The Operating Engineers Local 49 Health and Welfare Fund Board of Trustees would like to announce that we will be performing a dependent audit beginning later this month. Below we have outlined what you should expect throughout this audit process and what the audit process will entail.

**What is a dependent audit?**
A dependent audit verifies that the dependents on the health plan are, in fact, eligible to receive health care benefits.

**Why are we doing a dependent audit?**
- Performing a dependent audit will ensure that the Health Fund isn’t paying for participants that aren’t eligible to receive coverage, which will save you and the Health Fund money.
- As fiduciaries of the plan, the Trustees believe this audit is important and should be done on a periodic basis to confirm that those that are covered on our plan and having claims paid by the plan are entitled to have coverage.

**What should you expect?**
If you have dependents enrolled in the Operating Engineers Local 49 Health and Welfare Fund you will receive a letter addressed to your home from HMS Employer Solutions (HMS), which will be performing the dependent audit. This letter will detail the steps and information required to keep coverage on your enrolled dependents. You will also need to provide evidence of eligibility to HMS. **Your data will only be used for confirmation of eligibility purposes.**

*Any dependent added on January 1, 2017 and up to the present will only need to participate in the audit in a limited scope. For these more recent dependent additions, HMS will only perform an audit verification of spouses to confirm the continuation of the marriage. In addition, if you have never added dependents to the Plan then you will not be required to participate in the audit.*

**What will the Dependent Audit Entail?**
- HMS will send you a letter informing you of the program process, criteria and timeline.
- The letter will ask you to supply proof of eligibility for the dependents enrolled in the health plan. This proof of eligibility will potentially include copies of birth certificates, marriage certificates, adoption records, divorce decrees, tax returns, etc. A postage paid reply envelope will be included with the letter.
- Once the proof is received by HMS, a confirmation postcard will be mailed to you.
- If you have enrolled ineligible dependents, you should notify HMS. The dependents will be removed from the health plan.
- If HMS does not receive a response from you within certain time frames, reminder letters will be sent. If you fail to respond after several opportunities to do so, the health care coverage for all enrolled dependents will be terminated. It is critical that you respond to the correspondence. Every effort will be made to reach out to ensure you do.
- If you DO NOT have family members enrolled in the plan, you will not receive a letter.

It’s important for participants to know that neither HMS nor the Operating Engineers Local 49 Health and Welfare Fund is interested in personal details. The documents are used solely to verify dependent eligibility so we can be assured that only those who are eligible for coverage under the terms of the Operating Engineers Local 49 health plan are receiving those benefits.

**Watch your mail for more information from HMS regarding this dependent audit.**