

Board of Directors Briefing Notes



ARTA Board of Directors Special Meeting | August 10, 2022 **Electronic Meeting via Zoom Video Conference**

These briefing notes serve as the highlights from the August 10, 2022, ARTA Board of Directors Meeting. Some items and names have been left out either because they are considered confidential or are not items that can be shared at this time. These briefing notes do not serve as the official minutes of the meeting.

If you have questions or concerns about any of the information contained within this report, please contact the CEO & Executive Director, Daniel Mulloy via email at dmulloy@arta.net or via telephone at (780) 822-2400.

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS SPECIAL MEETING - WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 10, 2022

Meeting called to order at 2:00pm.

1.0 Introduction / Purpose of Meeting

- 1.1 This special meeting was called to review the recommended Plan Design changes and the Monthly Renewal Rate recommendations.
- 1.2 Last year, these recommendations were made at the September Board meeting, and this didn't leave enough time to implement the changes and to draft the communications to members regarding the changes.
- 1.3 We hope to have an early special meeting each year in August moving forward to ensure there is enough time to make all of the required changes.

2.0 Proposed Plan Design Changes

- 2.1 Transport Wheelchairs
 - 2.1.1 To add transport wheelchairs to the plan under the existing manual wheelchair benefit.
 - 2.1.2 Transport wheelchairs are lightweight and easy to transport.
 - 2.1.3 We have had a few requests and appeals over the past year to add transport wheelchairs to the plan.
 - 2.1.4 **MOTION 1:** Motion to add coverage for transport wheelchairs to the plan effective November 1, 2022, under the current manual wheelchair benefit.
CARRIED
- 2.2 Insulin Pump Supplies
 - 2.2.1 To reallocate insulin pump supplies coverage from the insulin pump benefit to the annual diabetic supplies maximum.
 - 2.2.2 These supplies are currently covered under the insulin pump benefit, which is \$5,000 every 4 years. If an insulin pump is purchased there is often no benefits remaining for insulin pump supplies.
 - 2.2.3 In November 2021, a similar plan change was made, reallocating coverage for continuous glucose monitors and sensors from the insulin pump benefit to the annual diabetes supplies maximum.
 - 2.2.4 **MOTION 2:** Motion to amend the current benefit for insulin pump supplies to reallocate their coverage under the current annual diabetes supplies maximums effective November 1, 2022. **CARRIED**
- 2.3 Occupational Therapists
 - 2.3.1 To add coverage for Occupational Therapists as eligible Paramedical Practitioners.
 - 2.3.2 There is a high demand for these practitioners, which are now more frequently operating in private clinics.
 - 2.3.3 **MOTION 3:** Motion to add coverage for Occupational Therapists under the current Paramedical Practitioners coverage effective November 1, 2022.
CARRIED
- 2.4 Vision Care Clause
 - 2.4.1 To update a vision care clause which will remove a specific provision which does not allow members to extend coverage for specialty contact lenses if they are also claiming frames and lenses.
 - 2.4.2 The current contract clause reads: "An additional \$200 every 24 months is available for specialty contact lenses prescribed for severe corneal

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astigmatism, severe corneal scarring, keratoconus (conical cornea), or aphakia, provided visual acuity can be improved to at least the 20/40 level by contact lenses but cannot be improved to that level by eyeglasses.”

- 2.4.3 **MOTION 4:** Motion to update the wording of the Vision Care clause permitting addition contact lens coverage to remove “but cannot be improved to that level by eyeglasses”. **CARRIED**

2.5 Xenical Drug Coverage

2.5.1 To remove coverage for the weight-loss medication Xenical.

2.5.2 This weight-loss medication would not have otherwise been eligible for coverage under the plan but was included because it was covered erroneously by the previous claims adjudicator when we transitioned to a new claims adjudicator in 2013.

2.5.3 There are newer and more effective medications available on the marketplace which are covered under some of the ARTA Benefits Plans.

2.5.4 **MOTION 5:** Motion to remove coverage for Xenical under the Prescription Drug coverage effective November 1, 2022, and to grandfather those members who have claimed this medication in the previous 12 months. **CARRIED**

2.6 Support Stocking Annual Maximum

2.6.1 To increase the annual maximum for Support Stockings to \$250.

2.6.2 This update makes the plan more competitive when compared to other similar plans which our members may be eligible to join.

2.6.3 **MOTION 6:** Motion to increase the annual maximum for Support Stockings to \$250. **CARRIED**

2.7 Usual and Customary Expenses Updates

2.7.1 To update the Usual and Customary Fees for acupuncture assessments, acupuncture treatment, dietitian/nutritionists, massage therapists, naturopathic assessments, podiatric assessments, podiatric treatment or x-rays, speech therapists, and support stockings.

2.7.2 ARTA likes to ensure that our benefits plans are keeping pace with the marketplace based on expenses submitted over the past year.

2.7.3 The Usual and Customary Fees exist to ensure that providers are not claiming exorbitantly high fees that are above the average against the benefit plans.

2.7.4 **MOTION 7:** Motion to update the Usual and Customary expenses permitted as follows, effective November 1, 2022. **CARRIED**

EXPENSE TYPE	CURRENT RATE	RATE AS OF NOV 1, 2022
Acupuncture Assessment	\$95	\$110
Acupuncture Treatment	\$75	\$80
Dietitian/Nutritionist	\$130	\$145
Massage Therapist	\$90	\$95
Naturopathic Assessment	\$175	\$200
Podiatric Assessment	\$75	\$90
Podiatric Treatment or X-Ray	\$55	\$60
Speech Therapist	\$140	\$155
Support Stocking	\$200	\$250

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3.0 Confirmation of Monthly Rates

- 3.1 Review of the Renewal Rate Calculations as presented.
- 3.2 Inflation costs are causing an increase in per capita costs that ARTA is paying each month. We have seen double digit increases over the past twelve months, and rate increases will be necessary in order to keep up with rising costs.
- 3.3 Each sector will have different rates to ensure that one sector isn't paying to subsidize another sector. This means that the Public/Private sector will see higher rate increases than the Education Sector based on the different plan experiences for each sector.
- 3.4 **MOTION 8:** Motion to implement the following rate changes effective November 1, 2022. **CARRIED**

EDUCATION SECTOR		Rate Change
Extended Health Care	With Travel	+5.0%
	Without Travel	+8.9%
Dental Care		+3.2%

PUBLIC/PRIVATE SECTOR		Rate Change
Extended Health Care	With Travel	+12.5%
	Without Travel	+12.7%
Dental Care		+14.7%

4.0 ARTA Benefit Plan Trust Nominations

- 4.1 At the Board of Directors meeting in May we were short one candidate for the Board of Trustees for the current term.
- 4.2 ARTA's Policies & Procedures reads: *"In the event of a vacancy on the Board of Trustees, the Board of Directors may appoint a full ARTA member to serve the remaining term until the next election of the Board of Trustees."*
- 4.3 Candidate will be appointed to serve on the Board of Trustees until the end of the current term.
- 4.4 **MOTION 9:** Motion to approve the appointment of Candidate to the ARTA Benefit Plan Trust until the end of the current term (May 31, 2023). **CARRIED**
- 4.5 When the next election occurs in May 2023, we will be looking to fill 3 vacant positions.

5.0 Next Meetings

- 5.1 The next Board of Directors Meeting will be held in person on September 13-14, 2022. Information will be sent out early next week.
- 5.2 Incoming chairs are invited to attend the September board meeting.
- 5.3 The next AGM will be held October 4-5, 2022.

6.0 Adjournment

- 6.1 **MOTION 10:** Motion to adjourn the meeting at 2:42pm. **CARRIED**