

Welcome to another edition of GIDIP Disa-Bulletin. In this issue, Your GIDIP Board of Trustees' focus is to highlight GIDIP Process

GIDIP COVERAGE WHILE ON AN APPROVED LEAVE OF ABSENCE OR LAY-OFF

If you are granted a leave of absence or in the event of a temporary lay-off exceeding thirty (30) consecutive days, coverage will be continued for a period of up to twelve (12) months (or as required by law) **if you prepay contributions (premiums) within thirty (30) days of the date such leave/lay-off begins.** Should you become disabled during your leave/lay-off, benefits will commence on the 8th day following your originally scheduled return to work date.

If you do not maintain your GIDIP coverage, it is important that you are aware that in the event you become disabled during your leave/lay-off period and you are unable to return to work on your expected return to work date, you will not be covered and coverage will not commence until such time as you actively and physically return to work for a minimum of **30 days***. Vacation and/or shift trades **are not considered actively and physically at work.**

RETURN TO WORK FOLLOWING GIDIP

Members have been experiencing delays when cleared to return to work on a gradual or modified basis as recommended by their physician. It is suggested that when you are cleared to return to work on a gradual or modified basis, your physician should provide thirty (30) days' notice in order to enable the Plan Administrator to coordinate your return to work with the Employer.

If your physician recommends a return to work in a "permanent accommodation" you must contact your District Chair and Occupational Health Services (OHS). Our Plan Administrator will advise the Employer of your recommended return to work plan; unfortunately however, the Plan Administrator cannot arbitrarily approve or support a "permanent accommodation".

YOUR GIDIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES - COMMUNICATION

Your GIDIP Board of Trustees' are available to assist Membership with any GIDIP inquiries. Please note that your GIDIP Board of Trustees' are not **full-time** Union Officers and they will make every effort to respond to and your queries as quickly as possible.

SUBMISSION OF YOUR GIDIP CLAIM APPLICATION AND/OR UPDATED MEDICAL

To expedite the assessment of your GIDIP claim we encourage you to send your completed GIDIP Claim Application forms and/or updated medical (PDF format) to our Plan Administrator via email at GIDIP@canben.com.

Please feel free to communicate with our Plan Administrator's Disability Case Manager via email as they are there to help you.

Additionally, please be sure to use your personal email address for your own confidential reasons in your communications.

*(*Effective immediately the return to work period has been changed from 14 consecutive days to **30 consecutive days**)*

YOUR GIDIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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