

DIVISION 1181 A.T.U. – NEW YORK WELFARE FUND
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Re: Temporary Extension of Certain Deadlines Due to the COVID-19 Health Crisis

In response to the COVID-19 health crisis, federal guidance extended the deadline for participants and beneficiaries to exercise certain rights related to coverage under the Division 1181 A.T.U. – New York Welfare Fund (“Fund”).

This deadline extension was effective beginning March 1, 2020 and will end 60 days after the end of the federally declared COVID-19 National Emergency (the “Outbreak Period”). Currently, the public health emergency is extended through April 21, 2021.

This means that days during the Outbreak Period do not count when the Fund is calculating the deadlines for a participant or beneficiary to exercise the following rights:

- The 30-day period (60-day period in certain circumstances) to request enrollment in the Plan due to a HIPAA special enrollment event;
- The 60-day period to elect COBRA continuation coverage;
- The 30-day grace period to pay COBRA premiums;
- The 45-day period to pay the first COBRA premium after electing COBRA;
- The deadline to file or appeal a benefit claim under the Plan’s appeal procedures; and
- The deadline to request an external review of certain denied appeals and the date by which information must be received to perfect a request for external review.

Special Enrollment Example: If you gave birth to a dependent child on June 2, 2020 and wish to enroll your new dependent child in the Plan, you will have until 60 days after the Outbreak Period ends to enroll your dependent child.

Benefit Appeal Example: If you received a benefit claim denial on June 14, 2020, the deadline for you to file an appeal under the Plan is generally 180 days from the date you received notification of the denial. However, because the deadline has been tolled as of March 1, 2020, your deadline will be 180 days after the end of the Outbreak Period.

You should contact Iris Torres, the Fund’s COBRA administrator regarding questions about the impact of these extended deadlines on your election of COBRA and payment of COBRA premiums.

Please note that no other deadlines under the Plan have been extended. If you have questions about these deadline extensions, please contact the Fund Office.