January 2016 Benefit Plan Update

We regularly review our programs, services and policies to ensure we balance the health of our covered members with the financial health of the plan. As a result of the reviews that have taken place over the past year, the ASEBP Trustees have approved the following items to take effect on January 1, 2016:

- Change in assignment of benefits product and service eligibility
- No increase in dental fee reimbursement rates for 2016

Assignment of Benefits – Effective January 1, 2016

Assignment services allow you to assign benefit reimbursements to your providers, rather than paying for the full cost of the service or product out of pocket and being reimbursed by ASEBP yourself. **This service is different than direct billing, which allows the service provider to submit your claims electronically to ASEBP on your behalf.**

While assignment services were put in place as a convenience for covered members, in some cases, it has left ASEBP vulnerable to misuse by some service providers due to the type of claims that were allowed. **As such, starting January 1, 2016, only the following products and services will be eligible for assignment of benefits:**

- Ambulance services
- Endovenous treatments
- Hearing aids
- Hospital accommodations
- Prosthetics
- Psychology services
- Respiratory equipment

As well as items that require ASEBP pre-approval, such as:

- Home nursing services
- Hospital beds
- Joint injectable materials
- Wheelchairs/Scooters
- Wigs

This change will result in a revised version of the Extended Health Care and Vision Care Claim form, which will be available via the Forms section of our website, www.asebp.ab.ca, on January 1, 2016. Please ensure any copies of the old form that you have printed are discarded.

Dental Fee Reimbursement Rates – Effective January 1, 2016

At the November Trustees' meeting, it was decided that that the dental fees reimbursement rates outlined in the ASEBP Dental Benefit List would remain at their 2015 levels for the 2016 benefit plan year.

The ASEBP Dental Benefit List, which outlines the amount ASEBP will reimburse you for dental procedures, reflects appropriate reimbursement amounts for dentists in Alberta, although some dental offices may charge more than ASEBP's reimbursement amount for certain services.

We encourage you and your dependants to discuss dental fees with your dentist prior to the start of any work in order to avoid surprises which could result in out-of-pocket expenses. With ASEBP's dental fee reimbursement rates remaining at 2015 levels, there is a possibility that if your dentist raises their rates in 2016, you may see an increase in out-of-pocket expenses.

This marks the first time ASEBP has not made an adjustment to these dental fees reimbursement rates, which typically increase annually.