

Health & Dental Newsletter

Summer 2011

Graduate
Students' Union
University of
Toronto

Travel

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Visit:
[Greenshield.ca/
studentcentre](http://Greenshield.ca/studentcentre)

We're on the Web!
See us at:
www.utgsu.ca/insurance

Message from your Health Plan Administrator

Dear Members:

Summer is almost here, and most students' unions pretty much slow down during these months. University campuses across the nation nearly empty out as students seek summer employment and staff take vacations. For the Health and Dental Office at the GSU, however, summer is a time for planning and preparation. September, October and January are our busiest months, and we see a large number of both new and returning members so we get ready to assist them in understanding their health and dental plans.

Over the 2010-2011 academic year, the GSU Health and Dental plan ran very well.

One of our goals this year was to encourage our membership to register for Green shield's on-line services. Almost 50% of the membership has registered. By registering, you are able to access these Online Services:

- * View your benefit eligibility
- * Print personalized claim forms
- * View your profile
- * View statements/explanation of benefits information
- * View claims history
- * Sign up for Direct Deposit

Overall, the 2010-2011 academic year was a great year. The Health and Dental office will continue to ensure that we're consistently meeting the growing and varying needs of our member's health and wellness.

Shain Dhalla

To all our Graduates

If you have paid your winter fees, your coverage will end on August 31, 2011. You can apply for the 12 Month Extended Insurance during the Fall

opt-in period (Sept 1-Oct 8). Please visit the GSU website for more details after August 31st.

Congratulations and wishing you all the best.

Program starting in the summer?

Students who start their program in the summer are charged tuition and incidental fees that are applied to the upcoming academic year. Your insurance is effective Sept. 1st to Aug. 31st. If you already have alternative coverage you

can opt-out provided you do so within the required time frame. You can also purchase a family plan. Please visit the GSU website for the opt-in/opt-out dates after August 31st. For plan details, visit: GREENSHIELD.CA/STUDENTCENTRE and click on the Benefit Booklet.

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What's New

Pharmacists are fast becoming the 'go to people' for additional services...

On March 15, 2011, the Ontario government passed into law the ability for pharmacists, practicing in an accredited pharmacy, to 'extend' (which means to prescribe an additional quantity) an existing prescription under certain conditions. Narcotic or controlled drugs are not included in the enhanced scope of practice. In addition, the Ontario College of Pharmacists has approved a draft regulation for the Pharmacy Act, expanding the scope of practice of pharmacists to also include the ability to 'adapt' and 'initiate':

'Adapt' (which means to alter) the dose, dosage form, regimen, or route of administration of a drug that has been previously prescribed for a patient.

'Initiate' (which means to prescribe) a drug specified in the regulations under the authority-currently limited to 2 smoking cessation products.

The proposed regulation also outlines the duties of pharmacists with respect to administering a substance by injection or inhalation and performing a procedure on tissue below the surface of the skin.

The regulation does not include the ability for pharmacists to provide immunizations, which the Ontario College of Pharmacists is continuing to explore.

Traveling in the summer?

The GSU Health Plan provides a travel benefit - emergency sickness and accident coverage of \$5 million dollars for the first 60 days away. It starts each time you leave the province. All GSU benefits remain in effect when a student travels for any purpose out-of-country. If you will be away for more than 60 days, you can call ETFS directly at 1-800-680-3837 and request a Top-Up for the remainder of your stay. Please visit GREENSHIELD.CA/STUDENTCENTRE and click on

Travel for the ETFS detailed Travel Benefits Guide. You MUST contact the insurer below as quickly as possible when you have a medical emergency out of the province. You must give them your Policy#: 28556323 followed by your ID#: your student number. They are available to take your call 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. You can arrange direct payment if expenses are over \$200.00 Canadian.

Canada or USA 1-866-870-1898
Elsewhere collect 0-819-566-1898

Important Dates and Information

Starting August 31st please visit the Graduate Students' Union website for the following:

- Opt-In and Opt-Dates
- Link to the Opt-out Site

- Forms for Family Opt-In
- Forms for 12 Month Extension
- Link to the Greenshield Website for the Benefit Booklet for the 2011-2012 Academic year.

In Conclusion.....

As we move closer to summer, may I take this opportunity to wish you all a happy and safe summer vacation.