

# **Laborers' National Health & Welfare Fund**

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## **WOMEN'S HEALTH AND CANCER RIGHTS ACT OF 1998**

### **ANNUAL NOTICE**

#### **COVERAGE FOR BREAST RECONSTRUCTION IN CONNECTION WITH A MASTECTOMY**

Under federal law, group health plans, insurers, and HMOs that provide medical and surgical benefits in connection with a mastectomy must provide benefits for certain reconstructive surgery, effective for the first plan year beginning on or after October 21, 1998. In the case of a participant or beneficiary who is receiving benefits under the Plan in connection with a mastectomy and who elects breast reconstruction, federal law requires coverage in a manner determined in consultation with the attending physician and the patient for:

- Reconstruction of the breast on which the mastectomy was performed,
- Surgery and reconstruction of the other breast to produce a symmetrical appearance;
- Prostheses and treatment of physical complications at all stages of the mastectomy, including lymph edemas.

This coverage is subject to a plan's annual deductibles and coinsurance provisions. These provisions are generally described in the Plan's Summary Plan Description (SPD).

If you have any questions about whether your Plan covers mastectomies or reconstructive surgery, please contact your Plan Administrator.

#### **NEWBORN'S AND MOTHERS HEALTH PROTECTION ACT NOTICE**

Group health plans and health insurance issuers generally may not, under federal law, restrict benefits for any hospital length of stay in connection with childbirth for the mother or newborn child to less than 48 hours following vaginal delivery, or less than 96 hours following cesarean section. However, federal law generally does not prohibit the mother's or newborn's attending provider, after consulting with the mother, from discharging the mother or her newborn earlier than 48 hours (or 96 hours as applicable). In any case, plans and issuers may not, under federal law, require that a provider obtain authorization from the plan or the issuer for prescribing a length of stay not in excess of 48 hours (or 96 hours).