



# PSC-CUNY Welfare Fund Benefits Bulletin

Winter 2024

The PSC-CUNY Welfare Fund Board of Trustees is committed to building strong relationships with fund members and fostering the personal connections the Fund has established over the years. At the Fund, we take the Board's directive to heart and are committed to creating a better future for our members by constantly working to improve Fund administered benefits.

In 2023, the Fund remained focused on good governance and member outreach. Fund staff attended various on-campus benefit fairs - many of which were resuming for the first time since the pandemic. These campus meetings allowed the fund to respond to member concerns.

## **Now Hear This**

In 2024, the PSC-CUNY Welfare Fund is set to enhance its hearing benefits by switching providers from HearUSA to TruHearing, a company that offers access to a wider selection of providers. TruHearing offers lower out-of-pocket costs, and they offer a much wider variety of premium hearing aids. Since HearUSA is part of the TruHearing family, you can expect a seamless transition to the new provider. You'll be receiving separate communications directly from TruHearing soon. The effective date of the plan change will be April 1. Current eligibility rules remain in place. Additional information is available on the Fund's website, [www.psccunywf.org](http://www.psccunywf.org).

## **Guardian Dental Changes**

It is the Board of Trustees' responsibility to ensure that all of the Fund's programs are followed according to their plan design. This ensures all our members have equal access to the most comprehensive array of benefits. Therefore, due to an unexpected increase in utilization for some implant procedures, the Fund is revising its Guardian dental coverage.

Effective Feb. 1, 2024, dental implants from Guardian dentists will be limited to two (2) implants per calendar year. As always, we will listen to your concerns about this new policy. Please visit our website for more detailed information.

## **Vaccine Update**

Vaccine availability was one of the concerns mentioned at the recent campus benefit fairs. Members expressed concerns about RSV, Covid-19 and flu and how to protect themselves. They wanted to know how and where to find vaccines and the Fund responded. View the handy vaccine chart on the Fund's website, [www.psccunywf.org](http://www.psccunywf.org), which shows how to access the vaccines and the benefit card that pays for them.

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### **Obtaining Paxlovid: What You Need to Know**

Paxlovid is the only FDA-approved treatment of mild-to-moderate COVID-19 in high-risk adults who may develop severe COVID-19. Consequently, Paxlovid has become much more in demand since FDA approval in May 2023. It is always recommended to consult with your doctor before taking any medication. Paxlovid is a prescription medication that is used to treat mild to moderate COVID-19 in people aged 12 years and older who weigh at least 40 kilograms (about 88 pounds) and who are at high risk for progressing to severe COVID-19 and/or hospitalization.

Paxlovid is not on the CVS/Caremark drug formulary list, because HHS partnered with Pfizer, the manufacturer of Paxlovid, to offer the drug at little to no cost. This means that PSC-CUNY Welfare Fund members can obtain Paxlovid at little to no copay. For retirees who are enrolled in Medicare, Pfizer offers the drug copay-free. For retirees under 65, full-time active members, and adjuncts who are covered under a NYC basic health plan, Pfizer offers a copay assistance program. Please visit our website, [www.pscunywf.org](http://www.pscunywf.org) for details on how to sign up for the assistance programs.

### **Send Us Your Comments & Suggestions**

You rely on the Welfare Fund for help with your benefits questions, and we rely on you to help us improve our service. Please visit our website, [www.pscunywf.org](http://www.pscunywf.org), for quick access to information about your benefits. As always, when you need additional help or guidance, you can call our office, 212-354- 5230. Email your comments and suggestions to [communications@pscunywf.org](mailto:communications@pscunywf.org). The Fund is also now back in its office at 25 Broadway in Manhattan on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. If you plan to visit, please make an appointment due to building security.

### **Financial Disclosures**

The Fund's most recent financial disclosure statement will be posted on our website soon and included in upcoming issues of the Benefit Bulletin.