



SUMMER 2026



Understanding Coordination of Benefits (COB)

Coordination of Benefits (COB) is the process used when a member is covered by more than one health plan. It determines which plan pays first (primary) and which pays second (secondary), helping to reduce out-of-pocket costs.

However, not all plans coordinate with each other.

One common misunderstanding occurs when members are enrolled in both a PPO (Preferred Provider Organization) plan and a HMO (Health Maintenance Organization) plan.

Operating Engineers Health & Welfare Fund does not coordinate its PPO plan with HMO plans (**Operating Engineers Health and Welfare Fund Rules and Regulations, Article X General Limitations and Exclusions, Section 1 D5**). This means that the secondary plan may not cover any remaining balance after the primary plan has paid. As a result, members may be responsible for unexpected out-of-pocket costs, including deductibles, co-payments, or services not covered under one of the plans.

Key details regarding coordination include:

- **Coordination Process:** If you have dual coverage, you must inform both insurers to prevent claim delays, overpayments or denials.
- **Network Constraints:** When utilizing coverage, you generally must follow the rules of each specific plan (e.g., using HMO network providers for the HMO plan).
- **Birthday Rule:** If both parents cover dependent children, the plan of the parent whose birthday (month/day) falls earlier in the calendar year is generally primary.

Summer Wellness Tips

If you love warm weather and enjoy being outdoors, make sure you follow these summer wellness tips to ensure that you stay healthy this summer. Summer is the best time to enjoy warmer weather, more time with friends and family, and fun, new activities to dive into.

Get Some Exercise

Our first summer tip is to get some exercise outdoors. There is a plethora of ways to get in swimsuit shape this season that enable you to take advantage of the sunshine, sandy beaches, and mountains. Here are some ideas:

- Take a short hiking trip- Head out into the fresh air, disconnect from the constant communication of daily life, and enjoy the nature around you while getting a great workout.
- Play a game of beach volleyball- Get some friends together to play a game or two of beach volleyball! This is a fun and interactive way to soak up some sun and get a great workout in that soft sand.
- Go for a swim- Go swimming in a local pool or take a surfing trip to the ocean! Aquatics is one of the most rewarding forms of exercise because it isn't as hard on your joints as other sports, such as running, and it works multiple muscle areas in your body.

Stay Hydrated and Use Sunscreen

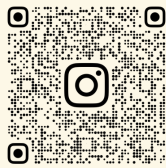
Staying active during the summer months can be exhausting, so make sure to stay hydrated. Drink plenty of water before, during, and after your workout. Also, remember to apply sunscreen several times throughout the day. Many of these activities will have you exposed to direct sunlight and it is extremely easy to catch too many rays and become a victim of the dreadful summer sunburn. In addition to being painful and uncomfortable, sunburns resulting from too much exposure to UV radiation can also contribute to the development of skin cancer. If you remember to apply some SPF 15 or higher sunscreen and reapply every two hours, you'll be on your way to a safe and fun day in the sun!

Eat a Healthy, Balanced Diet

Our last summer tip is to eat a healthy and balanced diet. Fruits and veggies are loaded with the vitamins and minerals that your body craves to stay healthy and energetic! Again, make sure you are drinking plenty of water to ensure proper hydration and circulation. Staying active, maintaining a balanced diet, and surrounding yourself with friends and family will positively influence your physical, mental, and emotional well-being and make this season one to remember.



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connect



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REMINDER

CVS Caremark Replaced Optum Rx Prescription Drug Coverage Effective January 1, 2025

All active members and retirees participating in the Operating Engineers PPO Plan (not members in the HMOs) should have received a letter announcing this change.

For more information on this, visit the Trust Fund website (www.oefi.org).



Q

I'm turning 65 and applying for Medicare. Will Operating Engineers continue to be primary for my health coverage?

A

For **Retired Members**, you will need to sign up for Medicare Part A & B then Operating Engineers will become your secondary medical coverage once your Medicare coverage is effective.

For **Active Members**, Operating Engineers will continue to be your primary medical coverage.



Coordination of Benefits with Medicare- Active Employees and Spouses

Medicare has special rules that apply to Medicare beneficiaries who are older than 65 and who have group health coverage through their own employment or the employment of a spouse. In such situations, Medicare will give you and your spouse the option to accept or reject coverage with the Fund.

If you accept coverage through this Fund, the Fund will provide benefits as the primary plan and Medicare will be the secondary payer. If you reject coverage through this Fund, Medicare will be the only health insurance payer. The Fund will provide NO benefits.

- Part A enrollment is automatic at the individual's enrollment age and no cost (usually). Individuals don't need to enroll.
- Part B requires enrollment and has a cost that rises every year. That premium is usually deducted from an individual's Social Security payment.
- If an individual enrolls for Medicare Part B later than 8 months after their enrollment point, they will be assessed a late enrollment penalty that will raise their Part B premium for life.
- *Individuals moving from Active status to Retiree status after their normal Medicare eligibility age are granted an 8-month penalty free window to enroll in Part B.*
- For individuals who do not enroll in Medicare Part B when they should, the Fund will only pay 20% of the usual & customary amount on all medical services until which time they do have Part B coverage in place.



Word Search

Ice Cream
Vacation
Outdoors
Swimsuit
Popsicle
Umbrella

Sunny
Hot
Sand
Beach
Summer
Biking

A	S	W	I	M	S	U	I	T	E	R	V
B	A	H	G	B	E	A	C	H	O	T	A
S	Q	D	O	N	N	L	E	C	P	N	C
W	A	O	N	T	E	D	C	S	O	I	A
I	G	S	U	M	M	E	R	B	P	C	T
M	B	R	U	T	U	D	E	E	S	K	I
S	I	K	H	H	D	P	A	O	I	R	O
U	K	O	S	S	R	O	M	B	C	O	N
I	I	V	T	A	O	B	O	J	L	H	U
T	N	S	U	N	N	Y	A	R	E	L	I
E	G	C	U	D	F	L	T	J	S	L	T
S	U	M	B	R	E	L	L	A	N	A	P



On the Fund's website (www.oefi.org), you can register for an account or sign-on to your account, and based on your anticipated future retirement date, you can run estimates of what your future Defined Benefit Pension benefit will be. The estimator can project your future benefit years in advance, giving you important insight into future income for your retirement planning.

If you need assistance accessing the Pension Estimator, you can call the Fund Office's Member Services Department at (866) 400-5200 and a Fund Office representative can guide you through the tool.

Change of Address Form

It is very important that the Fund Office has, in addition to your mailing address, a record of your physical address on file. Your physical address is important for Plan enrollment. Changes of address must be received by the 15th of the month in order for your pension check to be sent to your new address the following month. The Fund Office will continue to send communications to the mailing address you specify, not the physical address, if they are different. Please complete the form below:

Physical Address:

Name: _____

Reg #, OEID, Last 4 of SSN: _____

Street (Physical Address): _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Mailing Address:

Street (Mailing Address): _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Members Signature _____ Date: _____

Phone Number: _____

Please return signed form to:

Email: COA@oefi.org
Fax: (626) 356-1047
Mail: Operating Engineers Trust Funds
P.O. Box 7063
Pasadena, CA 91109-7063