

# Alaska United Food and Commercial Workers Trust Funds

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Administered by  
Welfare & Pension Administration Service, Inc.

August 20, 2013

**To: All Eligible Active and Non-Medicare Retirees**  
**Alaska United Food and Commercial Workers Health and Welfare Trust**  
**Alaska United Food and Commercial Workers Retiree Health Trust**

**Re: BridgeHealth Surgical Benefit Management Services**

***Important Information*** – Please be sure that you and your family read this notice carefully and keep it with your benefit booklet or important insurance papers for future reference.

Effective September 1, 2013, the Trust is offering another option for major surgical care, in addition to using one of the Plan's PPO hospitals, Providence Alaska Medical Center in Anchorage, Mat Su Regional Medical Center in Palmer or another PPO hospital and/or facility through the Beech Street/Viant Network outside of Anchorage.

BridgeHealth Surgery Benefit Management is a new program that provides access to surgical Centers of Excellence in the Lower 48 States at rates that are lower than available locally. **Travel and accommodations for you and a companion (if medically necessary) are covered and your annual deductible and copayment costs are waived** for surgery coordinated through BridgeHealth. BridgeHealth will assist you in making informed decisions based on the cost, quality, and necessity of certain surgical procedures. Savings are generated through avoidance of unnecessary procedures, shifting to less invasive procedures, utilization of high quality providers and very favorable rates.

Attached is a brochure outlining the program and BridgeHealth contact information if you would like to discuss your case with a Care Coordinator. If you have any questions concerning surgical benefits which may be available under the Plan, please contact the Administration office at (800) 478-8329, option 1.

Sincerely,

**Board of Trustees**  
**Alaska United Food and Commercial Workers Health and Welfare Trust**

S:\Mailings\Individual Trust Fund Mailings (SMM, Benefit Changes, etc.)\F45\F45-02 - Mailing - 2013 - 08.20 - BridgeHealth Surgical Benefit Management Services Eff 09.01.2013.docx/Attachment

*Receipt of this notice does not constitute a determination of benefits or your eligibility. If you wish to verify benefits or eligibility, or if you have any questions regarding medical benefit changes, please contact the Administration Office at (800) 478-8329, option 1.*

# About to schedule surgery? Wait! Make sure you get the care you deserve.

Specialty  
procedures

Hip

Heart

Shoulder

Knee

Spine

You may qualify for up to **100% coverage** on many planned procedures. This could significantly reduce your out-of-pocket expenses!

## How it works

BridgeHealth Medical is a part of your employee medical benefit plan. When you use BridgeHealth to facilitate surgery, you get top quality care *and* significant savings...**at no additional cost to you.**

## To qualify, you must schedule surgery through BridgeHealth Medical

- **Contact BridgeHealth** by phone: 1-888-387-3909; by e-mail: ClientCenter@BridgeHealthMedical.com, or online: www.BridgeHealthMedical.com.
- **Speak with a dedicated Care Coordinator**, who can help you locate top-quality providers. They'll also help you understand why quality is so important when it comes to surgery.
- **Discuss your BridgeHealth surgery provider options.**
- A **Care Coordinator** will forward medical records to a BridgeHealth provider for review.
- **Relax and let the Care Coordinators handle all of the details.**



**Before scheduling surgery,  
contact BridgeHealth.**

## Don't forget, there may be viable alternatives to surgery.

As many as 40% of surgical procedures may be unnecessary. Before making the final determination, let BridgeHealth's website provide you with:

- **Interactive tools and resources to better understand your diagnosis and treatment options.** The more you know about your condition, the better equipped you will be to make an informed decision about how to treat it.
- **Access to hospital quality ratings.** Just like surgeons, not all hospitals are equal. You can feel confident that your procedure is performed at a top-quality surgical facility, greatly reducing the risk of complications.



Visit [www.BridgeHealthMedical.com](http://www.BridgeHealthMedical.com) and register today!

Your unique company  
code is: UFCWA

[www.BridgeHealthMedical.com](http://www.BridgeHealthMedical.com) | 1-888-387-3909