

NEWSLETTER

Editorial

You will read these few lines shortly after having received Circular SHIF/18/1 dated 4 May 2018 concerning the amendments proposed by the Management Committee to the SHIF Regulations and Administrative Rules. Additional information is provided on the flip side of this newsletter and I would like to stress the importance of the amendments proposed by the Management Committee, which should come into effect on 1 July 2018.

At the same time, the implementation of our IT improvements continues. The interface between IRIS and HIIIS for the management of data (in particular affiliations and bank accounts) has been in place since October last year and the new payment process – safer and more efficient – is operational since the end of January this year. As announced by broadcast dated 29 November 2017, reimbursements for active staff is now made, except in exceptional cases, into the same account as the main salary bank account. However, staff who have more than one salary account may select into which account they wish their SHIF reimbursements to be made. After logging in to IRIS, select « **ILO personal Information** » then « **Bank Self-Service – SHIF** ». Lastly, the secure on-line self-service access to submitting claims to the SHF via the internet should be launched by the end of the year.

I take advantage of this Newsletter to give you an update on reimbursements. In 2017, the number of invoices settled – the key indicator of the SHIF workload – increased by 1 per cent, and for the first time surpassed 150'000. At the same time repayment times continued to improve and the average time decreased from 21 days in 2016 to 17 day in 2017. The average time was even 8 days in December 2017. However, the average time varies considerably during the year, especially in the beginning of the year due to the office closure during the end of the year holidays and also because the first three months of the year there is a spike in the number of claims we receive. **This is why we cannot stress enough the importance of submitting your claims regularly and to not waiting until you have too many invoices.** Allow me to remind you to submit your claims with all necessary documents (prescriptions, proofs of payment) neatly attached **behind** the claim form and to make any copies you might need for your complementary insurance or tax administrative, if applicable, before you send us your claim.

Florian Léger, *Secrétaire exécutif*
16 May 2018

Management Committee's corner

Following the election of the representatives of the insured persons to the SHIF Management Committee (results can be consulted at the following address: http://www.ilo.org/dyn/shif/website.file_open?p_reference_id=210), the new Management Committee held its first meeting on 1 February and elected Mr. Tilmann Geckeler (representative of the Administration) as Chair of the Committee and Mr. Pierre Sayour (representative of the insured persons) as Vice-Chair. Other members are Mr. Jean-Claude Villemonteix (until 30/04/2018), Mr. Fikri Gurzumar, Mr. Sietse Buijze, Mr. Giuseppe Zefola and Ms. Anne Drouin as representatives of the Administration, and Ms. Catherine Comte-Tiberghien, Ms. Mireille Ecuivillon, Mr. Simon Brimblecombe, Ms Elisabeth Fombuena and Ms Azza Taalab as representatives of the insured persons. The Committee also adopted its priorities for 2018, which will focus on governance issues. It also decided to hold a General Meeting of insured persons sometime this autumn.

The Committee wishes to thank the outgoing members for their work and in particular Mr. Jean-François Santarelli for all his years of service to the Committee, including the last three years during which he presided as Committee Chair.

The Executive Secretary visits insured persons in the field



It is a commitment that the Executive Secretary made to improve communication with the insured persons and to better understand local issues. In December 2017 he travelled to Argentina and Chile and in mid-April of this year he went to South Africa. During each visit he held information meetings and replied to questions from SHIF insured (both active staff and retirees). The issues are often the same, such as the recognition of the SHIF by local health care providers. Meetings were also held with health care providers and it is hoped that pricing and payment agreements with certain providers will soon be signed. More visits to other countries are to come in the near future.

Amendments to the SHIF Regulations and Administrative Rules

The Management Committee adopted at the end of last year a series of amendments to the SHIF Regulations and Administrative Rules.

While a certain number of these amendments simply seek to clarify administrative procedures, other amendments contain important changes. This is the case with the change to the method for calculating the contribution for voluntarily protected children (those having reached the age of 21 or 18 if no longer in full-time studies), which will allow insured persons with lower salaries to insure these children for a reasonable cost, particularly in the field. Other important changes concern functional rehabilitation treatments, accommodation costs for convalescent stays or funeral expenses for which the maximum approved expenses caps were raised because those in force were considered no longer adapted to costs applied in some countries.

Another two important changes concern the expansion of treatment under preventive measures and the reimbursement of certain alternative medicine treatments.

The creation of a new code « «Alternative Medicine » » (Code 9) will cover new treatments like Ayurvedic treatment and traditional Chinese medicine and will simplify the management of certain treatments that were previously covered under functional rehabilitation - acupuncture, mesotherapy, chiropractic and osteopathy – for which it was often difficult to obtain a medical prescription and to define the therapists authorized to practice these treatments. With regard to prevention, the number of vaccines reimbursed at 100 per cent (Code 8.2) was expanded and integrates all the main vaccines. Furthermore, additional procedures and screenings, were added under Code 8.1 (these include dental scaling, screenings for HIV and hepatitis B and C, as well as prenatal screening for detecting genetic anomalies).

The revision of the reimbursement rules related to psychiatry and psychotherapy proposes a number of sessions per calendar year and no longer for a period of three years. This should improve coverage under this code while facilitating the management of the code in the SHIF.

A new code (Code 10) has been proposed for medically assisted reproduction which will carry with it a life-time maximum approved expense of USD 30'000.00 per protected person. This reimbursement basis is similar to what is practiced in other health insurance schemes of international organizations such as the WHO.