

COVID-19 Update #11

Re: Benefit Plan

To support our members through the COVID-19 pandemic, the Board of Trustees of the Ontario Ironworkers Benefit Plan has made some temporary changes to your benefit plan, effective May 1, 2020:

1. **Remove the time limit for using the pay-direct program** – Under normal circumstances, the maximum period you can use the pay-direct program to maintain your benefit coverage is 12 consecutive months. For May and June 2020, you may continue to use the pay-direct program even if you have reached that maximum. The Trustees will review this provision each month in light of the COVID-19 pandemic and, if necessary, may further extend the timing.
2. **Freeze the hour-bank balance** – Effective May 1 and continuing through June 30, 2020, if your hour-bank balance is 100 hours or more, you will maintain your benefit coverage without the usual deduction of 100 hours per month. As above, the Trustees will review this provision each month and may extend the hour-bank freezing for longer, if needed.
3. **Change the requirements for disability applications due to COVID-19** – We will waive the 7-day waiting period and requirement for a doctor's note for applications for disability benefits due to COVID-19 related illnesses.
4. **Allow claims for virtual providers** – The plan will cover expenses for virtual treatments from psychologists, social workers, psychotherapists and speech therapists, subject to the usual plan limits.

Feeling overwhelmed with COVID-19? Our **Member Assistance Program (MAP)** is here to help!

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