



The Co-operators to present on enterprise-wide mental health initiatives and joint research project with WorldCare International, Inc. at Benefits and Pensions Monitor event

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Contact: Tina Karas, Director of Marketing
P: 617.250.5142
E: tkaras@worldcare.com

BOSTON — The Co-operators will present their enterprise-wide mental health initiatives and research findings from a joint research project with WorldCare International, Inc. on the impact of mental health second opinions during *Benefits & Pensions Monitor's* industry event "Benefits 2018," taking place on March 20, 2018, at Vantage Venues in Toronto.

The event will bring together benefit plan sponsors, group insurers, benefits consultants, pharmaceutical companies and other healthcare stakeholders. It will focus on the challenge of helping workers impacted by mental illness in a meaningful and cost-effective way. Through a company mandate, The Co-operators is focused on building sustainable communities. Because of this mandate, The Co-operators embarked on an enterprise-wide mental health initiative aimed at supporting the mental wellness of their own workplace as well as the workplaces of their group benefits clients. Because of this initiative, The Co-operators partnered with WorldCare International, Inc. to conduct a research project on the impact of mental health second opinions. During the presentation, an update on the joint research project will be provided as well as additional learnings from The Co-operator's mental health initiative.

Roger Friesen, Director, Life & Disability Claims, Co-operators Life Insurance Company, Sarah Dulong, Mental Health Claims Advisor, Co-Operators Life Insurance Company and Richard Heinzl, MD, Global Medical Director, WorldCare International, Inc., will be hosting the presentation.

"Mental health continues to be the number one cause of disability in Canada", explains Conor Quinn, Vice President Group Benefits, The Co-operators. "Supporting mental health is the right thing to do. The Co-operators is committed to providing innovative access and approaches to meaningful mental health care so that our plan members can get the expert support they need."

"WorldCare shares a deep concern about the unmet needs of people suffering from mental illness. This research is pioneering new ways to quickly provide outstanding medical guidance from top psychiatrists at the Harvard-affiliated Massachusetts General Hospital to members of the Cooperators workplace community," stated Richard Heinzl, MD, Global Medical Director, WorldCare International, Inc.

“Benefits and Pensions Monitor is fortunate to have Richard Heinzl, MD from WorldCare International Inc. return as a highlighted speaker at our March event “Benefits 2018”. Today, individuals with mental illness face ongoing struggles regarding treatments, options and even general knowledge. This is top of mind for both employees and employers. This is a topic that needs to be addressed and shared without hesitation. We are honored to have The Co-operators join Dr. Heinzl to discuss their partnered research project and mental health initiatives,” stated Kristyn Dougall, Executive Meeting & Event Manager, *Benefits and Pensions Monitor*.

To register for Benefits 2018, please visit <http://www.events.bpmmagazine.com/benefits2018/>.

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About The Co-operators

The Co-operators Group Limited is a Canadian co-operative with more than \$48 billion in assets under administration. Through its group of companies, it offers home, auto, life, group, travel, commercial and farm insurance, as well as investment products. The Co-operators is well known for its community involvement and its commitment to sustainability. The Co-operators is listed among the Best Employers in Canada by Aon Hewitt and Corporate Knights' Best 50 Corporate Citizens in Canada. For more information, visit www.cooperators.ca.

About WorldCare International, Inc.

WorldCare’s mission is to improve healthcare outcomes of patients worldwide by connecting our clients to the foremost medical experts at top-ranked U.S. hospitals. WorldCare fulfills its mission by using a unique disease management approach, which digitally recreates the experience of a patient walking into the leading medical institutions in the United States, providing the highest-touch coaching, virtual medical solutions and services available worldwide. For more information, visit www.worldcare.com.