## ASSURANCE MUTUELLE CONTRE LA MALADIE ET LES ACCIDENTS DU PERSONNEL DES NATIONS UNIES



UNITED NATIONS
STAFF MUTUAL INSURANCE SOCIETY
AGAINST SICKNESS AND ACCIDENT

COMMUNICATION DU COMITE EXECUTIF

COMMUNICATION FROM THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

### PREVENTIVE CARE

The purpose of preventive care is to shift the focus of health care from treating sickness to maintaining wellness and good health. Preventive care occurs before you feel sick or notice any symptoms and is designed to prevent or delay the onset of illness and disease.

In its broadest definition, prevention includes a healthy lifestyle, exercise, diet and other similar efforts. Preventive care in a medical setting includes a variety of health care services, such as a physical examination, screenings, laboratory tests, counselling and immunizations.

The United Nations Staff Mutual Insurance Society Against Sickness and Accident (UNSMIS) has been encouraging the following medical preventive care for several years:

- Breast scans (mammography), reimbursed at 100% up to a maximum of CHF 200 and any amount thereafter reimbursed at 80%;
- PSA tests to detect prostate cancer, TSH tests to check for thyroid problems, and HIV and hepatitis C tests;
- Influenza vaccinations for all insured members are reimbursed at 100% without the need for a medical prescription on a pilot basis as of 2020;
- The Executive Committee of UNSMIS has agreed to reimburse COVID vaccines at 100%. This is a temporary measure and the Executive Committee reserves the right to review this position at a later date;
- Given the current COVID related restrictions on access to premises the blood tests for staff
  members usually carried out by the Medical Service of UNHCR and UNOG are
  momentarily suspended.

The prevention campaigns carried out over the past years have fully proved their worth. We strongly encourage insured members to make use of the medical preventive care offered by UNSMIS.

## Why Use Preventive Care?

Preventive care is important because it helps you stay healthy and access prompt treatment when necessary. It can also help reduce the overall medical expenses of the insurance plan as well as your out of pocket expenses as an insured member.

- Stay healthier and get more effective treatment Many types of screenings and tests can catch a disease before it starts. Starting treatment or lifestyle changes before a disease starts or while it is still in its early stages will help you stay healthier and/or recover more quickly.
- Pay less for medical expenses Preventive care helps lower the long-term cost of managing disease because it helps catch problems in the early stages when most

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diseases are more readily treatable. As mentioned above, this helps keep your out of pocket low, but it also helps keep overall expenses lower thus limiting potential premium increases in the future.

### **COST CONTAINMENT**

UNSMIS relies on you, our insured members, to be diligent and attentive to avoid unnecessary costs and expenses. Keeping an attentive eye on costs and avoiding providers that charge excessive fees is your duty as an insured member.

An attentive behaviour towards costs translates, long-term, into more stable monthly insurance premium deductions and a healthier long-term financial solvency of the insurance plan. A healthier long-term solvency of the plan means that generations to come will be able to enjoy the same coverage with similar benefits at a similar cost. As an insured member, you are aware that UNSMIS pays a lot of attention not merely to solidarity amongst plan members, but also to inter-generational solidarity. It is important to safeguard the long-term financial health of the plan without this being at the expense of the benefits provided. This is not possible without, amongst other things, a diligent and thoughtful use of the insurance plan by insured members.

UNSMIS would like to emphasize that attentive behaviour to cost does not equate to poorer healthcare. All we ask is that as insured members you remain vigilant to providers that over prescribe and overcharge. To help insured members navigate a sometimes-complex landscape, UNSMIS has invested significant time and effort to set up conventions and direct pay agreements with medical providers.

### **CONVENTIONS AND DIRECT PAY AGREEMENTS**

For some years now, UNSMIS has worked with the health insurance schemes of ILO, CERN and WHO to negotiate agreements with a range of health-care providers, with the aim of expanding its network of service providers who offer high-quality care at reasonable rates.

These agreements are a key component of UNSMIS's strategy to keep costs down and have without doubt exerted a restraining influence on trends in expenditure. UNSMIS has, in recent years, consistently outperformed medical inflation around the world, more specifically in Switzerland, where the bulk of UNSMIS's medical reimbursements take place.

Without prejudice to the principle that Society members are free to choose their care providers, you are urged to give some thought to the benefits offered by the providers who have entered into agreements with UNSMIS. We would like to remind you that UNSMIS is a mutual scheme: any savings that are made benefit all Society members and make it possible to keep premiums down to a reasonable level.

### New Agreement with the Magellan Group in Switzerland

UNSMIS is happy to announce that the agreement reached with the Magellan Group will go a long way to contain costs and improve the customer experience. The Magellan Group counts over 110 doctors and

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30 para-medicals (i.e. physical therapists) operating from 10 medical and imagery centres across the Léman Region from Geneva to Sion.

#### https://www.magellan.ch/en/international-insurances/

The provider has prepared a dedicated page on their website in English in addition to information in French. Aware of the international nature of UNSMIS's insured population and of the importance of being treated by someone with whom you can freely communicate, Magellan has implemented a feature on their website that allows insured members to search for physicians and therapists not only by specialty but also by language spoken. To further facilitate the client experience, contact information, and in some cases the possibility to request appointments on-line, is available on this dedicated page.

The most important feature of this new agreement is that all the doctors and therapists that are part of the Magellan group have agreed to charge the same rates they are required to charge the Swiss mandatory insurance. This will go a long way to curtail the practice of insured members being charged unreasonable fees merely because they have private insurance.

We strongly encourage all our insured members to try and make use of the services offered as this will help contain overall expenditure as well as lower your out of pocket expenses.

### New Agreements with Hospitals in Bonn

UNSMIS provides insurance coverage for a significant population based in Bonn, Germany. Over 1,300 staff members, retirees and eligible family members of the three Bonn based participating agencies, UNFCCC, UNCCD and UNV-Bonn, have chosen UNSMIS as their insurance provider of choice.

We are pleased to announce that UNSMIS has negotiated two conventions with the following hospitals:

#### Universitätsklinikum Bonn

Venusberg-Campus 1 53127 Bonn

Tel: +49 228 2870

#### **GFO Kliniken Bonn**

St. MarienSt. JosefCura HospitalRobert-Koch-Straße 1Hermannstr. 37Schülgenstraße 1553115 Bonn (Venusberg)53225 Bonn (Beuel)53604 Bad HonnefTel: 0228 505-0Tel: 0228 407-0Tel: 02224 7720

For all non-emergency hospitalizations requiring an overnight stay, insured members will not have to pay anything up front. UNSMIS will take care of settling the bill 100% and subsequently recover any out of pocket expenses. All such requests must be approved in advance by UNSMIS. If you do not get UNSMIS's prior approval, you may be liable to settle the invoice(s) and subsequently submit them to UNSMIS with proof of payment for reimbursement.

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The process to submit the direct payment request in hospitals outside of Switzerland and France has been fully automated. **Please log onto the online portal and follow the instructions.** 

### Network of HealthCare providers in Africa, Asia and Central and South America

We take this opportunity to remind you that UNSMIS recently launched a service that is geared at facilitating access to medical health care in Africa, Asia and Central and South America. Simply log into your e-claims portal and filter by region, country and specialty.

For all outpatient care, identify the provider, make an appointment, show your card and pay up front. All settled invoices can then be submitted to UNSMIS for reimbursement. In some cases, you may also be able to benefit from discounted rated.

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### **Pharmacies**

UNSMIS reimburses medicine purchased in France with a prescription from a Swiss doctor. This is important because for the same medicine, prices can be as much as 20 to 50% lower in neighbouring France than in Switzerland. UNSMIS plan members are encouraged to purchase medication in neighbouring France where possible.

UNSMIS has concluded an agreement with **Pharmacie de la Poterie** in nearby Ferney Voltaire. The pharmacy will charge UNSMIS insured members the pricing of the French social security system for the medication and there will be no charge for custody tax (from 6:30pm to 9pm) nor for emergency tax and nor assistance tax.

In addition, UNSMIS has also concluded an agreement with the Pharmacie Plus group of pharmacies the Suisse Romande region. Simply inform the pharmacist that you are insured with UNSMIS, you may be required to show proof of this (simply download the UNSMIS App and use the digital membership card) and you will benefit from the following discounts:

- 10% discount on prescribed medication whose price is below CHF 100;
- 5% discount on prescribed medication priced between CHF 100 and CHF 1,000.

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### Agreements with health care providers in Switzerland

UNSMIS is a self-insured and self-administered plan with over 32,000 insured members worldwide. Whilst all efforts are being made to expand discount agreements and direct pay agreements all over the world, the bulk of the effort, in the past, has focused on Switzerland as this is where most medical expenses emanate from as well as it being the largest concentration of UNSMIS insured members around the globe. The attached Annex lists all the hospitals with which UNSMIS has some type of agreement in place.

### **Distribution**:

UNOG, UNDP, UNICEF, WMO, UNHCR, ITC, UNV, UNFCCC, UNCCD, UNSSC, ITU Retired members

The Executive Secretary

SMIS/21/2

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### **ANNEX I**

Area(s) of specialization	Establishment	Tariff concessions
General Emergency Intensive care Maternity	Hôpital de la Tour 3, avenue J. D. Maillard 1217 Meyrin Tel. 022 719 61 11 www.latour.ch  Clinique de Carouge 1, avenue Cardinal Mermillod 1227 Carouge Tel. 022 309 45 45	Agreed rates.  Direct pay agreements for inpatient care.
General Emergency Intensive care Maternity	Les Hôpitaux universitaires de Genève (HUG) Rue Gabrielle-Perret-Gentil 4 1205 Genève Tel. 022 372 33 11 www.hug-ge.ch	Agreed rates.  Direct pay agreements for inpatient care.
Rehabilitation	Clinique Bois-Bougy Avenue bois Bougy, 8 1260 Nyon Tel. 22 436 36 36 www.bois-bougy.ch	Agreed rates.  Direct pay agreements for inpatient care.
Psychiatry Psychotherapy	Clinique la Métairie Avenue du bois Bougy 8 1260 Nyon Tel. www.lametairie.ch	Agreed rates Direct pay agreements for inpatient care.

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Clinique du Grand-Salève

Psychiatry Avenue du Grand-Salève 2

Rehabilitation 1255 Veyrier

Tel. 22 570 50 50

www.grand-saleve.ch

Agreed rates

Direct pay agreements for inpatient

care.

Hirslanden Clinique La Colline

Multidisciplinary inpatient and outpatient medical

and surgical services

Clinique La Colline

Avenue Beau-Séjour 6

1206 Geneva

Tel. 22 702 20 22

www.hirslanden.ch/en/clinique-

<u>la-colline/home.html</u>

Agreed rates.

Direct pay agreements for inpatient

care.

Hirslanden Clinique des

Maternity Gran

Paediatrics

Cardiology, oncology,

radiology and emergency

care

**Grangettes** 

Clinique des Grangettes

Chemin des Grangettes 7

1224 Chêne-Bougeries

T +41 22 305 01 11

www.hirslanden.ch/de/clinique-

des-grangettes/home.html

Agreed rates

Direct payments have to be

expressly requested.

General

Emergency

Mobile emergency and

resuscitation service (SMUR)

Hôpital de Zone de Nyon

1260 Nyon (VD)

Tel. 022 994 61 61

Agreed rates

Direct pay agreements for inpatient

care.

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General	Clinique Générale-Beaulieu	Agreed rates
Maternity	20, chemin Beau Soleil	Direct pay agreements for inpatient
	1206 Genève	care.
	Tel. 022 839 55 55	
	www.beaulieu.ch	
	Les Cliniques genevoises de	
Convalescence	Joli-Mont et de Montana	Agreed rates
Follow-up care	45, avenue Trembley	Direct pay agreements for inpatient
Short-term admissions unit	1211 Genève 19	care.
	Tel. 022 717 03 11	
General	Centre Hospitalier	Agreed rates and direct payment for
Emergency	Universitaire Vaudois (CHUV)	in- and outpatient care
Intensive care	46, rue du Bugnon	•
Rehabilitation	1011 Lausanne	
Psychiatric	Tel. 021 314 11 11	
	Hôpital ophtalmique Jules-	
	Gonin	
Eye Clinic	Avenue de France 15	Agreed rates and direct payment for
	Case postale 5143	in- and outpatient care
	1002 Lausanne	
	www.ophtalmique.ch	
	Clinique La Lignière	
Cardiovascular rehabilitation	1196 Gland (VD)	Agreed rates
Convalescent care	Tel. 022 999 64 64	Direct pay agreements for inpatient

www.lalignière.ch

care.

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General Cardiovascular rehabilitation Convalescent care	Clinique de Genolier 1272 Genolier (VD) Tel. 022 366 90 00 https://www.genolier.net/	Agreed rates Direct payments have to be expressly requested. We strongly encourage you request direct payments as this results in a 5% discount of the invoice, reducing out of pocket expenses for you and costs for UNSMIS
	The agreed rates also extend to other clinics that are part of he Swiss Medical Network Group.  These can be found on the website.	
Rehabilitation Post-surgery treatment	Clinique de Maisonneuve 60-64 Av. de Châtelaine 1219 Châtelaine Tel.+41 22 979 46 46 www.clinique-maisonneuve.ch	Agreed rates Direct pay agreements for inpatier care.
Medical and paramedical care at home	Sitex SA Chemin des Aulx 12 1228 Plan-les-Ouates Tel. 0 848 11 00 00 https://www.sitexsa.ch	Agreed rates for outpatient home care
Colorectal cancer detection Breast cancer detection	Fondation genevoise pour le dépistage du cancer (FGDC) Tel: 022 320 28 28	Preventive cancer screening (following cantonal prevention scheme.)
Laboratory Tests	UNILABS  Multiple locations <a href="https://unilabs.ch/fr">https://unilabs.ch/fr</a>	UNSMIS has agreed rates. Please always make sure your doctor clearly mentions you are insured with UNSMIS and/or make this cleat to UNILABS to benefit from preferred rates.

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Ophtalmology

Clinique de l'Œil – Onex

Avenue Bois-de-la-Chapelle 15 1213 Onex Tél. 022 879 12 34 www.monoeil.ch Agreed rates

Centre Chirurgical de l'Œil

Place de la Gare 4 1003 Lausanne Tél. 021 312 35 00 www.monoeil.ch

Centre de l'œil

460 route du Nant F-01280 Prévessin-Möens Tél. 00 33 4 50 40 03 24 www.centreoeil.fr/

Day Surgery, Consultations, Different specialties.

Groupe Médical de

Chantepoulet Rue de Chantepoulet 21 1201 Genève Tél. 022 716 30 40 http://www.gmed.ch/ Agreed rates

Day Surgery, Consultations, Different specialties.

Groupe Médical Magellan

Various locations throughout the Leman region

Agreement to provide standard LaMal rates.

https://www.magellan.ch/en/international-insurances/

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Dental care/surgery

Pure Clinic Grand-Montfleury 54 1290 Versoix Tél. 022 775 03 03 https://pureclinic.ch/

Agreed rates

Inpatient and outpatient surgical services

Clinique de La Plaine Rue Charles-Humbert 5 1205 Genève Tél. 022 595 05 05 http://www.laplaine.ch/ Agreed rates.

Direct pay agreements for inpatient care.