NAME: **SS#:**
REGARDING:

Bakers Union and FELRA Health & Welfare Fund

EMPLOYER:	Safeway	**LOCAL:**	118
DATE OF HIRE:	October 16, 2006	**STATUS:**	Full Time
PLAN:	BFW		

ISSUE: Hospital/Medical – Non-Participating Provider #M12/109-7331

FUND RULE:
"IMPORTANT REMINDER
Starting on September 1, 2008, you MUST use a doctor, hospital or other health care provider who is in the CIGNA network…."
(Taken from the Reminder Notice sent to all participants August 19, 2008)

"CIGNA HealthCare is your new PPO Provider
Effective September 1, 2008, CIGNA HealthCare replaced OneNet as your new PPO. You must use a provider (whether a hospital, physician, or other health care provider) who is in the CIGNA network, in order to be covered (with limited exceptions)."
(Taken from the "For Your Benefit" newsletter, January 2009)

SUMMARY:

Date(s) of Service:	June 15, 2011
Received:	July 11, 2011
Denied:	July 20, 2011
Appeal Received:	February 15, 2012

The **participant** is appealing for payment of a claim that was denied because the provider does not participate with CIGNA. The participant states, "before I had surgery, I gave my insurance information to the hospital. The hospital [should not have assigned] any services that do not accept my insurance."

Fund records indicate the participant had outpatient surgery performed at Shady Grove Adventist Hospital (a participating facility). Claims for the participating surgeon and facility were paid. The claim for surgical assistant, Dale Shomette, CSA (employed by Amelia Surgical Assist, LLC) was denied because he does not participate with CIGNA.

A letter from the Shady Grove Adventist Hospital was received with the appeal. The Director of Perioperative Services states, "Amelia Surgical Assist, LLC has been contracted with Shady Grove Adventist Hospital as an independent contractor, to provide First Assistant coverage for surgical cases. …[Amelia Surgical Assist is] the only surgical assist group providing services to your insured. Fees to pay First Assistants are not part of our contract with your insurance company."

CIGNA states they are working with their provider relations department to determine the reason that a participating hospital is using a nonparticipating surgical assistant group.

ACTION: **Approved** ☐ **Denied** ☐ **Tabled** ☐

COMMENTS: