

# Reimbursement of Medically Necessary Travel Expenses for Pregnancy Termination

August 1, 2022

## NOTIFICATION

**TO:** All Plan Participants

**FROM:** The Writers' Guild-Industry Health Fund

**RE:** Reimbursement of Medically Necessary Travel Expenses for Pregnancy Termination



- This document sets forth the circumstances under which travel expenses will be covered by the Health Plan for reimbursement of medically necessary travel expenses for pregnancy termination.

## PLAN BENEFIT NOTIFICATION

As you know, the U.S. Supreme Court overturned *Roe v. Wade*. The Health Plan currently covers pregnancy termination for Participants and their covered Dependent Spouses. The Health Plan also covers pregnancy termination for covered Dependent Children when the pregnancy termination constitutes an emergency service.

Effective August 1, 2022, the Board of Trustees of the Writers' Guild-Industry Health Fund has amended the Health Plan to also allow reimbursement of reasonable travel expenses to receive pregnancy termination services for Participants, covered Dependent Spouses and covered Dependent Children (Emergency services only for Dependent Children) who reside or temporarily work in covered employment in a state where pregnancy termination is illegal (the "Travel Reimbursement Benefit").

(When "you" is used in this notice, it means Participants, covered Dependent Spouses, and to the extent applicable, covered Dependent Children.)

The following rules apply to the Travel Reimbursement Benefit:

1. You must obtain preauthorization in order to receive reimbursement of travel expenses for non-Emergency pregnancy termination services. If preauthorization isn't obtained when it is required, no Travel Reimbursement Benefit will be payable. Preauthorization is not

required when the pregnancy termination constitutes Emergency services (for example, termination of an ectopic pregnancy).<sup>1</sup>

2. You must be unable to obtain pregnancy termination services without undergoing travel because you reside or are temporarily working in covered employment in a state where pregnancy termination is illegal.
3. You may travel to a provider in the state or major metropolitan area closest to where the services are legal. If you are away from home in a temporary work location, you can also choose to travel home if pregnancy termination is legal there.
4. Travel under this provision is limited to travel within the United States.

### **ELIGIBLE TRAVEL EXPENSES**

The following types of travel expenses are eligible for reimbursement under the Travel Reimbursement Benefit. In all instances, travel expenses must be primarily for, and essential to, accessing pregnancy termination services performed by a licensed medical provider acting within the scope of his or her license. Travel expenses that are not primarily for and essential to accessing pregnancy termination services are not Eligible Expenses and will not be reimbursed.

### **TRANSPORTATION**

- Bus, taxi, train, or plane fares (only coach fare is an Eligible Expense).
- Transportation expenses of a parent or legal guardian who must accompany a Participant under 18 or a covered Dependent Child (limited to Emergency services). Otherwise, travel expenses for a friend, family member, or other support person are not eligible.

### **LODGING**

- Lodging will not be reimbursed if you travel home to receive pregnancy termination services.
- The lodging expense amount must be reasonable as determined by the Health Plan, but in no event greater than \$300 per night.

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<sup>1</sup> The Travel Reimbursement Benefit does not impact the ground ambulance and air ambulance coverage provided by the Health Plan in an Emergency. Please refer to the January 1, 2022 Summary of Material Modifications for more information about the Health Plan's Emergency services benefit.

- Please note that under IRS rules if your lodging is more than \$50 per person per night, you will be taxed on the amount in excess of the IRS limit.

### CAR EXPENSES

1. If you use your own car, mileage is reimbursable at the current medical mileage rate. The standard medical mileage rate is currently \$0.22. Parking fees and tolls are also eligible, but gas is not.
2. You can instead receive reimbursement for reasonable rental car expenses. In that case, gas, parking fees and tolls would be eligible but mileage would not.
3. Daily local travel is not reimbursed.

### REQUIRED RECEIPTS AND DOCUMENTATION

1. Reimbursement for the cost of lodging (hotel, motel) requires a copy of the paid invoice.
2. Reimbursement of transportation requires a copy of itinerary and paid ticket receipt.
3. Reimbursement for mileage requires a printout documenting the shortest route showing the mileage associated with that route.
4. Reimbursement for rental cars and gas for rental cars requires paid receipts.
5. Reimbursement of parking requires paid parking receipts.
6. Reimbursement of tolls requires a toll receipt or printout of a toll pass paid invoice.

### NOT ELIGIBLE EXPENSES

Excluded expenses include:

1. Meals (other than meals provided through inpatient care).
2. Childcare expenses/babysitting.
3. Extending an otherwise-medical trip for vacation or personal enjoyment.
4. Expenses for a caregiver or travel companion other than a parent or legal guardian accompanying a Participant or covered Dependent Child (limited to Emergency services) under age 18.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Administrative Office during normal business hours at: (818) 846-1015 or toll-free (800) 227-7863 or email your questions to:

[Pmailbox@wgaplans.org](mailto:Pmailbox@wgaplans.org).