

MINUTES

METROPOLITAN EMPLOYEE BENEFIT BOARD

MEDICAL & LIFE COMMITTEE

May 17, 2023

The Metropolitan Employee Benefit Board's Medical & Life Committee met on Wednesday, May 17, 2023 in the Sonny West Conference Room, Howard Office Building, 700 2nd Avenue South, Nashville, TN at approximately 9:43 a.m.

Committee Members present: Chair: Harold W. Finch, II; Vice-Chair: Gilbert Gonzales; Members: Christine Bradley, B.R. Hall, Sr. and Edna J. Jones. Alternate(s): Shannon B. Hall and Jonathan Puckett.

Committee Member G. Thomas Curtis was unable to be present and Shannon Hall served as alternate.

Board Members present: Jeremy Moseley

Others present: Christina Hickey, Metro Human Resources and Courtney Mohan, Attorney, Metro Legal Department.

Christina Hickey opened the floor to nominations for Committee Chair and Vice-Chair.

Christine Bradley nominated Harold W. Finch, II for Committee Chair Edna Jones seconded. A vote was taken on the nomination for Committee Chair and was approved without objection.

Edna Jones nominated Gilbert Gonzales for Committee Vice-Chair. B.R. Hall seconded. A vote was taken on the nomination for Committee Vice-Chair and was approved without objection.

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

Items pending before the Committee are as follows:

1. Self-insured Cigna plan appeal - Denial of dependent's VIVI cap for insulin and epi pens - employee from Human Resources.

Christina Hickey reported to the Committee that a member participating in the self-insured Cigna plan is appealing the denial of a dependent's VIVI cap for insulin and epi pens. She stated Cigna denied the claim because the requested service is not covered under the employee's medical or pharmacy plan benefits. She stated the employee has appealed to the Benefit Board's Medical & Life Committee and provided information supplied in the confidential section of the Medical & Life packet. She also noted that Cigna provided a letter pertaining to the claim also in the confidential section of the packet.

The employee was present.

Cindy Sexton, Cigna, was also present.

The employee addressed the Committee regarding the appeal. She described how this device works and how much insulin has been discarded because it was not kept at the right temperature before finding this device.

After some discussion of how the device works, why coverage was denied and adding this device to the plans coverage overall, Edna Jones moved for approval of this VIVI cap for this member under these circumstances. B.R. Hall seconded, and the Committee approved without objection.

2. Self-insured BCBST PPO plan appeal - Denial of laparoscopy, surgical, esophageal sphincter augmentation procedure, placement of sphincter augmentation device (i.e. magnetic band) - employee from General Services.

Christina Hickey reported to the Committee that a member participating in the self-insured BCBST PPO plan was denied a laparoscopic, surgical, esophageal sphincter augmentation procedure and placement of device (i.e. magnetic band) for the treatment of a hiatal hernia. She stated that previously, this request and grievance for this coverage were denied and the member and PRIA Healthcare Management (PRIA), as the member's authorized representative, are appealing the BCBST PPO denial. She stated BCBST PPO has supplied documentation on their denial (experimental/investigational/unproven) and medical policy for this appeal. She stated PRIA and the employee have also supplied documentation for their appeal and this information is included in the confidential medical section of the Committee packet.

The employee was present.

Russ Henderson, Blue Cross Blue Shield, was present.

A representative from PRIA Healthcare Management was also available by phone for any questions.

The employee addressed the Committee regarding the appeal. She described her condition and how this procedure is the best treatment option.

Russ Henderson, BCBS, stated that the medical director did look at the case and has provided a statement for the Committee regarding the procedure as being investigational. Mr. Henderson also stated that he would support Metro Government if they wanted to overturn the denial and approve.

After some discussion of what conditions this procedure is approved for and when it may become a covered procedure, B.R. Hall moved for approval of this procedure for this member under these circumstances. Edna Jones seconded, and the Committee approved without objection.

With nothing further presented, the meeting adjourned at 10:14 a.m.

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

**Shannon B. Hall, Director
Human Resources**

**Harold W. Finch, II, Chair
Medical & Life Committee**