas
- Meals
- Personal care items (e.g., shampoo, deodorant, etc.)
- Souvenirs (e.g., t-shirts, sweatshirts, toys, etc.)
- Telephone calls and hotel room service
- Private Transportation
  - If the patient decides to drive, the Plan will reimburse the member for mileage per IRS guidelines. The Plan will also reimburse parking and tolls when receipts are provided except for expenses related to entertainment or that are otherwise personal in nature.

Aetna designates facilities to provide GCIT services or procedures. GCIT physicians, hospitals and other providers are GCIT-designated facilities/providers for Aetna. Participating Providers in California are:

- Children's Hospital Los Angeles, Los Angeles
- Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center, Los Angeles

### **Important Note:**

Members must get GCIT **covered services** from the GCIT-designated facility/**provider**. If there are no GCIT-designated facilities/**providers** assigned in the member's network, it is important that the member contacts Aetna so they can help determine if there are other facilities that may meet the member's needs. If the member does not get GCIT services at the facility/**provider** Aetna designates, they will not be covered services.

## Board of Trustees

### South Bay Hotel Employees, Restaurant Employees Welfare Fund

This Plan is a “grandfathered health plan” under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (the Affordable Care Act). As permitted by the Affordable Care Act, a grandfathered health plan can preserve certain basic health coverage that was already in effect when that law was enacted.

Being a grandfathered health plan means that this Plan does not include certain consumer protections of the Affordable Care Act that may apply to other plans, for example, the requirement for the provision of preventive health services without any cost sharing. However, this Plan must comply with certain other consumer protections in the Affordable Care Act, for example, the elimination of lifetime limits on benefits. Questions regarding which protections apply and which protections do not apply to a grandfathered health plan and what might cause a plan to change from grandfathered health plan status can be directed to the Administration Office at 206-441-7574, option 0 or toll free at 800-331-6158, option 0. You may also contact the Employee Benefits Security Administration, U.S. Department of Labor at 1-866-444-3272 or [www.dol.gov/ebsa/healthreform](http://www.dol.gov/ebsa/healthreform). This website has a table summarizing which protections do and do not apply to grandfathered health plans.

**Important Reminder** - You must advise the Administration Office of any changes in your basic demographic data, including changes in your name, marital status, dependents, other insurance coverage available, designated beneficiary, home address, email address and telephone number. Provide information changes by completing and sending a new Enrollment Form to the Administration Office. If you have a change in dependents, divorce requires a complete filed copy of your divorce decree along with any accompanying court orders including the parenting plan. Marriage requires a copy of your marriage certificate, the parenting plan for stepchildren and their birth certificates.

Failure to update your information on file may interfere with our ability to process your benefits and provide timely communication of important Plan information.