



## **SMART-TD announces enhanced benefits with new Voluntary Long-Term Disability (VLTD) Carrier**

**January 20, 2023**

SMART Transportation Division members now have the chance to get up to five times the guaranteed coverage in the Union's new VLTD plan.

Beginning March 1, 2023 Sun Life Financial will administer the VLTD Plan and provide the 24-hour coverage plan participants enjoy now, with up to \$5,000 of guaranteed approved tax-free coverage.

In the coming days, members with the current Amalgamated Plan will be receiving a detailed summary of benefits & rates, which will outline the new Plan design and provide updates on premiums, to be effective March 1, 2023. If you have any questions, please direct them to the SMART VLTD customer service hotline at **(224) 770-5328**.

As information, disability claims filed prior to March 1, 2023, will continue to be handled and underwritten by Amalgamated.

### **SunLife VLTD Plan Highlights – Members Currently Enrolled with Amalgamated Plan**

- Guaranteed continuation of coverage at existing amounts
- 12-month pre-existing condition clause is being transferred to Sun Life (time on Amalgamated Plan will be honored)
- 2-year and 5-year benefit durations will be offered by SunLife
  - Maximum Monthly Benefit ranges from \$1,000 to \$5,000
- 24-hour coverage (members are covered for both on-duty and off-duty incidents)
- Stackable with other benefits (including RRB sickness benefits) for up to **80%** of pre-disability earnings
- Benefits are not subject to repayment upon receipt of FELA and/or personal injury settlements
- Benefits paid are tax-free
- Benefits begin after 238 days (Rail) & 365 days (Bus)
  - This matches the duration of the SMART Voluntary Short Term Disability Plan, so there is no gap in coverage for members who are enrolled in both Plans

- Premiums will increase as members age
- Benefits are not portable (SMART-TD members only benefit)
- Mental illness & substance use benefits are increased to 12 months (previously limited to 3 months for mental illness, and 15 days for substance use)

For members who are not currently enrolled, an **Open Enrollment** is planned in the coming months. Additional details will be announced once those dates are confirmed.

### **Sun Life Plan Highlights – Newly Enrolled Members**

- SunLife will offer 2 Open Enrollment periods per year
  - First Open Enrollment is planned for spring 2023, and another in the fall
- **2-year Benefit Duration**
  - Guaranteed approved enrollment for up to \$2,000 in monthly benefits
  - Maximum Monthly Benefit of \$2,000
- **5-year Benefit Duration**
  - Guaranteed approved enrollment for up to \$5,000 in monthly benefits
  - Maximum Monthly Benefit of \$5,000
- 24-hour coverage (members are covered for both on-duty and off-duty incidents)
- Stackable with other benefits (including RRB sickness benefits) for up to **70%** of pre-disability earnings
- Benefits are not subject to repayment upon receipt of FELA and/or personal injury settlements
- Benefits paid are tax-free
- Benefits begin after 238 days (Rail) & 365 days (Bus)
  - This matches the duration of the SMART Voluntary Short Term Disability Plan, so there is no gap in coverage for members who are enrolled in both Plans
- Premiums will increase as members age
- Benefits are not portable (SMART-TD members only benefit)
- Mental illness & substance use benefits are increased to 12 months (previously limited to 3 months for mental illness, and 15 days for substance use)
- **Pre-existing conditions covered after 12 months of enrollment in the Plan**