

NAME:

SS#:

Warehouse Employees Union Local No. 730 Health & Welfare Trust Fund

EMPLOYER: Eight O'Clock Coffee
PLAN: E

LOCAL: 730
STATUS: Retired, January 1, 2007

ISSUE: Prescription Benefit – Excluded Services #Rx14/127-6021

FUND RULE:
"Prescription Drug Benefits

Generic Drugs

You must request generic drugs, if available. If you purchase a brand name drug where an approved generic was available, you must pay the difference in cost between the generic and the brand name."

(Warehouse Employees Union Local No. 730 Health & Welfare Trust Fund SPD, Page 80)

SUMMARY: Appeal Received: September 18, 2014

The **participant** is appealing to be allowed coverage of brand name Diovan at the generic co-payment level (without responsibility for the difference in cost between the brand name drug and its generic equivalent). The participant states that she has been on brand name Diovan for seven years (for high blood pressure). "When I was put on a generic [version], that made me very ill. I cannot take the generic [version]. I cannot afford the brand name." Included with the participant's appeal, is a letter of medical necessity from Dr. Philip L. Mussenden. Dr. Mussenden states that the participant "experiences adverse reactions (nausea, dizziness) when she takes generic Diovan. She needs brand [name]."

After the appeal was received, the Fund office contacted CIGNA on September 19, 2014. CIGNA advised the Fund office on October 1, 2014 that Dr. Mussenden can initiate a review for medical appropriateness by contacting CIGNA's Physician Consult Service. Dr. Mussenden's office was contacted on October 2, 2014 with this information. To date, Dr. Mussenden has not conducted a review for medical appropriateness with CIGNA.

Note: Valsartan (generic Diovan) became available June 26, 2014.

ACTION: Approved ☐ Denied ☐ Tabled ☐

COMMENTS: