

**To: All Active Full Time Members Covered by the UCE of FIT Welfare Trust Fund**

**Date: March 1, 2016**

**Re: Member Contributions**

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In order to cope with the soaring prices of so-called “specialty drugs” and keep the Fund solvent in the near term while a permanent and sustainable solution to this problem continues to be sought, effective May 1, 2016, the Fund must implement the following modified member contributions through automatic payroll deductions:

- Individual member = an increase of \$10 for a total of **\$30 per pay period**
- Family = an increase of \$20 for a total of **\$40 per pay period** [This “family” rate applies if the member has at least one covered dependent (spouse/domestic partner, child) and is the same no matter how many covered dependents the member has; i.e. it is \$40 if you have 1, 2, 3, 4, etc. covered dependents.]

**Why is this Change Being Made?**

As you know, from previous correspondence and member meetings, for several years the Fund has incurred unsustainable budget deficits driven by very expensive specialty medications, which in some instances can cost almost \$30,000 for a 30-day supply. Exorbitant costs such as these caused by the practices of the pharmaceutical industry, have wreaked havoc on the finite resources of the Fund and endangered its survival. In addition, the contributions from the City of New York currently paid to the Fund are inadequate to keep pace with these costs and have not been increased in several years.

The Union and Fund have been working with the College to address this dilemma and some measures have been put in place to slow the erosion of the Fund’s reserves. As part of these efforts, the Fund and College partnered in 2015, and now again in 2016, to share some of the costs of the most expensive medications. However, these steps alone are not sufficient to keep the Fund above water until a permanent solution is found. Therefore, additional employee contributions are needed to help keep the Fund afloat so that it may continue to provide benefits to all covered members and their dependents. If you have any questions regarding this issue please contact the Welfare Trust Fund office at (212) 217 3377.

Your understanding is appreciated.



Ellen Lynch, Chairperson

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