

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA PIPE TRADES HEALTH & WELFARE FUND

(Active Plan)

SUPPLEMENT No. 17

To: All Participants

From: Board of Trustees

Date: February 2016

Re: Health Reimbursement Arrangement (HRA) Claim Deadline

KEEP THIS NOTICE WITH THE SUMMARY PLAN DESCRIPTION

Recognizing the fact that, in certain cases, for reasons beyond the provider's or the participant's control, it may be impossible to determine by the existing HRA claim filing deadline the amount that is eligible to be reimbursed from an HRA Allowance, effective immediately, the Board of Trustees has amended the Plan to modify the deadline for submitting an HRA claim from 12 months to 24 months from the date of service.

This Southern California Pipe Trades Health & Welfare Fund believes this Active 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 the Active Plan may not include certain consumer protections of the Affordable Care Act that apply to other plans, for example, the requirement for the provision of preventive health services without any cost sharing. However, grandfathered health plans 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 Trust Fund Office administrator at (800) 595-7473. 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. This website has a table summarizing which protections do and do not apply to grandfathered health plans.