



update

# NSTU TOTAL CARE MEDICAL PLAN – ORTHOPEDIC SHOES AND SHOE MODIFICATION SUPPLIES

From time to time, the NSTU Group Insurance Trustees receive inquiries with respect to the Orthopedic Shoes and Shoe Modification Supplies Benefit under the Total Care Medical Plan.

To refresh your memory, below is the wording for this coverage as stated in the Insurance Profile.

## Orthopedic Shoes and Shoe Modification Supplies

Limited to one pair for any 12 consecutive month period for orthopedic shoes; \$200 for shoe modification supplies and custom moulded foot supports (orthotics) in any 12 consecutive month period, commencing with the date charges are incurred.

Only those shoes or modifications that are custom fit and designed to accommodate, relieve or remedy mechanical foot defects or abnormalities, and that are supplied by a recognized orthopedic footwear facility and not a retail shoe outlet are considered a benefit. A written prescription including diagnosis from a medical doctor is required.

Shoes purchased only to accommodate orthotics, and/or comfortable walking shoes such as Nike, Birkenstock, Brooks, Rockport, New Balance, Saucony etc. are not covered.

Where some confusion has arisen in this coverage with members is the orthopedic shoe component of this benefit. Although you may have a prescription for orthopedic shoes, the shoes must be supplied by a recognized orthopedic footwear facility approved by Medavie Blue Cross and not a retail shoe outlet. As well, the shoes must be custom fit and designed to accommodate, relieve or remedy mechanical foot defects or abnormalities. Shoes purchased to accommodate orthotics and/or comfortable walking shoes will not be covered by the NSTU Total Care Medical Plan.

Please be aware of these requirements when claiming under this benefit. If you or the provider are unsure if the shoes you are considering are eligible, the Trustees encourage you to submit a pre-determination with detailed information to Medavie Blue Cross to avoid surprises at the time of claim submission.

**If you have any questions regarding the above, please do not hesitate to contact the Administrator, Johnson Inc., at 453-9543 (local) or 1-800-453-9543 (toll-free).**