MINUTES

**METROPOLITAN EMPLOYEE BENEFIT BOARD**

**MEDICAL & LIFE COMMITTEE**

**August 22, 2013**

The Metropolitan Employee Benefit Board’s Medical & Life Committee met on Thursday, August 22, 2013 in the Civil Service Conference Room, Suite 163, 222 Building, Third Avenue North, Nashville, Tennessee, at approximately 9:00 a.m.

Committee Members present: Chair: Rita Roberts-Turner; Vice-Chair: Jerry Hall; Members: \*Stephanie Bailey, Charles Clariday, B.R. Hall, Sr. and Richard Riebeling. Alternate member W. Todd Henry.

Others present: Shannon Hall, Metro Human Resources, Nicki Eke, Attorney, Metro Legal Department and Dr. Celia Goodson, Civil Service Medical Examiner.

Committee Chair Rita Roberts-Turner called the meeting to order and stated the first order of business is to elect a Vice-Chair for the Medical and Life Committee.

Shannon Hall opened the floor to nominations for Committee Vice-Chair.

B.R. Hall nominated Jerry Hall for Vice-Chair of the Medical and Life Committee. Richard Riebeling seconded.

A vote was taken on the nomination for Committee Vice-Chair and was approved unanimously by the Committee.

# **BENEFIT BOARD ITEMS**

The Human Resources staff submitted the following for the Committee’s consideration and appropriate action:

1. Self-insured PPO plan appeal – Request for coverage for lipectomy.

Rita Roberts-Turner reported to the Committee that this appeal was previously considered by this Committee at their last meeting. She stated that the Committee requested that the member submit any medical information in support of this appeal and requested that the Civil Service Medical Examiner offer her opinion on this appeal in accordance with Metro plan provisions.

Dr. Celia Goodson reported to the Committee that in reviewing the information and the relevant sections of the Blue Cross Blue Shield policy manual, she stated that the section related to gynecomastia is a little more specific to medical appropriateness. She reviewed the three criteria for this procedure and stated that this case seems to meet that criteria and that the medical information supplied supports not having a biopsy done of the tissue.

There was discussion of the condition and reference to gynecomastia in the medical record and whether the condition being glandular and not, caused by, or related to their obesity. There was also some discussion of how long the condition has persisted.

Debbie Sims, Blue Cross Blue Shield, addressed the three year criteria for the gynecomastia.

After discussion of the condition developing prior to the individual reaching the obese category, B.R. Hall moved for approval of the procedure. Charles Clariday seconded.

The member was also present to answer any questions.

The Committee also discussed having a biopsy done, if necessary, in order for the procedure to be covered.

A vote was taken on the motion to approve the procedure (gynecomastia) and was approved without objection.

1. Self-insured Choice Fund plan appeal – Request for coverage for home birth with midwife.

Rita Roberts-Turner reported to the Committee that a member’s dependent participating in the self-insured Choice Fund plan administered by Cigna Healthcare was denied for a request for coverage for a home birth with a non-network midwife. She stated that the member has submitted the appeal and related documentation and that information from Cigna Healthcare regarding their determination on the first level appeal has also been supplied.

The member and the dependent were present.

Paul Huffman, Cigna, was also present.

Shannon Hall stated that the member had a couple of different appeals and one of the appeals was for a particular mid-wife in the home. She stated that Cigna has approved the mid-wife at a birthing facility. The issue before the Committee is where the birth happens with this particular mid-wife.

The member addressed the Committee regarding the appeal for a home birth.

After some discussion of what the plan document states regarding home birth, the definition of birthing center, and consideration of adding home birth to the plan, B.R. Hall moved for approval of the home birth in this case for this particular member. Jerry Hall seconded.

Nicki Eke, Legal Department, asked for clarification on the issue before the Board.

The Committee discussed the benefit being approved as in network by the midwife at the home and what the motion needs to state.

\*Denotes the arrival of Stephanie Bailey.

Nicki Eke, reviewed what the plan provisions are regarding births/maternity services, in-network and out of network services, and amending the plan.

After discussion of the intent of the motion is to approve this particular case as an in-network service for this mid-wife and for the purposes of the plan in this case only for this member facility includes the member’s home. There was also some discussion of the benefit being retroactive.

A vote was taken on the motion to cover the in home birth, in this case only, as an in-network benefit and was approved with Rita Roberts-Turner abstaining.

 With nothing further presented, the meeting adjourned accordingly.

ATTEST: APPROVED:

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Mrs. Rita Roberts-Turner, Director Mrs. Rita Roberts-Turner, Chair

#### Human Resources Medical & Life Committee