

# NATIONAL RAILWAY LABOR CONFERENCE

## EMPLOYEE BENEFITS DEPARTMENT

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November 1, 2023

**CONTINUED PARTICIPATION IN**  
**THE RAILROAD EMPLOYEES NATIONAL HEALTH AND WELFARE PLAN (“NH&W”)**  
**and SMART-TD Health and Welfare Plan**  
**EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2024**

**CIRCULAR NO. 504-41-65**  
**CIRCULAR NO. 843-1-35**

**TO: MEMBER ROADS AND OTHER PARTICIPATING RAILROADS**

Our Circulars of the 504-41 and 843-1 series provide information about the continuation of The Railroad Employees National Health and Welfare Plan (“NH&W”) and the SMART-TD Health and Welfare Plan and the applicable contract/premium/ payment rates.

Attached are Exhibits providing details for rates effective January 1, 2024 based on December 2023 compensated service. Exhibit 1 on page 3 provides the rates to be applied to Qualifying Employees who elect medical coverage and Exhibit 2 on page 4 provides the rates for those who opt out.

**The payment dates for the year 2024 are:**

<b><u>Payment Month</u></b>	<b><u>Due Date</u></b>	<b><u>Payment Month</u></b>	<b><u>Due Date</u></b>
January	01/16/24	July	07/15/24
February	02/15/24	August	08/15/24
March	03/14/24	September	09/16/24
April	04/15/24	October	10/15/24
May	05/15/24	November	11/14/24
June	06/13/24	December	12/16/24

The 2024 monthly inflow factor is \$5.10 per Qualifying Employee per month.

The cost to administer COBRA is also included in the rates. UnitedHealthcare will send revised monthly report forms reflecting the new payment rates as described above.

Late payment charges will accrue to payments received after the payment date. When sending an EFT, your Monthly Payment Report form should be emailed to UnitedHealthcare. Contact information will be provided on each payment form. ***Please note, any EFT received without a signed Monthly Payment Report form, or any Monthly Payment Report form received without payment, will not be processed. Wires must be received at JP Morgan Chase Bank no later than 3:00 pm Eastern Time on or before the Due Date or a late charge will apply.***

Most railroads make a single, aggregate, monthly payment that our collection agent (UnitedHealthcare) divides into contributions to The Railroad Employees NHW Plan, the SMART-TD Plan, the Railroad Employees National Early Retirement Major Benefit Plan ("ERMA") and the Railroad Employees National Vision Plan. A railroad may make one aggregate monthly payment in connection with all four plans or could choose instead to make two monthly payments: one in connection with the NHW Plan, ERMA and the NRC/UTU Plan by the payment dates specified above, and one for the Vision Plan by the last day of each month.

Runout liability payments will be required for carriers that withdraw, in whole or in part, from the Plan. Circulars of the 504-71-5, 843-8-3, and 679-29-5 series provide information about Runout Liability with respect to termination of Plan participation.

Eureka Norment

EN/dbm  
Attachments

**National Health and Welfare & SMART-TD Plans  
2024 Contract Rates and Payment Rates**

Exhibit 1

**Rates to be Applied to QEs Electing Medical Coverage (i.e., excluding opt outs)**

All Rates Shown Are Monthly Rates per QE

<b>National Health &amp; Welfare &amp; SMART-TD Plans</b>			
	<b>2023 CY</b>	<b>2024 CY</b>	<b>% Change</b>
<b><i>Non-Hospital Association Railroad Employees</i></b>			
<b><u>Other Than On-Duty Injury Coverage (FO)</u></b>			
Medical Contract Rate	\$2,119.73	\$2,157.80	1.8%
Amount Available From Trust	(\$147.30)	(\$185.37)	
Medical Payment Rate	\$1,972.43	\$1,972.43	0.0%
Life/AD&D Rate	\$12.30	\$12.30	0.0%
<b>Total FO Payment Rate</b>	<b>\$1,984.73</b>	<b>\$1,984.73</b>	<b>0.0%</b>
<b><u>Employee On-Duty Injury Coverage (AO)</u></b>			
Contract Rate	\$15.23	\$15.81	3.8%
Amount Available From Trust	(\$0.18)	(\$0.38)	
<b>Total AO Payment Rate</b>	<b>\$15.05</b>	<b>\$15.43</b>	<b>2.5%</b>
<b><u>Total NHR Payment Rate</u></b>			
Payment Rate (FO and AO benefits)	\$1,999.78	\$2,000.16	0.0%
Monthly Inflow Factor	\$4.80	\$5.10	6.3%
NRLC Administrative Fee	\$3.20	\$4.00	25.0%
<b>Total NHR Payment Rate</b>	<b>\$2,007.78</b>	<b>\$2,009.26</b>	<b>0.1%</b>
<b><i>Hospital Association Railroad Employees</i></b>			
<b><u>Other Than On-Duty Injury Coverage (FO)</u></b>			
Medical Contract Rate	\$1,505.46	\$1,543.53	2.5%
Amount Available From Trust	(\$147.30)	(\$185.37)	
Medical Payment Rate	\$1,358.16	\$1,358.16	0.0%
Life/AD&D Rate	\$12.30	\$12.30	0.0%
<b><u>Total HR Payment Rate</u></b>			
Payment Rate	\$1,370.46	\$1,370.46	0.0%
Monthly Inflow Factor	\$4.80	\$5.10	6.3%
NRLC Administrative Fee	\$3.20	\$4.00	25.0%
<b>Total HR Payment Rate</b>	<b>\$1,378.46</b>	<b>\$1,379.56</b>	<b>0.1%</b>
HR Rate Differential	\$614.27	\$614.27	0.0%
HR Dues Offset	\$614.10	\$614.10	0.0%

**National Health and Welfare & SMART-TD Plans  
2024 Contract Rates and Payment Rates**

**Rates to be Applied to QEs Opting Out of Medical Coverage**

All Rates Shown Are Monthly Rates per QE

<b>National Health &amp; Welfare &amp; SMART-TD Plans</b>			
	2023 CY	2024 CY	%
			Change
<b><i>Non-Hospital Association Railroad Employees</i></b>			
<b><u>Life/AD&amp;D Rate</u></b>			
Life/AD&D Rate	\$12.30	\$12.30	0.0%
<b><u>Employee On-Duty Injury Coverage</u></b>			
Contract Rate	\$15.23	\$15.81	3.8%
Amount Available From Trust	(\$0.18)	(\$0.38)	
<b>Total AO Payment Rate</b>	<b>\$15.05</b>	<b>\$15.43</b>	<b>2.5%</b>
<b><u>Total NHR Payment Rate</u></b>			
Life/AD&D and AO Payment Rate	\$27.35	\$27.73	1.4%
NRLC Administrative Fee	\$3.20	\$4.00	25.0%
<b>Total NHR Payment Rate</b>	<b>\$30.55</b>	<b>\$31.73</b>	<b>3.9%</b>
<b><i>Hospital Association Railroad Employees</i></b>			
<b><u>Life/AD&amp;D Rate</u></b>			
Life/AD&D Rate	\$12.30	\$12.30	0.0%
<b><u>Total HR Payment Rate</u></b>			
Life/AD&D	\$12.30	\$12.30	0.0%
NRLC Administrative Fee	\$3.20	\$4.00	25.0%
<b>Total HR Payment Rate</b>	<b>\$15.50</b>	<b>\$16.30</b>	<b>5.2%</b>

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November 1, 2023

**CONTINUED PARTICIPATION IN**  
**THE RAILROAD EMPLOYEES NATIONAL EARLY RETIREMENT**  
**MAJOR MEDICAL BENEFIT PLAN (“ERMA”)**  
**EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2024**

**CIRCULAR NO. 679-2-60**

TO: MEMBER ROADS AND OTHER PARTICIPATING RAILROADS

Our Circulars of the 679-2 series provide information about the continuation of The Railroad Employees National Early Retirement Major Medical Benefit Plan ("ERMA"), and the applicable Payment Rates. The Payment Rates reflected in this Circular are effective January 1, 2024 and are intended to be in effect the entire calendar year.

The Early Retirement Major Medical Benefit Plan is separate from The Railroad Employees National Health and Welfare Plan and the SMART-TD Health & Welfare Plan and the remittances to UnitedHealthcare with respect to the plans are identified separately. However, remittances under ERMA are calculated on the same per employee per month basis as the combined health and welfare plans which include those Qualifying Employees who have opted out.

The new *Employer Payment Rate* per qualifying employee per month for Non-Hospital Roads is **\$48.95**, and for Hospital Roads **\$25.84**. The Hospital Association dues offset will be **\$23.11** per employee per month.

The ERMA payment will be due the same date as the health and welfare plan payments.

**The payment dates for the year 2024 are:**

<b><u>Payment Month</u></b>	<b><u>Due Date</u></b>	<b><u>Payment Month</u></b>	<b><u>Due Date</u></b>
January	01/16/24	July	07/15/24
February	02/15/24	August	08/15/24
March	03/14/24	September	09/16/24
April	04/15/24	October	10/15/24
May	05/15/24	November	11/14/24
June	06/13/24	December	12/16/24

UnitedHealthcare will send revised monthly report forms reflecting the new payment schedule. Attached is a table providing details.

Eureka Norment

**National Early Retirement Major Medical Benefit Plan (ERMA)  
2024 Contract Rates and Payment Rates**

**Rates to be applied to Total QEs (including opt outs)**

All Rates Shown Are Monthly Rates per QE

<b>ERMA</b>			
	<b>2023 CY</b>	<b>2024 CY</b>	<b>% Change</b>
<b><i>Non-Hospital Association Railroad Employees</i></b>			
<b>Payment Rate</b>	<b>\$65.94</b>	<b>\$48.95</b>	<b>-25.8%</b>
<b><i>Hospital Association Railroad Employees</i></b>			
<b>Payment Rate</b>	<b>\$34.81</b>	<b>\$25.84</b>	<b>-25.8%</b>
HR Dues Offset	\$31.13	\$23.11	-25.8%

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November 1, 2023

**CONTINUED PARTICIPATION IN THE RAILROAD EMPLOYEES  
NATIONAL DENTAL PLAN (GP-12000)  
EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2024**

**CIRCULAR NO. 636-14-48**

TO: MEMBER ROADS AND OTHER PARTICIPATING RAILROADS

Our Circulars of the 636-14 series provide information about the continuation of the Railroad Employees National Dental Plan administered by Aetna.

The Payment Rate reflected in this Circular effective January 1, 2024 for the entire calendar year as noted in the table below. The new Payment Rate per qualifying employee per month will increase from \$69.10 to \$69.15. Contributions are required for employees who have rendered the Requisite Amount of Compensated Service and/or received Vacation Pay during the twelve-month waiting period for new employees. The table on the following page provides Contract and Payment Rate details.

**The payment dates for the year are:**

<b><u>Payment Month</u></b>	<b><u>Due Date</u></b>	<b><u>Payment Month</u></b>	<b><u>Due Date</u></b>
January	01/16/24	July	07/15/24
February	02/15/24	August	08/15/24
March	03/14/24	September	09/16/24
April	04/15/24	October	10/15/24
May	05/15/24	November	11/14/24
June	06/13/24	December	12/16/24

The January statement will show contributions due January 16, 2024, for *all* employees who rendered compensated service in December 2023. *Payments must be posted, and payment support received, on or before the Due Dates or late penalties will apply.* Aetna will send participating railroads billing statements which reflect the monthly Due Dates.

Eureka Norment

EN/dbm  
Attachment

## Railroad Employees National Dental Plan

### 2023 Monthly Rates

Contract Rate*	\$68.50
Offset Due to Reserves	-0.00
Administrative Services Fee	<u>+ .60</u>
Payment Rate	\$69.10

### 2024 Monthly Rates

Contract Rate*	\$68.50
Offset Due to Reserves	-0.00
Administrative Services Fee	<u>+ .65</u>
Payment Rate	\$69.15

\* Contract Rates include COBRA Administration Fee of \$0.04 per employee per month.



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November 1, 2023

### **CONTINUED PARTICIPATION IN THE SUPPLEMENTAL SICKNESS BENEFIT PLAN COVERING SHOP CRAFT EMPLOYEES EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2024**

#### **CIRCULAR NO. 592-24-94**

TO: MEMBER ROADS AND OTHER PARTICIPATING RAILROADS

Our Circulars of the 592-24 series provide information about the continuation of the above referenced Supplemental Sickness Benefit Plan.

The Payment Rates reflected in this Circular are effective January 1, 2024 and are expected to be in effect the entire calendar year. The new employer premium is due by **January 15, 2024** based on December 2023 compensated service. The 2024 Payment Rate will reduce to \$50.00 which includes \$.25 per employee per month for administrative services performed by the NRLC.

Payments must be posted by The Hartford on or before the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month. Although there is a 10 calendar day grace period, payments not paid in full by the 25<sup>th</sup> of the month, will incur late fees retroactive to the 15<sup>th</sup>. Additionally, chronic late payers (3 payments past the 25<sup>th</sup> of the month in the most recent 12-month period) may be terminated from the Plan.

The payment rate for Canadian employees will reduce to **\$50.00**. Any employer reporting Canadian employees should continue to report the number of employees separately.

You will receive payment instructions for 2024 by mid-December directly from The Hartford.

Eureka Norment

EN/dbm

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November 1, 2023

### CONTINUED PARTICIPATION IN THE SUPPLEMENTAL SICKNESS BENEFIT PLAN COVERING SIGNAL EMPLOYEES EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2024

#### CIRCULAR NO. 592-24-95

TO: MEMBER ROADS AND OTHER PARTICIPATING RAILROADS

Our Circulars of the 592-24 series provide information about the continuation of the above referenced Supplemental Sickness Benefit Plan.

The Payment Rates reflected in this Circular are effective January 1, 2024 and are expected to be in effect the entire 2024 calendar year. The new employer premium is due by **January 15, 2024** based on December 2023 compensated service. The 2024 Payment Rate will reduce to \$30.00 which includes \$.25 per employee per month for administrative services performed by the NRLC.

Payments must be posted by The Hartford on or before the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month. Although there is a 10 calendar day grace period, payments not paid in full by the 25<sup>th</sup> of the month, will incur late fees retroactive to the 15<sup>th</sup>. Additionally, chronic late payers (3 payments past the 25<sup>th</sup> of the month in the most recent 12-month period) may be terminated from the Plan.

The Payment Rate for Canadian employees will reduce to **\$30.00**. Any employer reporting Canadian employees should continue to report the number of employees separately.

You will receive payment instructions for 2024 by mid-December directly from The Hartford.

Eureka Norment

EN/dbm

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November 1, 2023

### **CONTINUED PARTICIPATION IN THE SUPPLEMENTAL SICKNESS BENEFIT PLAN COVERING MAINTENANCE OF WAY EMPLOYEES EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2024**

#### **CIRCULAR NO. 597-20-48**

TO: MEMBER ROADS AND OTHER PARTICIPATING RAILROADS

Our Circulars of the 597-20 series provide information about the continuation of the above referenced Supplemental Sickness Benefit Plan.

The Payment Rates reflected in this Circular are effective January 1, 2024 and are expected to be in effect the entire 2024 calendar year. The new employer premium is due by **January 15, 2024** based on December 2023 compensated service. The 2024 Payment Rate will reduce to \$30.00 which includes \$.25 per employee per month for administrative services performed by the NRLC.

Payments must be posted by The Hartford on or before the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month. Although there is a 10 calendar day grace period, payments not paid in full by the 25<sup>th</sup> of the month, will incur late fees retroactive to the 15<sup>th</sup>. Additionally, chronic late payers (3 payments past the 25<sup>th</sup> of the month in the most recent 12-month period) may be terminated from the Plan.

The Payment Rate for Canadian employees will reduce to **\$30.00**. Any employer reporting Canadian employees should continue to report the number of employees separately.

You will receive payment instructions for 2024 by mid-December directly from The Hartford.

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November 29, 2023

### **CONTINUED PARTICIPATION IN THE SUPPLEMENTAL SICKNESS BENEFIT PLAN COVERING YARDMASTER EMPLOYEES EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2024**

#### **CIRCULAR NO. 692-4-44**

TO: MEMBER ROADS AND OTHER PARTICIPATING RAILROADS

Our Circulars of the 692-4 series provide information about the continuation of Group Policy 9000 of the Trustmark Insurance Company for the above referenced Supplemental Sickness Benefit Plan.

The Payment Rates reflected in this Circular are effective January 1, 2024 and are expected to be in effect the entire calendar year. The new employer premium is due by **January 15, 2024** and is based on December 2023 compensated service. The 2024 Payment Rate will be **\$68.05** which includes \$.25 per employee per month for administrative services performed by the NRLC. This rate replaces the rate that was provided in Circular 692-4-43 on November 1, 2023.

Payments must be posted by Trustmark on or before the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month. Although there is a 10-calendar day grace period, payments not paid in full by the 25<sup>th</sup> of the month, will incur late fees retroactive to the 15<sup>th</sup>. Additionally, chronic late payers (3 payments past the 25<sup>th</sup> of the month in the most recent 12-month period) may be terminated from the Plan.

You will receive payment instructions for 2024 by mid-December directly from Trustmark Insurance Company.

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November 1, 2023

### CONTINUED PARTICIPATION IN THE RAILROAD EMPLOYEES NATIONAL VISION PLAN EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2024

#### CIRCULAR NO. 825-5-32

TO: MEMBER ROADS AND ALL OTHER PARTICIPATING RAILROADS

Our Circulars of the 825-5 series provide information about the continuation of the Railroad Employees National Vision Plan which is insured by EyeMed Vision Care.

The National Vision Plan is a fully insured plan. Therefore, while new employees must complete one year of service to be eligible, ***Carriers are not required to pay a premium during the one year waiting period.***

The Payment Rate reflected in this Circular is effective January 1, 2024 and will be in effect the entire calendar year. The Payment Rate for 2024 will increase from **\$8.51** to **\$8.56** per employee per month, inclusive of the \$0.40 NRLC Administrative Fee. Contributions are required for employees who have rendered the Requisite Amount of Compensated Service and/or received Vacation Pay and who have completed the one-year service requirement.

As indicated in Circular 504-41-65, dated this same date, premium payments for the Vision Plan are made to UnitedHealthcare and may be made separately by the last day of the month or aggregated along with the health and welfare plans' contributions being paid on the earlier due dates noted below.

<u>Payment Month</u>	<u>Due Date</u>	<u>Payment Month</u>	<u>Due Date</u>
January	01/16/24	July	07/15/24
February	02/15/24	August	08/15/24
March	03/14/24	September	09/16/24
April	04/15/24	October	10/15/24
May	05/15/24	November	11/14/24
June	06/13/24	December	12/16/24

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November 1, 2023

### **January 1, 2024 Health and Welfare Employee Contributions**

CIRCULAR NO. 504-101-32

TO MEMBER ROADS

The 2020 Round National Agreements provide for employee Health and Welfare cost-sharing contributions for employees to be set annually at 15% of the Carriers' current Monthly Payment Rate as defined in Article III, Part B, Section 1 of the new agreements.

Effective January 1, 2024, the employee monthly cost-sharing contribution will remain unchanged at \$309.21.

Eureka Norment