

October 15th, 2007

As you are all aware there have been ongoing discussions taking place with regards to the issue of orthotics, specifically, benefit entitlement.

In the last half hour before the expiry of the collective agreement negotiations, two outstanding items remained.

One was the orthotics issue and the other was the skilled trades rate.

Both of these were to be reviewed by both the Union and Company personnel to determine if the issues in dispute had merit and would enough information be provided to resolve the outstanding two issues before going to third party intervention.

After gathering information regarding previous orthotic coverage, it was determined that there was indeed an oversight by the insurance company in allowing payment for orthotics.

This has been corrected, much to the disappointment to our members.

The intent of the coverage was overshadowed by the facts presented as the investigation of benefit coverage concluded.

There can be no doubt that there is disappointment in the final outcome, but our efforts to resolve this remains at the forefront in the next set of negotiations.

Your understanding in this matter is one that the Union hopes does not detract from the positive gains made at the negotiation talks which led to a positive acceptance of our current collective agreement.

In Solidarity

W.E. Nitchie
Health and Welfare Officer