

# Your Health Care Benefit Program



## South Suburban Benefit Cooperative Plan E

Administered by:



**BlueCross BlueShield of Illinois**

*Experience. Wellness. Everywhere.™*

A message from

## South Suburban Benefit Cooperative

This booklet describes the Health Care Plan which we provide to protect you from the financial burden of catastrophic illness or injury.

To assure the professional handling of your health care claims, we have engaged Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Illinois as Claim Administrator.

Please read the information in this benefit booklet carefully so you will have a full understanding of your health care benefits. If you want more information or have any questions about your health care benefits, please contact the Employee Benefits Department.

Sincerely,

South Suburban Benefit Cooperative

## NOTICE

**Please note that Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Illinois has contracts with many health care Providers that provide for the Claim Administrator to receive, and keep for its own account, payments, discounts and/or allowances with respect to the bill for services you receive from those Providers.**

**Please refer to the provision entitled “Claim Administrator’s Separate Financial Arrangements with Providers” in the GENERAL PROVISIONS section of this booklet for a further explanation of these arrangements.**

**Please note that the Claim Administrator has contracts, either directly or indirectly, with many prescription drug providers that provide the Claim Administrator to receive, and keep for its own account, payments, discounts and/or allowances with respect to the bill for services you receive from those providers.**

**Please refer to the provision entitled “Claim Administrator’s Separate Financial Arrangements with Prescription Drug Providers” in the GENERAL PROVISIONS section of this booklet for a further explanation of these arrangements.**

**Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Illinois provides administrative claims payment services only and does not assume any financial risk or obligation with respect to claims.**

### **WARNING, LIMITED BENEFITS WILL BE PAID WHEN NON-PARTICIPATING PROVIDERS ARE USED**

You should be aware that when you elect to utilize the services of a Non-Participating Provider for a Covered Service in non-emergency situations, benefit payments to such Non-Participating Provider are not based upon the amount billed. The basis of your benefit payment will be determined according to your policy’s fee schedule, usual and customary charge (which is determined by comparing charges for similar services adjusted to the geographical area where the services are performed), or other method as defined by the plan. **YOU CAN EXPECT TO PAY MORE THAN THE COINSURANCE AMOUNT DEFINED UNDER THIS COVERAGE AFTER THE PLAN HAS PAID ITS REQUIRED PORTION.** Non-Participating Providers may bill members for any amount up to the billed charge after the plan has paid its portion of the bill. Participating Providers have agreed to accept discounted payments for services with no additional billing to the member other than Coinsurance and deductible amounts. You may obtain further information about the participating status of professional providers and information on out-of-pocket expenses by calling the toll free telephone number on your identification card.

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## BENEFIT HIGHLIGHTS

Your health care benefits are highlighted below. However, to fully understand your benefits, it is very important that you read this entire benefit booklet.

### THE UTILIZATION REVIEW PROGRAM

A special program designed to assist you in determining the course of treatment that will maximize your benefits under this benefit booklet

Lifetime Maximum for all Benefits	\$2,000,000
Individual Deductible Per Person	\$293 per benefit period
Family Deductible Aggregate	\$586 per benefit period
Individual Out-of-Pocket Per Person Expense Limit <b>(does not apply to all services)</b>	
— Participating Provider	\$1,024 per benefit period
— Non-Participating Provider	\$2,490 per benefit period
— Non-Administrator Provider	No limit
Family Out-of-Pocket Aggregate Expense Limit	
— Participating Provider	\$2,048 per benefit period
— Non-Participating Provider	\$4,980 per benefit period
— Non-Administrator Provider	No limit
Private Duty Nursing Service Benefit Maximum	\$3,000 per month
Coordinated Home Care Program Lifetime Maximum	180 visits
Hospice Care Program Lifetime Maximum	182 days
Chiropractic and Osteopathic Manipulation Benefit Maximum	\$1,000 per benefit period
Physical Therapy Services Benefit Maximum	\$10,000 per benefit period
Occupational Therapy Benefit Maximum	\$1,000 per benefit period
Speech Therapy Benefit Maximum	\$5,000 per benefit period
Temporomandibular Joint Dysfunction and Related Disorders Benefit Period Maximum	\$1,000

Temporomandibular Joint Dysfunction and Related Disorders Lifetime Maximum	\$2,500
Outpatient Treatment of Mental Illness and Outpatient Substance Abuse Rehabilitation Treatment Benefit Period Maximum	20 visits
Inpatient Substance Abuse Rehabilitation Treatment and Inpatient Treatment of Mental Illness Benefit Period Maximum	20 days applies to Participating Providers
Combined Lifetime Maximum Inpatient Treatment of Mental Illness and Substance Abuse Rehabilitation Treatment	30 days applies to Non-Participating Providers

#### HOSPITAL BENEFITS

Payment level for Covered Services from a

**Participating Provider:**

— Inpatient Covered Services	90% of the Eligible Charge
— Coordinated Home Care Program	90% of the Eligible Charge
— Hospice Care Program	90% of the Eligible Charge
— Outpatient Covered Services	90% of the Eligible Charge
— Clinical Laboratories	100% of the Eligible Charge, no deductible
— Wellness Care	100% of the Eligible Charge, no deductible
— Outpatient Treatment of Mental Illness and Outpatient Substance Abuse Rehabilitation Treatment	90% of the Eligible Charge

Payment level for Covered Services from a

**Non-Participating Provider:**

- Inpatient Covered Services 70% of the Eligible Charge
- Coordinated Home Care Program 70% of the Eligible Charge
- Hospice Care Program 70% of the Eligible Charge
- Outpatient Covered Services 70% of the Eligible Charge
- Clinical Laboratories 70% of the Eligible Charge
- Wellness Care Not Covered
- Outpatient Treatment of Mental Illness and Outpatient Substance Abuse Rehabilitation Treatment 70% of the Eligible Charge

Payment level for Covered Services from a

**Non-Administrator Provider**

50% of the Eligible Charge

Hospital Emergency Care

Payment level for Emergency Accident Care and Emergency Medical Care

- Participating Provider 90% of the Eligible Charge
- Non-Participating Provider and Non-Administrator Provider 70% of the Eligible Charge

Emergency Room

\$50 Copayment  
(waived if admitted to the Hospital as an Inpatient immediately following emergency treatment)

**PHYSICIAN BENEFITS**

Payment level for Surgical/Medical Covered Services

- **Participating Provider** 90% of the Maximum Allowance
- **Non-Participating Provider** 70% of the Maximum Allowance

Payment level for Physician Office Visits

- Participating Provider \$20 per visit, then 100% of the Maximum Allowance, no deductible

Payment level for  
Well Child Care

- Participating Provider \$20 per visit, then 100% of the Maximum Allowance, no deductible
- Non-Participating Provider Not Covered

Payment level for Emergency  
Accident Care and Emergency  
Medical Care

- Participating Provider 90% of the Maximum Allowance
- Non-Participating Provider 70% of the Maximum Allowance

Payment level for Emergency  
Accident and Emergency  
Medical Care Office Visits

- Office visits \$20 per visit, then 100% of the Maximum Allowance, no deductible

Payment level for  
Wellness Care

- **Participating Provider** 100% of the Maximum Allowance, no deductible
- Office visits \$20 per visit, then 100% of the Maximum Allowance, no deductible
- **Non-Participating Provider** Not Covered

Payment level for Outpatient  
Treatment of Mental Illness and  
Outpatient Substance Abuse  
Rehabilitation Treatment

- **Participating Provider** 90% of the Maximum Allowance
- **Non-Participating Provider** 70% of the Maximum Allowance

Additional Surgical Opinion 100% of the Claim Charge, no deductible

**OTHER COVERED SERVICES**

Payment level 90% of the Eligible Charge or Maximum Allowance

**TO IDENTIFY NON-ADMINISTRATOR AND ADMINISTRATOR HOSPITALS OR FACILITIES, YOU SHOULD CONTACT THE CLAIM ADMINISTRATOR BY CALLING THE CUSTOMER SERVICE TOLL-FREE TELEPHONE NUMBER ON YOUR IDENTIFICATION CARD.**

**Your Outpatient Prescription Drugs are not covered through Blue Cross Blue Shield. Please check with the Human Resources Department for your current pharmacy provider.**

## DEFINITIONS SECTION

Throughout this benefit booklet, many words are used which have a specific meaning when applied to your health care coverage. These terms will always begin with a capital letter. When you come across these terms while reading this benefit booklet, please refer to these definitions because they will help you understand some of the limitations or special conditions that may apply to your benefits. If a term within a definition begins with a capital letter, that means that the term is also defined in these definitions. All definitions have been arranged in ALPHABETICAL ORDER.

**ADMINISTRATOR HOSPITAL.....SEE DEFINITION OF HOSPITAL.**

**ADMINISTRATOR PROGRAM.....**means programs for which a Hospital has a written agreement with the Claim Administrator or another Blue Cross and/or Blue Shield Plan to provide service to you at the time services are rendered to you. These programs are limited to a Partial Hospitalization Treatment Program or Coordinated Home Care Program.

**ADMINISTRATOR PROVIDER.....SEE DEFINITION OF PROVIDER.**

**ADVANCED PRACTICE NURSE.....**means Certified Clinical Nurse Specialist, Certified Nurse-Midwife, Certified Nurse Practitioner or Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist.

**AMBULANCE TRANSPORTATION.....**means local transportation in a specially equipped certified vehicle from your home, scene of accident or medical emergency to a Hospital, between Hospital and Hospital, between Hospital and Skilled Nursing Facility or from a Skilled Nursing Facility or Hospital to your home. If there are no facilities in the local area equipped to provide the care needed, Ambulance Transportation then means the transportation to the closest facility that can provide the necessary service.

**AMBULATORY SURGICAL FACILITY.....**means a facility (other than a Hospital) whose primary function is the provision of surgical procedures on an ambulatory basis and which is duly licensed by the appropriate state and local authority to provide such services.

An “Administrator Ambulatory Surgical Facility” means an Ambulatory Surgical Facility which has a written agreement with the Claim Administrator or another Blue Cross and/or Blue Shield Plan to provide services to you at the time services are rendered to you.

A “Non-Administrator Ambulatory Surgical Facility” means an Ambulatory Surgical Facility which does not meet the definition of an Administrator Ambulatory Surgical Facility.

**ANESTHESIA SERVICES.....**means the administration of anesthesia and the performance of related procedures by a Physician or a Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist which may be legally rendered by them respectively.

**AVERAGE DISCOUNT PERCENTAGE (“ADP”)**.....means a percentage discount determined by the Claim Administrator that will be applied to a Provider’s Eligible Charge for Covered Services rendered to you by Hospitals and certain other health care facilities for purposes of calculating Coinsurance amounts, deductibles, out-of-pocket maximums and/or any benefit maximums. The ADP will often vary from Claim-to-Claim. The ADP applicable to a particular Claim for Covered Services is the ADP, current on the date the Covered Service is rendered, that is determined by the Claim Administrator to be relevant to the particular Claim. The ADP reflects the Claim Administrator’s reasonable estimate of average payments, discounts and/or other allowances that will result from its contracts with Hospitals and other facilities under circumstances similar to those involved in the particular Claim, reduced by an amount not to exceed 15% of such estimate, to reflect related costs. (See provisions of this benefit booklet regarding “Claim Administrator’s Separate Financial Arrangements with Providers.”) In determining the ADP applicable to a particular Claim, the Claim Administrator will take into account differences among Hospitals and other facilities, the Claim Administrator’s contracts with Hospitals and other facilities, the nature of the Covered Services involved and other relevant factors. The ADP shall not apply to Eligible Charges when your benefits under the Health Care Plan are secondary to Medicare and/or coverage under any other group program.

**CERTIFICATE OF CREDITABLE COVERAGE.....**means a certificate disclosing information relating to your Creditable Coverage under a health care benefit program for purposes of reducing any Preexisting Condition exclusion imposed by any group health plan coverage.

**CERTIFIED CLINICAL NURSE SPECIALIST.....**means a nurse specialist who (a) is licensed under the Nursing and Advanced Practice Nursing Act; (b) has an arrangement or agreement with a Physician for obtaining medical consultation, collaboration and hospital referral and (c) meets the following qualifications:

- (i) is a graduate of an approved school of nursing and holds a current license as a registered nurse; and
- (ii) is a graduate of an advanced practice nursing program.

A “Participating Certified Clinical Nurse Specialist” means a Certified Clinical Nurse Specialist who has a written agreement with the Claim Administrator or another Blue Cross and/or Blue Shield Plan to provide services to you at the time services are rendered.

A “Non-Participating Certified Clinical Nurse Specialist” means a Certified Clinical Nurse Specialist who does not have a written agreement with the Claim Administrator or another Blue Cross and/or Blue Shield Plan to provide services to you at the time services are rendered.

CERTIFIED NURSE-MIDWIFE.....means a nurse-midwife who (a) practices according to the standards of the American College of Nurse-Midwives; (b) has an arrangement or agreement with a Physician for obtaining medical consultation, collaboration and hospital referral and (c) meets the following qualifications:

- (i) is a graduate of an approved school of nursing and holds a current license as a registered nurse; and
- (ii) is a graduate of a program of nurse-midwives accredited by the American College of Nurse Midwives or its predecessor.

A “Participating Certified Nurse-Midwife” means a Certified Nurse-Midwife who has a written agreement with the Claim Administrator or another Blue Cross and/or Blue Shield Plan to provide services to you at the time services are rendered.

A “Non-Participating Certified Nurse-Midwife” means a Certified Nurse-Midwife who does not have a written agreement with the Claim Administrator or another Blue Cross and/or Blue Shield Plan to provide services to you at the time services are rendered.

CERTIFIED NURSE PRACTITIONER.....means a nurse practitioner who (a) is licensed under the Nursing and Advanced Practice Nursing Act; (b) has an arrangement or agreement with a Physician for obtaining medical consultation, collaboration and hospital referral and (c) meets the following qualifications:

- (i) is a graduate of an approved school of nursing and holds a current license as a registered nurse; and
- (ii) is a graduate of an advanced practice nursing program.

A “Participating Certified Nurse Practitioner” means a Certified Nurse Practitioner who has a written agreement with the Claim Administrator or another Blue Cross and/or Blue Shield Plan to provide services to you at the time services are rendered.

A “Non-Participating Certified Nurse Practitioner” means a Certified Nurse Practitioner who does not have a written agreement with the Claim Administrator or another Blue Cross and/or Blue Shield Plan to provide services to you at the time services are rendered.

CERTIFIED REGISTERED NURSE ANESTHETIST or CRNA.....means a nurse anesthetist who: (a) is a graduate of an approved school of nursing and is duly licensed as a registered nurse; (b) is a graduate of an approved program of nurse anesthesia accredited by the Council of Accreditation of Nurse Anesthesia Education Programs/Schools or its predecessors; (c) has been certified by the Council of Certification of Nurse Anesthetists or its predecessors; and (d) is recertified every two years by the Council on Recertification of Nurse Anesthetists.

A “Participating Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist” means a Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist who has a written agreement with the Claim

Administrator or another Blue Cross and/or Blue Shield Plan to provide services to you at the time services are rendered.

A “Non-Participating Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist” means a Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist who does not have a written agreement with the Claim Administrator or another Blue Cross and/or Blue Shield Plan to provide services to you at the time services are rendered.

CHEMOTHERAPY.....means the treatment of malignant conditions by pharmaceutical and/or biological anti-neoplastic drugs.

CHIROPRACTOR.....means a duly licensed chiropractor.

CLAIM.....means notification in a form acceptable to the Claim Administrator that a service has been rendered or furnished to you. This notification must include full details of the service received, including your name, age, sex, identification number, the name and address of the Provider, an itemized statement of the service rendered or furnished, the date of service, the diagnosis, the Claim Charge, and any other information which the Claim Administrator may request in connection with services rendered to you.

CLAIM ADMINISTRATOR.....means Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Illinois.

CLAIM CHARGE.....means the amount which appears on a Claim as the Provider’s charge for service rendered to you, without adjustment or reduction and regardless of any separate financial arrangement between the Claim Administrator and a particular Provider. (See provisions of this benefit booklet regarding “The Claim Administrator’s Separate Financial Arrangements with Providers.”)

CLAIM PAYMENT.....means the benefit payment calculated by the Claim Administrator, after submission of a Claim, in accordance with the benefits described in this benefit booklet. All Claim Payments will be calculated on the basis of the Eligible Charge for Covered Services rendered to you, regardless of any separate financial arrangement between the Claim Administrator and a particular Provider. (See provisions of this benefit booklet regarding “The Claim Administrator’s Separate Financial Arrangements with Providers.”)

CLINICAL LABORATORY.....means a clinical laboratory which complies with the licensing and certification requirements under the Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments of 1988, the Medicare and Medicaid programs and any applicable state and local statutes and regulations.

A “Participating Clinical Laboratory” means a Clinical Laboratory which has a written agreement with the Claim Administrator or another Blue Cross and/or Blue Shield Plan to provide services to you at the time services are rendered.

A “Non-Participating Clinical Laboratory” means a Clinical Laboratory which does not have a written agreement with the Claim Administrator or

another Blue Cross and/or Blue Shield Plan provide services to you at the time services are rendered.

**CLINICAL PROFESSIONAL COUNSELOR.....**means a duly licensed clinical professional counselor.

A “Participating Clinical Professional Counselor” means a Clinical Professional Counselor who has a written agreement with the Claim Administrator or another Blue Cross and/or Blue Shield Plan to provide services to you at the time services are rendered.

A “Non-Participating Clinical Professional Counselor” means a Clinical Professional Counselor who does not have a written agreement with the Claim Administrator or another Blue Cross and/or Blue Shield Plan to provide services to you at the time services are rendered.

**CLINICAL SOCIAL WORKER.....**means a duly licensed clinical social worker.

A “Participating Clinical Social Worker” means a Clinical Social Worker who has a written agreement with the Claim Administrator or another Blue Cross and/or Blue Shield Plan to provide services to you at the time services are rendered.

A “Non-Participating Clinical Social Worker” means a Clinical Social Worker who does not have a written agreement with the Claim Administrator or another Blue Cross and/or Blue Shield Plan to provide services to you at the time services are rendered.

**COBRA.....**means those sections of the Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1985 (P.L. 99-272), as amended, which regulate the conditions and manner under which an employer can offer continuation of group health insurance to Eligible Persons whose coverage would otherwise terminate under the terms of this program.

**COINSURANCE.....**means a percentage of an eligible expense that you are required to pay towards a Covered Service.

**COMPLICATIONS OF PREGNANCY.....**means all physical effects suffered as a result of pregnancy which would not be considered the effect of normal pregnancy.

**COORDINATED HOME CARE PROGRAM.....**means an organized skilled patient care program in which care is provided in the home. Care may be provided by a Hospital’s licensed home health department or by other licensed home health agencies. You must be homebound (that is, unable to leave home without assistance and requiring supportive devices or special transportation) and you must require Skilled Nursing Service on an intermittent basis under the direction of your Physician. This program includes Skilled Nursing Service by a registered professional nurse, the services of physical, occupational and speech therapists, Hospital laboratories, and necessary medical supplies. The

program does not include and is not intended to provide benefits for Private Duty Service. It also does not cover services for activities of daily living (personal hygiene, cleaning, cooking, etc.).

An “Administrator Coordinated Home Care Program” means a Coordinated Home Care Program which has a written agreement with the Claim Administrator or another Blue Cross and/or Blue Shield Plan to provide service to you at the time service is rendered to you.

A “Non-Administrator Coordinated Home Care Program” means a Coordinated Home Care Program which does not have an agreement with the Claim Administrator or a Blue Cross Plan but has been certified as a home health agency in accordance with the guidelines established by Medicare.

**COPAYMENT.....**means a specified dollar amount that you are required to pay towards a Covered Service.

**COURSE OF TREATMENT.....**means any number of dental procedures or treatments performed by a Dentist or Physician in a planned series resulting from a dental examination in which the need for such procedures or treatments was determined.

**COVERAGE DATE.....**means the date on which your coverage under the Health Care Plan begins.

**COVERED SERVICE.....**means a service and supply specified in this benefit booklet for which benefits will be provided.

**CREDITABLE COVERAGE.....**means coverage you had under any of the following:

- (i) a group health plan.
- (ii) Health insurance coverage for medical care under any hospital or medical service policy plan, hospital or medical service plan contract, or HMO contract offered by a health insurance issuer.
- (iii) Medicare (Parts A or B of Title XVIII of the Social Security Act).
- (iv) Medicaid (Title XIX of the Social Security Act).
- (v) Medical care for members and certain former members of the uniformed services and their dependents.
- (vi) A medical care program of the Indian Health Service or of a tribal organization.
- (vii) A State health benefits risk pool.
- (viii) A health plan offered under the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program.
- (ix) A public health plan established or maintained by a State or any political subdivision of a State, the U.S. government, or a foreign country.

- (x) A health plan under Section 5(e) of the Peace Corps Act.
- (xi) State Children’s Health Insurance Program (Title XXI of the Social Security Act).

**CUSTODIAL CARE SERVICE.....**means any service primarily for personal comfort or convenience that provides general maintenance, preventive, and/or protective care without any clinical likelihood of improvement of your condition. Custodial Care Services also means those services which do not require the technical skills, professional training and clinical assessment ability of medical and/or nursing personnel in order to be safely and effectively performed. These services can be safely provided by trained or capable non-professional personnel, are to assist with routine medical needs (e.g. simple care and dressings, administration of routine medications, etc.) and are to assist with activities of daily living (e.g. bathing, eating, dressing, etc.). Custodial Care Service also means providing care on a continuous Inpatient or Outpatient basis without any clinical improvement by you.

**DENTIST.....**means a duly licensed dentist.

**DIAGNOSTIC SERVICE.....**means tests rendered for the diagnosis of your symptoms and which are directed toward evaluation or progress of a condition, disease or injury. Such tests include, but are not limited to, x-rays, pathology services, clinical laboratory tests, pulmonary function studies, electrocardiograms, electroencephalograms, radioisotope tests and electromyograms.

**DIALYSIS FACILITY.....**means a facility (other than a Hospital) whose primary function is the treatment and/or provision of maintenance and/or training dialysis on an ambulatory basis for renal dialysis patients and which is duly licensed by the appropriate governmental authority to provide such services.

An “Administrator Dialysis Facility” means a Dialysis Facility which has a written agreement with the Claim Administrator or another Blue Cross and/or Blue Shield Plan to provide services to you at the time services are rendered to you.

A “Non-Administrator Dialysis Facility” means a Dialysis Facility which does not have an agreement with the Claim Administrator or another Blue Cross and/or Blue Shield Plan but has been certified in accordance with the guidelines established by Medicare.

**DURABLE MEDICAL EQUIPMENT PROVIDER.....**means a duly licensed durable medical equipment provider.

A “Participating Durable Medical Equipment Provider” means a Durable Medical Equipment Provider who has a written agreement with the Claim Administrator or another Blue Cross and/or Blue Shield Plan to provide services to you at the time services are rendered.

A “Non-Participating Durable Medical Equipment Provider” means a Durable Medical Equipment Provider who does not have a written agreement with

the Claim Administrator or another Blue Cross and/or Blue Shield Plan to provide services to you at the time services are rendered.

**ELIGIBLE CHARGE.....**means (a) in the case of a Provider other than a Professional Provider which has a written agreement with the Claim Administrator to provide care to you at the time Covered Services are rendered, such Provider's Claim Charge for Covered Services and (b) in the case of a Provider other than a Professional Provider which does not have a written agreement with the Claim Administrator to provide care to you at the time Covered Services are rendered, the amount for Covered Services as determined by the Claim Administrator based on the following order:

- (i) the charge which is within the range of charges other similar Hospitals or facilities in similar geographic areas charge their patients for the same or similar services, as reasonably determined by the Claim Administrator, if available,
- (ii) the amount that the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services ("CMS") reimburses the Hospitals or facilities in similar geographic areas for the same or similar services rendered to members in the Medicare program, or
- (iii) the charge which the particular Hospital or facility usually charges its patients for Covered Services.

**ELIGIBLE PERSON.....**means an employee of the Employer who meets the eligibility requirements for this health and/or dental coverage, as described in the **ELIGIBILITY SECTION** of this benefit booklet.

**EMERGENCY ACCIDENT CARE.....**means the initial Outpatient treatment of accidental injuries including related Diagnostic Services.

**EMERGENCY MEDICAL CARE.....**means services provided for the initial Outpatient treatment, including related Diagnostic Services, of the sudden and unexpected onset of a medical condition that the absence of immediate medical attention would likely result in serious and permanent medical consequences.

Examples of medical conditions are: severe chest pains, convulsions or persistent severe abdominal pains.

**EMERGENCY MENTAL ILLNESS ADMISSION....**means an admission for the treatment of Mental Illness as a result of the sudden and unexpected onset of a mental condition that the absence of immediate medical treatment would likely result in serious and permanent medical consequences to oneself or others.

Examples of Mental Illness are: major depression with significant suicidal intent, psychosis with associated homicidal intent or a manic episode resulting in inability to care for oneself.

**EMPLOYER.....**means the company with which you are employed.

**ENROLLMENT DATE.....**means the first day of coverage under your Employer's health plan or, if your Employer has a waiting period prior to the effective date of your coverage, the first day of the waiting period (typically, the date employment begins).

**FAMILY COVERAGE.....**means coverage for you and your eligible dependents under the Health Care Plan.

**HOME INFUSION THERAPY PROVIDER.....**means a duly licensed home infusion therapy provider.

A "Participating Home Infusion Therapy Provider" means a Home Infusion Therapy Provider who has a written agreement with the Claim Administrator or another Blue Cross and/or Blue Shield Plan to provide services to you at the time services are rendered.

A "Non-Participating Home Infusion Therapy Provider" means a Home Infusion Therapy Provider who does not have a written agreement with the Claim Administrator or another Blue Cross and/or Blue Shield Plan to provide services to you at the time services are rendered.

**HOSPICE CARE PROGRAM PROVIDER.....**means an organization duly licensed to provide Hospice Care Program Service.

**HOSPICE CARE PROGRAM SERVICE.....**means a centrally administered program designed to provide for the physical, psychological and spiritual care for dying persons and their families. The goal of hospice care is to allow the dying process to proceed with a minimum of patient discomfort while maintaining dignity and a quality of life. Hospice Care Program Service is available in the home, Skilled Nursing Facility or special hospice care unit.

**HOSPITAL.....**means a duly licensed institution for the care of the sick which provides service under the care of a Physician including the regular provision of bedside nursing by registered nurses. It does not mean health resorts, rest homes, nursing homes, skilled nursing facilities, convalescent homes, custodial homes of the aged or similar institutions.

An "Administrator Hospital" means a Hospital which has a written agreement with the Claim Administrator or another Blue Cross and/or Blue Shield Plan to provide services to you at the time services are rendered to you.

A "Non-Administrator Hospital" means a Hospital that does not meet the definition of an Administrator Hospital.

A "Participating Hospital" means an Administrator Hospital that has an agreement with the Claim Administrator or another Blue Cross and/or Blue Shield Plan to provide Hospital services to participants in the Participating Provider Option program.

A "Non-Participating Hospital" means an Administrator Hospital that does not meet the definition of a Participating Hospital.

**INDIVIDUAL COVERAGE.....**means coverage under the Health Care Plan for yourself but not your spouse and/or dependents.

**INPATIENT.....**means that you are a registered bed patient and are treated as such in a health care facility.

**INVESTIGATIONAL or INVESTIGATIONAL SERVICES AND SUPPLIES.....**means procedures, drugs, devices, services and/or supplies which (1) are provided or performed in special settings for research purposes or under a controlled environment and which are being studied for safety, efficiency and effectiveness, and/or (2) are awaiting endorsement by the appropriate National Medical Specialty College or federal government agency for general use by the medical community at the time they are rendered to you, and (3) specifically with regard to drugs, combination of drugs and/or devices, are not finally approved by the Food and Drug Administration at the time used or administered to you.

**LONG TERM CARE SERVICES.....**means those social services, personal care services and/or Custodial Care Services needed by you when you have lost some capacity for self-care because of a chronic illness, injury or condition.

**MAINTENANCE CARE.....**means those services administered to you to maintain a level of function at which no demonstrable and/or measurable improvement of condition will occur.

**MAINTENANCE OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY, MAINTENANCE PHYSICAL THERAPY, and/or MAINTENANCE SPEECH THERAPY.....**means therapy administered to you to maintain a level of function at which no demonstrable and measurable improvement of a condition will occur.

**MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPIST (“LMFT”).....**means a duly licensed marriage and family therapist.

A “Participating Marriage and Family Therapist” means a Marriage and Family Therapist who has a written agreement with the Claim Administrator or another Blue Cross and/or Blue Shield Plan to provide services to you at the time services are rendered.

A “Non-Participating Marriage and Family Therapist” means a Marriage and Family Therapist who does not have a written agreement with the Claim Administrator or another Blue Cross and/or Blue Shield Plan to provide services to you at the time services are rendered.

**MATERNITY SERVICE.....**means the services rendered for normal pregnancy. A normal pregnancy means an intrauterine pregnancy which, through vaginal delivery, results in an infant, who is not premature or preterm. Premature or preterm means an infant born with a low birth weight, 5.5 pounds or less, or an infant born at 37 weeks or less.

**MAXIMUM ALLOWANCE.....**means the amount determined by the Claim Administrator which Participating Professional Providers have agreed to accept as payment in full for a particular Covered Service. All benefit payments for Covered Services rendered by Professional Providers, whether Participating or Non-Participating will be based on the Schedule of Maximum Allowances. These amounts may be amended from time to time by the Claim Administrator.

**MEDICAL CARE.....**means the ordinary and usual professional services rendered by a Physician or other specified Provider during a professional visit for treatment of an illness or injury.

**MEDICALLY NECESSARY.....**SEE EXCLUSIONS SECTION OF THIS BENEFIT BOOKLET.

**MEDICARE.....**means the program established by Title XVIII of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. §1395 et seq.).

**MEDICARE APPROVED or MEDICARE PARTICIPATING.....**means a Provider which has been certified or approved by the Department of Health and Human Services for participating in the Medicare program.

**MEDICARE SECONDARY PAYER or MSP.....**means those provisions of the Social Security Act set forth in 42 U.S.C. §1395 y (b), and the implemented regulations set forth in 42 C.F.R. Part 411, as amended, which regulate the manner in which certain employers may offer group health care coverage to Medicare-eligible employees, their spouses and, in some cases, dependent children.

**MENTAL HEALTH UNIT.....**means a unit established to perform preadmission review and length of stay review for Inpatient and/or Outpatient services for the treatment of Mental Illness and Substance Abuse.

**MENTAL ILLNESS.....**means those illnesses classified as disorders in the current *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders* published by the American Psychiatric Association.

**NON-ADMINISTRATOR HOSPITAL.....**SEE DEFINITION OF HOSPITAL.

**NON-ADMINISTRATOR PROVIDER.....**SEE DEFINITION OF PROVIDER.

**NON-PARTICIPATING HOSPITAL.....**SEE DEFINITION OF HOSPITAL.

**NON-PARTICIPATING PROFESSIONAL PROVIDER.....**SEE DEFINITION OF PROVIDER.

**NON-PARTICIPATING PROVIDER.....**SEE DEFINITION OF PROVIDER.

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST.....means a duly licensed occupational therapist.

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY.....means constructive therapeutic activity designed and adapted to promote the restoration of useful physical function. Occupational Therapy does not include educational training or services designed and adapted to develop a physical function.

OPTOMETRIST.....means a duly licensed optometrist.

A “Participating Optometrist” means an Optometrist who has a written agreement with the Claim Administrator or another Blue Cross and/or Blue Shield Plan to provide services to you at the time services are rendered.

A “Non-Participating Optometrist” means an Optometrist who does not have a written agreement with the Claim Administrator or another Blue Cross and/or Blue Shield Plan to provide services to you at the time services are rendered.

ORTHOTIC PROVIDER.....means a duly licensed orthotic provider.

A “Participating Orthotic Provider” means an Orthotic Provider who has a written agreement with the Claim Administrator or another Blue Cross and/or Blue Shield Plan to provide services to you at the time services are rendered.

A “Non-Participating Orthotic Provider” means an Orthotic Provider who does not have a written agreement with the Claim Administrator or another Blue Cross and/or Blue Shield Plan to provide services to you at the time services are rendered.

OUTPATIENT.....means that you are receiving treatment while not an Inpatient. Services considered Outpatient, include, but are not limited to, services in an emergency room regardless of whether you are subsequently registered as an Inpatient in a health care facility.

PARTIAL HOSPITALIZATION TREATMENT PROGRAM.....means a Claim Administrator approved planned program of a Hospital or Substance Abuse Treatment Facility for the treatment of Mental Illness or Substance Abuse Rehabilitation Treatment in which patients spend days or nights.

PARTICIPATING HOSPITAL.....SEE DEFINITION OF HOSPITAL.

PARTICIPATING PRESCRIPTION DRUG PROVIDER.....SEE DEFINITION OF PROVIDER.

PARTICIPATING PROFESSIONAL PROVIDER.....SEE DEFINITION OF PROVIDER.

PARTICIPATING PROVIDER.....SEE DEFINITION OF PROVIDER.

**PARTICIPATING PROVIDER OPTION.....**means a program of health care benefits designed to provide you with economic incentives for using designated Providers of health care services.

**PHARMACY.....**means any licensed establishment in which the profession of pharmacy is practiced.

**PHYSICAL THERAPIST.....**means a duly licensed physical therapist.

**PHYSICAL THERAPY.....**means the treatment of a disease, injury or condition by physical means by a Physician or a registered professional physical therapist under the supervision of a Physician and which is designed and adapted to promote the restoration of a useful physical function. Physical Therapy does not include educational training or services designed and adapted to develop a physical function.

**PHYSICIAN.....**means a physician duly licensed to practice medicine in all of its branches.

**PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT.....**means a duly licensed physician assistant performing under the direct supervision of a Physician, Dentist or Podiatrist and billing under such Provider.

**PODIATRIST.....**means a duly licensed podiatrist.

**PREEXISTING CONDITION.....**means any disease, illness, sickness, malady or condition for which medical advice, diagnosis, care or treatment was received or recommended by a Provider within 3 months prior to your Enrollment Date. Taking prescription drugs is considered medical treatment even if your condition was diagnosed more than 3 months before your Enrollment Date. For purposes of this definition, pregnancy or conditions based solely on genetic information are not preexisting conditions.

**PRIVATE DUTY NURSING SERVICE.....**means Skilled Nursing Service provided on a one-to-one basis by an actively practicing registered nurse (R.N.), or licensed practical nurse (L.P.N.). Private Duty Nursing is shift nursing of 8 hours or greater per day and does not include nursing care of less than 8 hours per day. Private Duty Nursing Service does not include Custodial Care Service.

**PROFESSIONAL PROVIDER.....**SEE DEFINITION OF PROVIDER.

**PROSTHETIC PROVIDER.....**means a duly licensed prosthetic provider.

A “Participating Prosthetic Provider” means a Prosthetic Provider who has a written agreement with the Claim Administrator or another Blue Cross and/ or Blue Shield Plan to provide services to you at the time services are rendered.

A “Non-Participating Prosthetic Provider” means a Prosthetic Provider who does not have a written agreement with the Claim Administrator or another Blue Cross and/or Blue Shield Plan to provide services to you at the time services are rendered.

PROVIDER.....means any health care facility (for example, a Hospital or Skilled Nursing Facility) or person (for example, a Physician or Dentist) or entity duly licensed to render Covered Services to you.

An “Administrator Provider” means a Provider which has a written agreement with the Claim Administrator or another Blue Cross and/or Blue Shield Plan to provide services to you at the time services are rendered to you.

A “Non-Administrator Provider” means a Provider that does not meet the definition of Administrator Provider unless otherwise specified in the definition of a particular Provider.

A “Participating Provider” means an Administrator Hospital or Professional Provider which has a written agreement with the Claim Administrator or another Blue Cross and/or Blue Shield Plan to provide services to participants in the Participating Provider Option program or an Administrator facility which has been designated by the Claim Administrator as a Participating Provider.

A “Non-Participating Provider” means an Administrator Hospital or Professional Provider which does not have a written agreement with the Claim Administrator or another Blue Cross and/or Blue Shield Plan to provide services to participants in the Participating Provider Option program or a facility which has not been designated by the Claim Administrator as a Participating Provider.

A “Professional Provider” means a Physician, Dentist, Podiatrist, Psychologist, Chiropractor, Optometrist, Clinical Social Worker or any Provider designated by the Claim Administrator or another Blue Cross and/or Blue Shield Plan.

A “Participating Prescription Drug Provider” means a Pharmacy that has a written agreement with the Claim Administrator or the entity chosen by the Claim Administrator to administer its prescription drug program to provide services to you at the time you receive the services.

PSYCHOLOGIST.....means a Registered Clinical Psychologist.

Registered Clinical Psychologist means a Clinical Psychologist who is registered with the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation pursuant to the Illinois “Psychologists Registration Act” or, in a state where statutory licensure exists, the Clinical Psychologist must hold a valid credential for such practice or, if practicing in a state where statutory licensure does not exist, such person must meet the qualifications specified in the definition of a Clinical Psychologist.

Clinical Psychologist means a psychologist who specializes in the evaluation and treatment of Mental Illness and who meets the following qualifications:

has a doctoral degree from a regionally accredited University, College or Professional School; and has two years of supervised experience in health services of which at least one year is post-doctoral and one year is in an organized health services program; or

is a Registered Clinical Psychologist with a graduate degree from a regionally accredited University or College; and has not less than six years as a psychologist with at least two years of supervised experience in health services.

**REGISTERED SURGICAL ASSISTANT.....**means a duly licensed certified surgical assistant, certified surgical technician, surgical assistant certified or registered nurse first assistant.

A “Participating Registered Surgical Assistant” means a Registered Surgical Assistant who has a written agreement with the Claim Administrator or another Blue Cross and/or Blue Shield Plan to provide services to you at the time services are rendered.

A “Non-Participating Registered Surgical Assistant” means a Registered Surgical Assistant who does not have a written agreement with the Claim Administrator or another Blue Cross and/or Blue Shield Plan to provide services to you at the time services are rendered.

**RENAL DIALYSIS TREATMENT.....**means one unit of service including the equipment, supplies and administrative service which are customarily considered as necessary to perform the dialysis process.

**RESPIRE CARE SERVICE.....**means those services provided at home or in a facility to temporarily relieve the family or other caregivers (non-professional personnel) that usually provide or are able to provide such services to you.

**RETAIL HEALTH CLINIC.....**means a health care clinic located in a retail setting, supermarket or Pharmacy which provides treatment of common illnesses and routine preventive health care services rendered by Certified Nurse Practitioners.

A “Participating Retail Health Clinic” means a Retail Health Clinic which has a written agreement with the Claim Administrator or another Blue Cross and/or Blue Shield Plan to provide services to you at the time services are rendered.

A “Non-Participating Retail Health Clinic” means a Retail Health Clinic which does not have a written agreement with the Claim Administrator or another Blue Cross and/or Blue Shield Plan to provide services to you at the time services are rendered.

**SKILLED NURSING FACILITY.....**means an institution or a distinct part of an institution which is primarily engaged in providing comprehensive skilled services and rehabilitative Inpatient care and is duly licensed by the appropriate governmental authority to provide such services.

An “Administrator Skilled Nursing Facility” means a Skilled Nursing Facility which has a written agreement with the Claim Administrator or another Blue Cross and/or Blue Shield Plan to provide services to you at the time services are rendered to you.

A “Non-Administrator Skilled Nursing Facility” means a Skilled Nursing Facility which does not have an agreement with the Claim Administrator or another Blue Cross and/or Blue Shield Plan but has been certified in accordance with guidelines established by Medicare.

An “Uncertified Skilled Nursing Facility” means a Skilled Nursing Facility which does not meet the definition of an Administrator Skilled Nursing Facility and has not been certified in accordance with the guidelines established by Medicare.

**SKILLED NURSING SERVICE.....**means those services provided by a registered nurse (R.N.) or licensed practical nurse (L.P.N.) which require the clinical skill and professional training of an R.N. or L.P.N. and which cannot reasonably be taught to a person who does not have specialized skill and professional training. Benefits for Skilled Nursing Service will not be provided due to the lack of willing or available non-professional personnel. Skilled Nursing Service does not include Custodial Care Service.

**SPEECH THERAPIST.....**means a duly licensed speech therapist.

**SPEECH THERAPY.....**means the treatment for the correction of a speech impairment resulting from disease, trauma, congenital anomalies or previous therapeutic processes and which is designed and adapted to promote the restoration of a useful physical function. Speech Therapy does not include educational training or services designed and adapted to develop a physical function.

**SUBSTANCE ABUSE.....**means the uncontrollable or excessive abuse of addictive substances consisting of alcohol, morphine, cocaine, heroin, opium, cannabis, and other barbiturates, amphetamines, tranquilizers and/or hallucinogens, and the resultant physiological and/or psychological dependency which develops with continued use of such addictive substances requiring Medical Care as determined by a Physician or Psychologist.

**SUBSTANCE ABUSE REHABILITATION TREATMENT.....**means an organized, intensive, structured, rehabilitative treatment program of either a Hospital or Substance Abuse Treatment Facility. It does not include programs consisting primarily of counseling by individuals other than a Physician or Psychologist, court ordered evaluations, programs which are primarily for diagnostic evaluations, mental retardation or learning disabilities, care in lieu of detention or correctional placement or family retreats.

**SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT FACILITY.....**means a facility (other than a Hospital) whose primary function is the treatment of Substance Abuse and is licensed by the appropriate state and local authority to provide such service. It does not include half-way houses, boarding houses or other facilities that provide primarily a supportive environment, even if counseling is provided in such facilities.

An “Administrator Substance Abuse Treatment Facility” means a Substance Abuse Treatment Facility which has a written agreement with the Claim Administrator or another Blue Cross and/or Blue Shield Plan to provide services to you at the time services are rendered to you.

A “Non-Administrator Substance Abuse Treatment Facility” means a Substance Abuse Treatment Facility that does not meet the definition of an Administrator Substance Abuse Treatment Facility.

**SURGERY.....**means the performance of any medically recognized, non-Investigational surgical procedure including the use of specialized instrumentation and the correction of fractures or complete dislocations and any other procedures as reasonably approved by the Claim Administrator.

**TEMPOROMANDIBULAR JOINT DYSFUNCTION AND RELATED DISORDERS.....**means jaw joint conditions including temporomandibular joint disorders and craniomandibular disorders, and all other conditions of the joint linking the jaw bone and skull and the complex of muscles, nerves and other tissues relating to that joint.

**TOTALLY DISABLED.....**means with respect to an Eligible Person, an inability by reason of illness, injury or physical condition to perform the material duties of any occupation for which the Eligible Person is or becomes qualified by reason of experience, education or training or with respect to a covered person other than an Eligible Person, the inability by reason of illness, injury or physical condition to engage in the normal activities of a person of the same age and sex who is in good health.

## ELIGIBILITY SECTION

This benefit booklet contains information about the health care benefit program for the persons who:

- Meet the definition of an Eligible Person as determined by your Employer;
- Have applied for this coverage; and
- Have received an identification card.

If you meet this description of an Eligible Person, you are entitled to the benefits of this program.

### MEDICARE ELIGIBLE COVERED PERSONS

If you meet the definition of an Eligible Person stated in the ELIGIBILITY Section above and you are eligible for Medicare and not affected by the “Medicare Secondary Payer” (MSP) laws as described below, the benefits described in the section of this benefit booklet entitled “Benefits for Medicare Eligible Covered Persons” will apply to you and to your spouse and covered dependent children (if he or she is also eligible for Medicare and not affected by the MSP laws).

A series of federal laws collectively referred to as the “Medicare Secondary Payer” (MSP) laws regulate the manner in which certain employers may offer group health care coverage to Medicare eligible employees, spouses, and in some cases, dependent children.

The statutory requirements and rules for MSP coverage vary depending on the basis for Medicare and employer group health plan (“GHP”) coverage, as well as certain other factors, including the size of the employers sponsoring the GHP. In general, Medicare pays secondary to the following:

1. GHPs that cover individuals with end-stage renal disease (“ESRD”) during the first 30 months of Medicare eligibility or entitlement. This is the case regardless of the number of employees employed by the employer or whether the individual has “current employment status.”
2. In the case of individuals age 65 or over, GHPs of employers that employ 20 or more employees if that individual or the individual’s spouse (of any age) has “current employment status.” If the GHP is a multi-employer or multiple employer plan, which has at least one participating employer that employs 20 or more employees, the MSP rules apply even with respect to employers of fewer than 20 employees (unless the plan elects the small employer exception under the statute).
3. In the case of disabled individuals under age 65, GHPs of employers that employ 100 or more employees, if the individual or a member of the individual’s family has “current employee status.” If the GHP is a multi-employer or multiple employer plan, which has at least one participating employer that employs 100 or more employees, the MSP rules apply even with respect to employers of fewer than 100 employees.

**PLEASE NOTE: SEE YOUR EMPLOYER OR GROUP ADMINISTRATOR SHOULD YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS REGARDING THE ESRD PRIMARY PERIOD OR OTHER PROVISIONS OF MSP LAWS AND THEIR APPLICATION TO YOU, YOUR SPOUSE OR ANY DEPENDENTS.**

## **YOUR MSP RESPONSIBILITIES**

In order to assist your employer in complying with MSP laws, it is very important that you promptly and accurately complete any requests for information from the Claim Administrator and/or your employer regarding the Medicare eligibility of you, your spouse and covered dependent children. In addition, if you, your spouse or covered dependent child becomes eligible for Medicare, or has Medicare eligibility terminated or changed, please contact your employer or your group administrator promptly to ensure that your Claims are processed in accordance with applicable MSP laws.

## **YOUR ID CARD**

You will receive an identification card. This card will tell you your identification number and will be very important to you in obtaining your benefits.

## **INDIVIDUAL COVERAGE**

If you have Individual Coverage, only your own expenses for Covered Services are covered, not the expenses of other members of your family.

## **FAMILY COVERAGE**

If you have Family Coverage, your health care expenses and those of your enrolled spouse and your (or your spouse's) enrolled unmarried children who are under age 26 will be covered.

Enrolled unmarried children will be covered up to age 30 if they:

- Live within the state of Illinois; and
- Have served as an active or reserve member of any branch of the Armed Forces of the United States; and
- Have received a release or discharge other than a dishonorable discharge.

The coverage for unmarried children will end on the last day of the month in which the limiting age is reached.

Any newborn children will be covered from the moment of birth. Please notify your Group Administrator within 31 days of the date of birth so that your membership records can be adjusted.

Any children who are incapable of self-sustaining employment and are dependent upon you or other care providers for lifetime care and supervision because of a handicapped condition occurring prior to reaching the limiting age will be covered regardless of age if they were covered prior to reaching the limiting age stated above.

Any children who are under your legal guardianship or who are in your custody under an interim court order of adoption or who are placed with you for adoption vesting temporary care will be covered.

This coverage does not include benefits for grandchildren (unless such children are under your legal guardianship) or foster children.

## **CHANGING FROM INDIVIDUAL TO FAMILY COVERAGE OR ADDING DEPENDENTS TO FAMILY COVERAGE**

You can change from Individual to Family Coverage or add dependents to your Family Coverage because of any of the following events:

- Marriage.
- Birth, adoption or placement for adoption of a child.
- Obtaining legal guardianship of a child.
- Loss of eligibility for other health coverage for you or your dependent if:
  - a. The other coverage was in effect when you were first eligible to enroll for this coverage;
  - b. The other coverage is not terminating for cause (such as failure to pay premiums or making a fraudulent claim); and
  - c. Where required, you stated in writing that coverage under another group health plan or other health insurance coverage was the reason for declining enrollment in this coverage.

This includes, but is not limited to, loss of coverage due to:

- a. Legal separation, divorce, cessation of dependent status, death, termination of employment, or reduction in the number of hours of employment;
  - b. In the case of HMO coverage, moving out of the HMO service area;
  - c. Reaching a lifetime limit on all benefits in another group health plan;  
or
  - d. Another group health plan no longer offering any benefits to the class of similarly situated individuals that includes you or your dependent.
- Termination of employer contributions towards your or your dependent's other coverage.
  - Exhaustion of COBRA continuation coverage or state continuation coverage.

### **When Coverage Begins**

Your Family Coverage or the coverage for your additional dependents will be effective from the date of the event if you apply for this change within 31 days of any of the following events:

- Marriage.

- Birth, adoption, or placement of adoption of a child.
- Obtaining legal guardianship of a child.

Your Family Coverage or the coverage for your additional dependents will be effective from the date you apply for coverage if you apply within 31 days of any of the following events:

- Loss of eligibility for other coverage for you or your dependent, except for loss of coverage due to reaching a lifetime limit on all benefits.
- Termination of employer contributions towards your or your dependent's other coverage.
- Exhaustion of COBRA continuation coverage or state continuation coverage.

If coverage is lost in another group health plan because a lifetime limit on all benefits is reached under that coverage and you apply for Family Coverage or to add dependents within 31 days after a claim is denied due to reaching the lifetime limit, your Family Coverage or the coverage for your additional dependents will be effective from the date your claim was denied.

### **Late Applicants**

If you do not apply for Family Coverage or to add dependents within 31 days of the event, you will have to wait until your Employer's annual open enrollment period to make those changes. Your dependents will then be subject to the Preexisting Condition waiting period as described in the Preexisting Condition Waiting Period provision of this benefit section. Such changes will be effective on a date that has been mutually agreed to by your Employer and the Claim Administrator.

### **CHANGING FROM FAMILY TO INDIVIDUAL COVERAGE**

Should you wish to change from Family to Individual Coverage, you may do this at any time. Your Group Administrator will provide you with the application and tell you the date that the change will be effective.

### **PREEXISTING CONDITION WAITING PERIOD**

Your benefits (other than for Maternity Services) are subject to a Preexisting Condition waiting period of 365 days. The Preexisting Condition waiting period will begin on the Enrollment Date for you and your eligible dependents (if Family Coverage is effective) and will continue for the number of days specified. This Preexisting Condition waiting period will also apply to each dependent (other than a newborn child, an adopted child under age 18, or a child under age 18 placed for adoption or a child under your legal guardianship if the child is enrolled within 31 days of birth, adoption, placement of adoption or legal guardianship) for whom coverage is applied for after your Coverage Date. The Preexisting Condition waiting period for such a dependent will begin on the dependent's Enrollment Date.

If you had health coverage prior to getting this coverage without a break in coverage of 63 days or more, your Preexisting Condition waiting period is reduced

by the length of time you had Creditable Coverage. You have the right to request a Certificate of Creditable Coverage from any previous health plan or insurer. The Claim Administrator will assist you in obtaining the Certificate of Creditable Coverage, if needed.

This Preexisting Condition waiting period does not apply to those persons who were members of the Health Care Plan and applied for coverage at the time that the Employer initially purchased this coverage.

## **TERMINATION OF COVERAGE**

You will no longer be entitled to the benefits described in this benefit booklet if either of the events stated below should occur.

1. If you no longer meet the previously stated description of an Eligible Person.
2. If the entire coverage of your Employer terminates.

Further, termination of the agreement between the Claim Administrator and the Employer automatically terminates your coverage as described in this benefit booklet. It is the responsibility of the Employer to notify you in the event the agreement is terminated with the Claim Administrator. Regardless of whether such notice is provided, your coverage will terminate as of the effective date of termination of the Employer's agreement with the Claim Administrator.

No benefits are available to you for services or supplies rendered after the date of termination of your coverage under the Health Care Plan described in this benefit booklet except as otherwise specifically stated in the "Extension of Benefits in Case of Termination" provisions of this benefit booklet. However, termination of the Employer agreement with the Claim Administrator and/or termination of your coverage under the Health Care Plan shall not affect any Claim for Covered Services rendered prior to the effective date of such termination.

Unless specifically mentioned elsewhere in this benefit booklet, if one of your dependents becomes ineligible, his or her coverage will end as of the date the event occurs which makes him or her ineligible (for example, date of marriage, date of divorce, date the limiting age is reached).

Other options available for Continuation of Coverage are explained in the COBRA Section of this benefit booklet.

Upon termination of your coverage under the Health Care Plan, you will be issued a Certificate of Creditable Coverage. You may request a Certificate of Creditable Coverage within 24 months of termination of your or your dependent's coverage under the Health Care Plan.

## UTILIZATION REVIEW PROGRAM

The Claim Administrator has established the Utilization Review Program to assist you in determining the course of treatment that will maximize your benefits under this Health Care Plan. The Utilization Review Program requires a review of the following Covered Services **before** such services are rendered:

- Inpatient Hospital services
- Skilled Nursing Facility services
- Services received in a Coordinated Home Care Program
- Private Duty Nursing Services

Failure to contact the Claim Administrator as required or to comply with the determinations of the Claim Administrator will result in a reduction in benefits. The toll-free telephone number for medical pre-notification is on your Blue Cross and Blue Shield identification card. Please read the provisions below very carefully.

The provisions of this section do not apply to the treatment of Mental Illness and Substance Abuse Rehabilitation Treatment. The treatment of Mental Illness and Substance Abuse Rehabilitation Treatment are subject to the provisions specified in THE CLAIM ADMINISTRATOR'S MENTAL HEALTH UNIT section of this benefit booklet.

### PREADMISSION REVIEW

- **Inpatient Hospital Preadmission Review**

**Preadmission review is not a guarantee of benefits. Actual availability of benefits is subject to eligibility and the other terms, conditions, limitations, and exclusions of the Health Care Plan as well as the Pre-existing Condition waiting period, if any.**

Whenever a nonemergency or nonmaternity Inpatient Hospital admission is recommended by your Physician, in order to receive maximum benefits under this benefit booklet, you must call the Claim Administrator's medical pre-notification number. This call must be made at least one business day prior to the Hospital admission.

If the proposed Hospital admission or health care services are determined to be not Medically Necessary, some days, services or the entire hospitalization will be denied. The Hospital and your Physician will be advised verbally of this determination, with a follow-up notification letter sent to you, your Physician and the Hospital. These letters may not be received prior to your scheduled date of admission.

- **Emergency Admission Review**

**Emergency admission review is not a guarantee of benefits. Actual availability of benefits is subject to eligibility and the other terms,**

**conditions, limitations, and exclusions of the Health Care Plan as well as the Preexisting Condition waiting period, if any.**

In the event of an emergency admission, in order to receive maximum benefits under this benefit booklet, you or someone who calls on your behalf must notify the Claim Administrator no later than two business days or as soon as reasonably possible after the admission has occurred. If the call is made any later than the specified time period, you will not be eligible for maximum benefits.

- **Pregnancy/Maternity Admission Review**

**Pregnancy/Maternity admission review is not a guarantee of benefits. Actual availability of benefits is subject to eligibility and the other terms, conditions, limitations and exclusions of this Health Care Plan.**

In the event of a maternity admission, in order to receive maximum benefits under this benefit booklet, you or someone who calls on your behalf must notify the Claim Administrator no later than two business days after the admission has occurred. If the call is made any later than the specified time period, you will not be eligible for maximum benefits.

Even though you are not required to call the Claim Administrator prior to your maternity admission, if you call the medical pre-notification number as soon as you find out you are pregnant, the Claim Administrator will provide you information on support programs to assist you during pregnancy.

- **Skilled Nursing Facility Preadmission Review**

**Skilled Nursing Facility preadmission review is not a guarantee of benefits. Actual availability of benefits is subject to eligibility and the other terms, conditions, limitations, and exclusions of the Health Care Plan as well as the Preexisting Condition waiting period, if any.**

Whenever an admission to a Skilled Nursing Facility is recommended by your Physician, in order to receive maximum benefits under this benefit booklet, you must call the Claim Administrator's medical pre-notification number. This call must be made at least one business day prior to the scheduling of the admission.

- **Coordinated Home Care Program Preadmission Review**

**Coordinated Home Care Program preadmission review is not a guarantee of benefits. Actual availability of benefits is subject to eligibility and the other terms, conditions, limitations, and exclusions of the Health Care Plan as well as the Preexisting Condition waiting period, if any.**

Whenever an admission to a Coordinated Home Care Program is recommended by your Physician, in order to receive maximum benefits under this benefit booklet, you must call the Claim Administrator's medical

pre-notification number. This call must be made at least one business day prior to the scheduling of the admission.

- **Private Duty Nursing Service Review**

**Private Duty Nursing Service review is not a guarantee of benefits. Actual availability of benefits is subject to eligibility and the other terms, conditions, limitations, and exclusions of the Health Care Plan as well as the Preexisting Condition waiting period, if any.**

Whenever Private Duty Nursing Service is recommended by your Physician, in order to receive maximum benefits under this benefit booklet, you must call the Claim Administrator's medical pre-notification number. This call must be made at least one business day prior to receiving services.

## **CASE MANAGEMENT**

Case management is a collaborative process that assists you with the coordination of complex care services. A Claim Administrator case manager is available to you as an advocate for cost-effective interventions.

Case managers are also available to you to provide assistance when you need alternative benefits. Alternative benefits will be provided only so long as the Claim Administrator determines that the alternative services are Medically Necessary and cost-effective. The total maximum payment for alternative services shall not exceed the total benefits for which you would otherwise be entitled under the Health Care Plan.

Provision of alternative benefits in one instance shall not result in an obligation to provide the same or similar benefits in any other instance. In addition, the provision of alternative benefits shall not be construed as a waiver of any of the terms, conditions, limitations, and exclusions of the Health Care Plan.

## **LENGTH OF STAY/SERVICE REVIEW**

**Length of stay/service review is not a guarantee of benefits. Actual availability of benefits is subject to eligibility and the other terms, conditions, limitations, and exclusions of the Health Care Plan as well as the Preexisting Condition waiting period, if any.**

Upon completion of the preadmission or emergency review, the Claim Administrator will send a letter to your Physician and/or the Hospital confirming that you or your representative called the Claim Administrator and that an approved length of service or length of stay was assigned.

An extension of the length of stay/service will be based solely on whether continued Inpatient care or other health care service is Medically Necessary. In the event that the extension is determined not to be Medically Necessary, the authorization will not be extended. Additional notification will be provided to your Physician and/or the Hospital regarding the denial of payment for the extension.

## **MEDICALLY NECESSARY DETERMINATION**

The decision that Inpatient care or other health care services or supplies are not Medically Necessary will be determined by the Claim Administrator. The Claim Administrator will provide notification of a decision to not authorize payment for Inpatient care or other health care services or supplies to you, your Physician, and/or the Hospital or other Provider. The notification will specify the dates, services and/or supplies that are not considered Covered Services. For further details regarding Medically Necessary care and other exclusions from coverage, see the EXCLUSIONS - WHAT IS NOT COVERED section in this benefit booklet.

**The Claim Administrator does not determine your course of treatment or whether you receive particular health care services. Decisions regarding the course of treatment and receipt of particular health care services are a matter entirely between you and your Physician. The Claim Administrator's determination of Medically Necessary care is limited to merely whether a proposed admission, continued hospitalization or other health care service is a Covered Service under the Health Care Plan.**

In the event that the Claim Administrator determines that all or any portion of an Inpatient hospitalization or other health care service is not Medically Necessary, the Claim Administrator will not be responsible for any related Hospital or other health care service charge incurred.

**Remember that the Claim Administrator's Health Care Plan does not cover the cost of hospitalization or any health care services and supplies that are not determined to be Medically Necessary. The fact that your Physician or another health care Provider may prescribe, order, recommend or approve a Hospital stay or other health care service or supply does not of itself make such hospitalization, service or supply Medically Necessary. Even if your Physician prescribes, orders, recommends, approves, or views hospitalization or other health care services or supplies as medically necessary, the Claim Administrator will not pay for the hospitalization, services or supplies unless the Claim Administrator determines it to be Medically Necessary and a Covered Service under the Health Care Plan.**

**NOTE: Keep in mind that a Medically Necessary determination does not guarantee that benefits are available. For example, it might be determined that a service is Medically Necessary, however, the Health Care Plan may limit or exclude that service. In that case, the Medically Necessary determination does not override the benefit provision in the benefit booklet.**

## **UTILIZATION REVIEW PROCEDURE**

The following information is required when you contact the Claim Administrator:

1. The name of the attending and/or admitting Physician;
2. The name of the Hospital where the admission has been scheduled and/or the location where the service has been scheduled;
3. The scheduled admission and/or service date; and
4. A preliminary diagnosis or reason for the admission and/or service.

Upon receipt of the required information, the Claim Administrator:

1. will review the information provided and seek additional information as necessary.
2. will issue a determination that the services are either Medically Necessary or are not Medically Necessary.
3. will provide notification of the determination.

## **APPEAL PROCEDURE**

If you or your Physician disagree with the determination of the Claim Administrator prior to or while receiving services, you may appeal that decision. You should call the Claim Administrator's customer service number on your identification card. Your Physician should use the contact information in the notification letter.

In some instances, the resolution of the appeal process will not be completed until your admission or service has occurred and/or your assigned length of stay/service has elapsed. If you disagree with a decision after claim processing has taken place or upon receipt of the notification letter, you may appeal that decision by having your Physician call the contact person indicated in the notification letter or by submitting a written request to:

Medical Director  
Health Care Service Corporation  
P. O. Box A3957  
Chicago, Illinois 60601

Once you have requested this review, you may submit additional information and comments on your Claim to the Claim Administrator as long as you do so within 30 days of the date you asked for a review. Also, during this 30 day period, you may review any relevant documents held by the Claim Administrator, if you request an appointment in writing.

Within 30 days of receiving your request for review, the Claim Administrator will send you its decision on the Claim. In unusual situations, an additional 15 days may be needed for the review and you will be notified of this during the first 30 day period.

## **FAILURE TO NOTIFY**

The final decision regarding your course of treatment is solely your responsibility and the Claim Administrator will not interfere with your relationship with any Provider. However, the Claim Administrator has established the Utilization Review Program for the specific purpose of assisting you in determining the course of treatment which will maximize your benefits provided under this benefit booklet.

Should you fail to notify the Claim Administrator as required in the Preadmission Review provision of this section, you will then be responsible for the first 50% up to \$1,000 per admission of the Hospital or facility charges for an eligible stay or 50% up to \$1,000 per admission of the charges for eligible Covered Services for Private Duty Nursing in addition to any deductibles, Co-payments and/or Coinsurance applicable to this benefit booklet. This amount shall not be eligible for later consideration as an unreimbursed expense under any Benefit Section of this benefit booklet nor can it be applied to your out-of-pocket expense limit, if applicable, as described in this benefit booklet.

## **MEDICARE ELIGIBLE MEMBERS**

The preadmission review provisions of this Utilization Review Program do not apply to you if you are Medicare eligible and have secondary coverage provided under the Health Care Plan.

## CLAIM ADMINISTRATOR'S MENTAL HEALTH UNIT

The Claim Administrator's Mental Health Unit has been established to perform preadmission review and length of stay review for your Inpatient Hospital services for the treatment of Mental Illness and Substance Abuse. The Mental Health Unit is staffed primarily by Physicians, Psychologists, Clinical Social Workers and registered nurses.

Failure to contact the Mental Health Unit or to comply with the determinations of the Mental Health Unit will result in a reduction of benefits. The Mental Health Unit may be reached twenty-four (24) hours a day, 7 days a week at the toll-free telephone number 1-800-851-7498. Please read the provisions below very carefully.

### PREADMISSION REVIEW

- **Inpatient Hospital Preadmission Review**

**Preadmission review is not a guarantee of benefits. Actual availability of benefits is subject to eligibility and the other terms, conditions, limitations, and exclusions of the Health Care Plan as well as the Pre-existing Condition waiting period, if any.**

Whenever a nonemergency Inpatient Hospital admission for the treatment of Mental Illness or Substance Abuse is recommended by your Physician, you must, in order to receive maximum benefits described in this benefit booklet, call the Mental Health Unit. This call must be made at least one day prior to the Hospital admission.

If the proposed Hospital admission does not meet the criteria for Medically Necessary care, it will be referred to a Physician in the Mental Health Unit. If the Mental Health Unit Physician concurs that the proposed admission does not meet the criteria for Medically Necessary care, some days or the entire hospitalization will be denied. Your Physician and the Hospital will be advised by telephone of this determination, with a follow-up notification letter sent to you, your Physician and the Hospital. The Mental Health Unit will issue these notification letters promptly. However, in some instances, these letters will not be received prior to your scheduled date of admission.

- **Emergency Mental Illness Admission Review**

**Emergency Mental Illness Admission review is not a guarantee of benefits. Actual availability of benefits is subject to eligibility and the other terms, conditions, limitations, and exclusions of the Health Care Plan as well as the Preexisting Condition waiting period, if any.**

In the event of an Emergency Mental Illness Admission, you or someone who calls on your behalf must, in order to receive maximum benefits under this benefit booklet, notify the Mental Health Unit no later than 48 hours or as soon as reasonably possible after the admission has occurred.

If the call is made any later than the specified time period, you will not be eligible for maximum benefits.

- **Partial Hospitalization Treatment Program Review**

**Partial Hospitalization Treatment Program review is not a guarantee of benefits. Actual availability of benefits is subject to eligibility and the other terms, conditions, limitations, and exclusions of the Health Care Plan as well as the Preexisting Condition waiting period, if any.**

Whenever an admission to a Partial Hospitalization Treatment Program is recommended by your Physician, you must, in order to receive maximum benefits described in this benefit booklet, call the Mental Health Unit. This call must be made at least one day prior to the admission.

- **Length of Stay Review**

**Length of stay review is not a guarantee of benefits. Actual availability of benefits is subject to eligibility and the other terms, conditions, limitations, and exclusions of the Health Care Plan as well as the Preexisting Condition waiting period, if any.**

Upon completion of the preadmission or emergency admission review, the Mental Health Unit will send you a letter confirming that you or your representative called the Mental Health Unit. A letter assigning a length of service or length of stay will be sent to your Physician and/or the Hospital.

An extension of the length of stay/service will be based solely on whether continued Inpatient care or other health care service is Medically Necessary as determined by the Mental Health Unit. In the event that the extension is determined not to be Medically Necessary, the length of stay/service will not be extended, and the case will be referred to a Mental Health Unit Physician for review.

## **MEDICALLY NECESSARY DETERMINATION**

The decision that Inpatient care or other health care services or supplies are not Medically Necessary will be determined by the Mental Health Unit. If the Mental Health Unit Physician concur that the Inpatient care or other health care services or supplies are not Medically Necessary, written notification of the decision will be provided to you, your Physician, and/or the Hospital or other Provider, and will specify the dates that are not considered Covered Services. For further details regarding Medically Necessary care and other exclusions described in this benefit booklet, see the section entitled, "EXCLUSIONS - WHAT IS NOT COVERED."

**The Mental Health Unit does not determine your course of treatment or whether you receive particular health care services. The decision regarding the course of treatment and receipt of particular health care services is a matter entirely between you and your Physician. The Mental Health Unit's determination of Medically Necessary care is limited to merely**

**whether a proposed admission, continued hospitalization or other health care service is Medically Necessary under the Health Care Plan.**

In the event that the Mental Health Unit determines that all or any portion of an Inpatient hospitalization or other health care service is not Medically Necessary, the Claim Administrator will not be responsible for any related Hospital or other health care service charge incurred.

**Remember that your Health Care Plan does not cover the cost of hospitalization or any health care services and supplies that are not Medically Necessary. The fact that your Physician or another health care Provider may prescribe, order, recommend or approve a Hospital stay or other health care service or supply does not of itself make such hospitalization, service or supply Medically Necessary. Even if your Physician prescribes, orders, recommends, approves, or views hospitalization or other health care services or supplies as Medically Necessary, the Claim Administrator will not pay for the hospitalization, services or supplies if the Mental Health Unit Physician decides they were not Medically Necessary.**

**MENTAL HEALTH UNIT PROCEDURE**

When you contact the Mental Health Unit, you should be prepared to provide the following information:

1. the name of the attending and/or admitting Provider;
2. the name of the Hospital or facility where the admission and/or service has been scheduled;
3. the scheduled admission and/or service date; and
4. a preliminary diagnosis or reason for the admission and/or service.

When you contact the Mental Health Unit, the Mental Health Unit:

1. will review the medical information provided and follow-up with the Provider;
2. may determine that the services to be rendered are not Medically Necessary.

**APPEAL PROCEDURE**

**Expedited Appeal**

If you or your Physician disagree with the determinations of the Mental Health Unit prior to or while receiving services, you or the Provider may appeal that determination by contacting the Mental Health Unit and requesting an expedited appeal. The Mental Health Unit Physician will review your case and determine whether the service was Medically Necessary. You and/or your Provider will be notified of the Mental Health Unit Physician's determination within twenty-four (24) hours or no later than the last authorized day. If you or your Provider still disagree with the Mental Health Unit Physician, you may request an appeal in writing as outlined below.

## **Written Appeal**

In some instances, the resolution of the appeal process will not be completed until your admission or service has occurred and/or your assigned length of stay/service has elapsed. If you disagree with a decision after claim processing has taken place or upon receipt of the notification letter from the Mental Health Unit, you may appeal that decision by having your Physician call the contact person indicated in the notification letter or by submitting a written request to:

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Illinois  
Appeals Coordinator  
Blue Cross and Blue Shield Mental Health Unit  
P. O. Box 805107  
Chicago, Illinois 60680-4112

You must exercise the right to this appeal as a precondition to taking any action against the Claim Administrator, either at law or in equity.

Once you have requested this review, you may submit additional information and comments on your Claim to the Claim Administrator as long as you do so within 30 days of the date you asked for a review. Also, during this 30 day period, you may review any pertinent documents held by the Claim Administrator, if you request an appointment in writing.

Within 30 days of receiving your request for review, the Claim Administrator will send you its decision on the Claim. In unusual situations, an additional 15 days may be needed for the review and you will be notified of this during the first 30 day period.

## **FAILURE TO NOTIFY**

The final decision regarding your course of treatment is solely your responsibility and the Mental Health Unit will not interfere with your relationship with any Provider. However, the Mental Health Unit has been established for the specific purpose of assisting you in maximizing your benefits as described in this benefit booklet.

Should you fail to notify the Mental Health Unit as required in the Preadmission Review provision of this section, you will then be responsible for the first 50% up to \$1,000 per admission of the Hospital charges for an eligible Hospital stay in addition to any deductibles, Copayments and/or Coinsurance applicable to this benefit booklet. This amount shall not be eligible for later consideration as an unreimbursed expense under any Benefit Section of this benefit booklet nor can it be applied to your out-of-pocket expense limit, if applicable to this benefit booklet.

## **INDIVIDUAL BENEFITS MANAGEMENT PROGRAM (“IBMP”)**

In addition to the benefits described in this benefit booklet, if your condition would otherwise require continued care in a Hospital or other health care facility, provision of alternative benefits for services rendered by a Participating Provider in accordance with an alternative treatment plan may be available to you.

Alternative benefits will be provided only so long as the Claim Administrator determines that the alternative services are Medically Necessary and cost effective. The total maximum payment for alternative services shall not exceed the total benefits for which you would otherwise be entitled under the Health Care Plan.

Provision of alternative benefits in one instance shall not result in an obligation to provide the same or similar benefits in any other instance. In addition, the provision of alternative benefits shall not be construed as a waiver of any of the terms, conditions, limitations or exclusions of the Health Care Plan.

## **MEDICARE ELIGIBLE MEMBERS**

The provisions of the CLAIM ADMINISTRATOR’S MENTAL HEALTH UNIT section do not apply to you if you are Medicare Eligible and have secondary coverage provided under the Health Care Plan.

## **THE PARTICIPATING PROVIDER OPTION**

Your Employer has chosen the Claim Administrator's "Participating Provider Option" for the administration of your Hospital and Physician benefits. The Participating Provider Option is a program of health care benefits designed to provide you with economic incentives for using designated Providers of health care services.

As a participant in the Participating Provider Option a directory of Participating Providers is available to you. You can visit the Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Illinois Web site at [www.bcbsil.com](http://www.bcbsil.com) for a list of Participating Providers. While there may be changes in the directory from time to time, selection of Participating Providers by the Claim Administrator will continue to be based upon the range of services, geographic location and cost-effectiveness of care. Notice of changes in the network will be provided to your Employer annually, or as required, to allow you to make selection within the network. However, you are urged to check with your Provider before undergoing treatment to make certain of its participation status. Although you can go to the Hospital or Professional Provider of your choice, benefits under the Participating Provider Option will be greater when you use the services of a Participating Provider.

Before reading the description of your benefits, you should understand the terms "Benefit Period" and "Deductible" as defined below.

### **YOUR BENEFIT PERIOD**

Your benefit period is a period of one year which begins on January 1st of each year. When you first enroll under this coverage, your first benefit period begins on your Coverage Date, and ends on the first December 31st following that date.

### **YOUR DEDUCTIBLE**

Each benefit period you must satisfy a \$293 deductible. In other words, after you have claims for more than \$293 of Covered Services in a benefit period, your benefits will begin. This deductible will be referred to as the program deductible.

If you have any expenses for Covered Services during the last three months of a benefit period which were or could have been applied to that benefit period's program deductible, these expenses may be applied toward the program deductible of the next benefit period.

### **FAMILY DEDUCTIBLE**

If you have Family Coverage and your family has reached the program deductible amount of \$586, it will not be necessary for anyone else in your family to meet a program deductible in that benefit period. That is, for the remainder of that benefit period, no other family members are required to meet a program deductible before receiving benefits. A family member may not apply more than the individual program deductible amount toward the family program deductible.

In any case, should two or more members of your family ever receive Covered Services as a result of injuries received in the same accident, only one program deductible will be applied against those Covered Services.

The people who were Eligible Persons at the time the Health Care Plan became effective are entitled to a special credit toward your Participating Provider program deductible for the first benefit period. This special credit applies to eligible expenses incurred for Covered Services within the prior contract's benefit period, if not completed. Such expenses can be applied toward the Participating Provider program deductible for the first benefit period under this Health Care Plan. However, this is only true if your Health Care Plan had "major medical" type coverage immediately prior to purchasing this coverage.

### **INFLATION INDEX PROVISION**

The deductible, coinsurance limit and maximum out-of-pocket expense limit is indexed each year based on the lesser of ten percent (10%) of the rate of increase in the medical component of the Consumer Price Index, as published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, during the preceding twelve (12) month period. For purposes of the Plan, the percentage increase in the medical component of the Consumer Price Index will be rounded to the closest percentage using generally accepted rounding practices (.49 round down, .50 and about round up). The base year for the purpose of this provision is 2000.

Because Plan E has calendar year deductibles and out-of-pocket expense limits, the period used for the determination of the medical component of the Consumer Price Index will be November 1st through October 31st with changes in the calendar year deductible and out-of-pocket expense limits being implemented each January 1st.

## HOSPITAL BENEFIT SECTION

Expenses for Hospital care are usually the biggest of all health care costs. Your Hospital benefits will help ease the financial burden of these expensive services. This section of your benefit booklet tells you what Hospital services are covered and how much will be paid for each of these services.

The benefits of this section are subject to all of the terms and conditions described in this benefit booklet. Your benefits are also subject to the Preexisting Condition waiting period. Please refer to the DEFINITIONS, ELIGIBILITY and EXCLUSIONS sections of this benefit booklet for additional information regarding any limitations and/or special conditions pertaining to your benefits.

In addition, the benefits described in this section will be provided only when you receive services on or after your Coverage Date and they are rendered upon the direction or under the direct care of your Physician. Such services must be Medically Necessary and regularly included in the Provider's charges.

The level of benefits paid for Hospital Covered Services is generally greater when received in an Administrator Hospital or other Administrator facility.

Remember, whenever the term "you" or "your" is used, we also mean all eligible family members who are covered under Family Coverage.

### **INPATIENT CARE**

The following are Covered Services when you receive them as an Inpatient in a Hospital.

#### **Inpatient Covered Services**

1. Bed, board and general nursing care when you are in:
  - a semi-private room
  - a private room
  - an intensive care unit
2. Ancillary services (such as operating rooms, drugs, surgical dressings and lab work)

#### **Preadmission Testing**

Benefits are provided for preoperative tests given to you as an Outpatient to prepare you for Surgery which you are scheduled to have as an Inpatient, provided that benefits would have been available to you had you received these tests as an Inpatient in a Hospital. Benefits will not be provided if you cancel or postpone the Surgery.

These tests are considered part of your Inpatient Hospital surgical stay.

## **Partial Hospitalization Treatment**

Benefits are available for this program only if it is an Administrator Program. No benefits will be provided for services rendered in a Partial Hospitalization Treatment Program which has not been approved by the Claim Administrator.

## **Coordinated Home Care**

Benefits will be provided for services under a Coordinated Home Care Program.

Your benefits under the Coordinated Home Care Program are limited to a lifetime maximum of 180 visits.

## **BENEFIT PAYMENT FOR INPATIENT HOSPITAL COVERED SERVICES**

### **Participating Provider**

When you receive Inpatient Covered Services from a Participating Provider or in an Administrator Program of a Participating Provider, benefits will be provided at 90% of the Eligible Charge after you have met your program deductible, unless otherwise specified in this benefit booklet. If you are in a private room, benefits will be limited by the Hospital's rate for its most common type of room with two or more beds.

Benefits for services under a Coordinated Home Care Program of a Participating Provider will be provided at 90% of the Eligible Charge after you have met your program deductible.

### **Non-Participating Provider**

When you receive Inpatient Covered Services from a Non-Participating Provider or in an Administrator Program of a Non-Participating Provider, benefits will be provided at 70% of the Eligible Charge, after you have met your program deductible. If you are in a private room, benefits will be limited by the Hospital's rate for its most common type of room with two or more beds.

Benefits for services under a Coordinated Home Care Program of a Non-Participating Provider will be provided at 70% of the Eligible Charge after you have met your program deductible.

### **Non-Administrator Provider**

When you receive Inpatient Covered Services from a Non-Administrator Provider, benefits will be provided at 50% of the Eligible Charge after you have met your program deductible.

Benefits for an Inpatient Hospital admission to a Non-Administrator or Non-Participating Provider resulting from Emergency Accident Care or Emergency Medical Care will be provided at the same payment level which you would have received had you been in a Participating Hospital for that portion of your Inpatient Hospital stay during which your condition is reasonably determined by the Claim Administrator to be serious and therefore not permitting your safe transfer to a Participating Hospital or other Participating Provider.

Benefits for an Inpatient Hospital admission to a Non-Administrator or Non-Participating Hospital resulting from Emergency Accident Care or Emergency Medical Care will be provided at the Non-Participating Hospital payment level or the Non-Administrator Hospital payment level (depending on the type of Provider) for that portion of your Inpatient Hospital stay during which your condition is reasonably determined by the Claim Administrator as not being serious and therefore permitting your safe transfer to a Participating Hospital or other Participating Provider.

In order for you to continue to receive benefits at the Participating Provider payment level following an emergency admission to a Non-Administrator or Non-Participating Hospital, you must transfer to a Participating Provider as soon as your condition is no longer serious.

## **OUTPATIENT HOSPITAL CARE**

The following are Covered Services when you receive them from a Hospital as an Outpatient.

### **Outpatient Hospital Covered Services**

1. Surgery and any related Diagnostic Service received on the same day as the Surgery
2. Radiation Therapy Treatments
3. Chemotherapy
4. Electroconvulsive Therapy
5. Renal Dialysis Treatments—if received in a Hospital, a Dialysis Facility or in your home under the supervision of a Hospital or Dialysis Facility
6. Diagnostic Service—when you are an Outpatient and these services are related to Surgery or Medical Care
7. Emergency Accident Care—treatment must occur within 72 hours of the accident or as soon as reasonably possible.
8. Emergency Medical Care
9. Mammograms—Benefits for one routine mammogram will be provided at the benefit payment level described in the Wellness Care provision of this benefit booklet. Benefits for mammograms, other than routine, will be provided at the same payment level as Outpatient Diagnostic Service.
10. Pap Smear Test—Benefits will be provided for an annual routine cervical smear or Pap smear test for females at the benefit payment level described in the Wellness Care provision of this benefit booklet.
11. Prostate Test and Digital Rectal Examination—Benefits will be provided for an annual routine prostate-specific antigen test and digital rectal examination for males at the benefit payment level described in the Wellness Care provision of this benefit booklet.
12. Ovarian Cancer Screening—Benefits will be provided for annual ovarian cancer screening for females using CA-125 serum tumor marker testing,

transvaginal ultrasound, and pelvic examination. Benefits will be provided at the benefit payment level described in the Wellness Care provision of this benefit booklet.

13. **Colorectal Cancer Screening**—Benefits will be provided for colorectal cancer screening as prescribed by a Physician, in accordance with the published American Cancer Society guidelines on colorectal cancer screening or other existing colorectal cancer screening guidelines issued by nationally recognized professional medical societies or federal government agencies, including the National Cancer Institute, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the American College of Gastroenterology.

Benefits for colorectal cancer screening will be provided at the benefit payment described in the Wellness Care provision of this benefit booklet. Benefits will be provided for one routine sigmoidoscopy at the benefit payment level described in the Wellness Care provision of this benefit booklet. Benefits will be provided for one routine colonoscopy at the benefit payment level described in the Wellness Care provision of this benefit booklet to persons over age 50 with a family history warranting such treatment.

Benefits for surgical procedures, such as sigmoidoscopy and colonoscopy, other than routine, will be provided at the benefit payment level for Surgery described in this benefit booklet.

14. **Bone Mass Measurement and Osteoporosis**—Benefits will be provided for bone mass measurement and the diagnosis and treatment of osteoporosis.

## **BENEFIT PAYMENT FOR OUTPATIENT HOSPITAL COVERED SERVICES**

### **Participating Provider**

Benefits will be provided at 90% of the Eligible Charge after you have met your program deductible when you receive Outpatient Hospital Covered Services from a Participating Provider.

Benefits for Clinical Laboratories will be provided at 100% of the Eligible Charge from a Participating Provider.

Benefits for Clinical Laboratories will not be subject to the program deductible.

### **Non-Participating Provider**

When you receive Outpatient Hospital Covered Services from a Non-Participating Provider, benefits will be provided at 70% of the Eligible Charge after you have met your program deductible.

Benefits for Clinical Laboratories will be provided at 70% of the Eligible Charge from a Non-Participating Provider after you have met your program deductible.

## **Non-Administrator Provider**

When you receive Outpatient Hospital Covered Services from a Non-Administrator Provider, benefits will be provided at 50% of the Eligible Charge after you have met your program deductible. Covered Services received for Emergency Accident Care and Emergency Medical Care from a Non-Administrator Provider will be paid at the same payment level which would have been paid had such services been received from a Participating Provider.

### **Emergency Care**

Benefits for Emergency Accident Care will be provided at 90% of the Eligible Charge when you receive Covered Services from a Participating Provider. Benefits for Emergency Accident Care will be provided at 70% of the Eligible Charge when you receive Covered Services from either a Non-Participating or Non-Administrator Provider.

Benefits for Emergency Accident Care will be subject to the program deductible.

Benefits for Emergency Medical Care will be provided at 90% of the Eligible Charge when you receive Covered Services from a Participating Provider. Benefits for Emergency Medical Care will be provided at 70% of the Eligible Charge when you receive Covered Services from either a Non-Participating or Non-Administrator Provider.

Benefits for Emergency Medical Care will be subject to the program deductible.

Each time you receive Covered Services in an emergency room, you will be responsible for a Copayment of \$50. If you are admitted to the Hospital as an Inpatient immediately following emergency treatment, the emergency room Copayment will be waived.

However, Covered Services received for Emergency Accident Care and Emergency Medical Care resulting from criminal sexual assault or abuse will be paid at 100% of the Eligible Charge whether or not you have met your program deductible. The emergency room Copayment will not apply.

### **WHEN SERVICES ARE NOT AVAILABLE FROM A PARTICIPATING PROVIDER (HOSPITAL)**

If you must receive Hospital Covered Services which the Claim Administrator has reasonably determined are unavailable from a Participating Provider, benefits for the Covered Services you receive from a Non-Participating Provider will be provided at the payment level described for a Participating Provider.

## PHYSICIAN BENEFIT SECTION

This section of your benefit booklet tells you what services are covered and how much will be paid when you receive care from a Physician or other specified Professional Provider.

The benefits of this section are subject to all of the terms and conditions described in this benefit booklet. Your benefits are also subject to the Preexisting Condition waiting period. Please refer to the DEFINITIONS, ELIGIBILITY and EXCLUSIONS sections of this benefit booklet for additional information regarding any limitations and/or special conditions pertaining to your benefits.

For benefits to be available under this Benefit Section, services must be Medically Necessary and you must receive such services on or after your Coverage Date.

Remember, whenever the term “you” or “your” is used, we also mean all eligible family members who are covered under Family Coverage.

### COVERED SERVICES

#### Surgery

Benefits are available for Surgery performed by a Physician, Dentist or Podiatrist. However, for services performed by a Dentist or Podiatrist, benefits are limited to those surgical procedures which may be legally rendered by them and which would be payable under this Health Care Plan had they been performed by a Physician. Benefits for oral Surgery are limited to the following services:

1. excision of tumors or cysts of the jaws, cheeks, lips, tongue, roof and floor of the mouth;
2. surgical procedures to correct accidental injuries of the jaws, cheeks, lips, tongue, roof and floor of the mouth;
3. excision of exostoses of the jaws and hard palate (provided that this procedure is not done in preparation for dentures or other prostheses); treatment of fractures of facial bone; external incision and drainage of cellulitis; incision of accessory sinuses, salivary glands or ducts; reduction of dislocation of, or excision of, the temporomandibular joints.

The following services are also part of your surgical benefits:

1. Anesthesia Services—if administered at the same time as a covered surgical procedure in a Hospital or Ambulatory Surgical Facility or by a Physician other than the operating surgeon or by a Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist. However, benefits will be provided for anesthesia services administered by oral and maxillofacial surgeons when such services are rendered in the surgeon’s office or Ambulatory Surgical Facility.

In addition, benefits will be provided for anesthesia administered in connection with dental care treatment rendered in a Hospital or Ambulatory Surgical Facility if (a) a child is age 6 and under, (b) you have a chronic

disability, or (c) you have a medical condition requiring hospitalization or general anesthesia for dental care.

2. Assist at Surgery—when performed by a Physician, Dentist or Podiatrist who assists the operating surgeon in performing covered Surgery in a Hospital or Ambulatory Surgical Facility. In addition, benefits will be provided for assist at Surgery when performed by a Registered Surgical Assistant or an Advanced Practice Nurse. Benefits will also be provided for assist at Surgery performed by a Physician Assistant under the direct supervision of a Physician, Dentist or Podiatrist.
3. Sterilization Procedures (even if they are elective).

### **Additional Surgical Opinion**

Your coverage includes benefits for an additional surgical opinion following a recommendation for elective Surgery. Your benefits will be limited to one consultation and related Diagnostic Service by a Physician. Benefits for an additional surgical opinion consultation and related Diagnostic Service will be provided at 100% of the Claim Charge. Your program deductible will not apply to this benefit. If you request, benefits will be provided for an additional consultation when the need for Surgery, in your opinion, is not resolved by the first arranged consultation.

### **Medical Care**

Benefits are available for Medical Care visits when:

1. you are an Inpatient in a Hospital, a Skilled Nursing Facility, or Substance Abuse Treatment Facility or
2. you are a patient in a Partial Hospitalization Treatment Program or Coordinated Home Care Program or
3. you visit your Physician's office or your Physician comes to your home.

No benefits are available under this Benefit Section for the treatment of Mental Illness or Outpatient Substance Abuse Rehabilitation Treatment. In addition, the treatment of Mental Illness and Substance Abuse Rehabilitation Treatment are subject to the maximums specified in the SPECIAL CONDITIONS AND PAYMENTS section of this benefit booklet.

### **Consultations**

Your coverage includes benefits for consultations. The consultation must be requested by your Physician and consist of another Physician's advice in the diagnosis or treatment of a condition which requires special skill or knowledge. Benefits are not available for any consultation done because of Hospital regulations or by a Physician who also renders Surgery or Maternity Service during the same admission.

### **Diabetes Self-Management Training and Education**

Benefits will be provided for Outpatient self-management training, education and medical nutrition therapy. Benefits will be provided if these services are

rendered by a Physician, or duly certified, registered or licensed health care professionals with expertise in diabetes management. Benefits for such health care professionals will be provided at the Benefit Payment for Other Covered Services described in the OTHER COVERED SERVICES section of this benefit booklet. Benefits for Physicians will be provided at the Benefit Payment for Physician Services described later in this benefit section.

Benefits are also available for regular foot care examinations by a Physician or Podiatrist.

**Diagnostic Service**—Benefits will be provided for those services related to covered Surgery or Medical Care.

**Emergency Accident Care**—Treatment must occur within 72 hours of the accident or as soon as reasonably possible.

### **Emergency Medical Care**

#### **Well Child Care**

Benefits will be provided for Covered Services provided by a Physician to children under age 4, even though they are not ill. Benefits will be limited to the following services:

1. immunizations;
2. physical examinations;
3. routine diagnostic tests.

### **Electroconvulsive Therapy**

### **Allergy Injections and Allergy Testing**

### **Chemotherapy**

### **Occupational Therapy**

Benefits will be provided for Occupational Therapy when these services are rendered by a registered Occupational Therapist under the supervision of a Physician. This therapy must be furnished under a written plan established by a Physician and regularly reviewed by the therapist and Physician. The plan must be established before treatment is begun and must relate to the type, amount, frequency and duration of therapy and indicate the diagnosis and anticipated goals. Benefits for Outpatient Occupational Therapy will be limited to a maximum of \$1,000 per benefit period.

### **Physical Therapy**

Benefits will be provided for Physical Therapy when rendered by a registered professional Physical Therapist under the supervision of a Physician. The therapy must be furnished under a written plan established by a Physician and regularly reviewed by the therapist and the Physician. The plan must be established before treatment is begun and must relate to the type, amount, frequency

and duration of therapy and indicate the diagnosis and anticipated goals. Benefits for Outpatient Physical Therapy will be limited to a maximum of \$10,000 per benefit period.

**Chiropractic and Osteopathic Manipulation**—Benefits will be provided for manipulation or adjustment of osseous or articular structures, commonly referred to as chiropractic and osteopathic manipulation, when performed by a person licensed to perform such procedures. Your benefits for chiropractic and osteopathic manipulation will be limited to a maximum of \$1,000 per benefit period.

## **Radiation Therapy Treatments**

### **Speech Therapy**

Benefits will be provided for Speech Therapy when these services are rendered by a licensed Speech Therapist or Speech Therapist certified by the American Speech and Hearing Association. Inpatient Speech Therapy benefits will be provided only if Speech Therapy is not the only reason for admission. Outpatient Speech Therapy benefits will be limited to a maximum of \$5,000 per benefit period.

**Clinical Breast Examinations**—Benefits will be provided for clinical breast examinations when performed by a Physician, Advanced Practice Nurse or a Physician Assistant working under the direct supervision of a Physician. Benefits for clinical breast examination will be provided at the benefit payment level described in the Wellness Care provision of this benefit booklet.

**Mammograms**—Benefits for one routine mammogram will be provided at the benefit payment level described in the Wellness Care provision of this benefit booklet. Benefits for mammograms, other than routine, will be provided at the same payment level as Outpatient Diagnostic Service.

**Pap Smear Test**—Benefits will be provided for an annual routine cervical smear or Pap smear test for females at the benefit payment level described in the Wellness Care provision of this benefit booklet.

**Human Papillomavirus Vaccine**—Benefits will be provided for a human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine approved by the federal Food and Drug Administration. Benefits will be provided at the benefit payment level for immunizations described in the Wellness Care provision of this benefit booklet. If you purchase the vaccine at a Pharmacy, benefits will be provided at the Benefit Payment for Other Covered Services described in the OTHER COVERED SERVICES section of this benefit booklet.

**Shingles Vaccine**—Benefits will be provided for a shingles vaccine approved by the federal Food and Drug Administration at the benefit payment level described in the Wellness Care provision of this benefit booklet.

**Prostate Test and Digital Rectal Examination**—Benefits will be provided for an annual routine prostate-specific antigen test and digital rectal examination for males at the benefit payment level described in the Wellness Care provision of this benefit booklet.

**Ovarian Cancer Screening**—Benefits will be provided for annual ovarian cancer screening for females using CA-125 serum tumor marker testing, transvaginal ultrasound, and pelvic examination. Benefits for ovarian cancer screening will be provided at the benefit payment level described in the Wellness Care provision of this benefit booklet.

**Bone Mass Measurement and Osteoporosis**—Benefits will be provided for bone mass measurement and the diagnosis and treatment of osteoporosis.

**Durable Medical Equipment**—Benefits will be provided for such things as internal cardiac valves, internal pacemakers, mandibular reconstruction devices (not used primarily to support dental prosthesis), bone screws, bolts, nails, plates and any other internal and permanent devices. Benefits will also be provided for the rental (but not to exceed the total cost of equipment) or purchase of durable medical equipment required for temporary therapeutic use provided that this equipment is primarily and customarily used to serve a medical purpose.

**Amino Acid-Based Elemental Formulas**—Benefits will be provided for amino acid-based elemental formulas for the diagnosis and treatment of eosinophilic disorders or short-bowel syndrome, when the prescribing Physician has issued a written order stating that the amino acid-based elemental formula is medically necessary. If you purchase the formula at a Pharmacy, benefits will be provided at the Benefit Payment for Other Covered Services described in the OTHER COVERED SERVICES section of this benefit booklet.

## **Leg, Back, Arm and Neck Braces**

### **Prosthetic Appliances**

Benefits will be provided for prosthetic devices, special appliances and surgical implants when:

1. they are required to replace all or part of an organ or tissue of the human body, or
2. they are required to replace all or part of the function of a non-functioning or malfunctioning organ or tissue.

Benefits will also include adjustments, repair and replacements of covered prosthetic devices, special appliances and surgical implants when required because of wear or change in a patient's condition (excluding dental appliances other than intra-oral devices used in connection with the treatment of Temporomandibular Joint Dysfunction and Related Disorders, subject to specific limitations applicable to Temporomandibular Joint Dysfunction and Related Disorders, and replacement of cataract lenses when a prescription change is not required).

**Colorectal Cancer Screening**—Benefits will be provided for colorectal cancer screening as prescribed by a Physician, in accordance with the published American Cancer Society guidelines on colorectal cancer screening or other existing colorectal cancer screening guidelines issued by nationally recognized professional medical societies or federal government agencies, including the National Cancer Institute, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the American College of Gastroenterology.

Benefits for colorectal cancer screening will be provided at the benefit payment described in the Wellness Care provision of this benefit booklet. Benefits will be provided for one routine sigmoidoscopy at the benefit payment level described in the Wellness Care provision of this benefit booklet. Benefits will be provided for one routine colonoscopy at the benefit payment level described in the Wellness Care provision of this benefit booklet to persons over age 50 with a family history warranting such treatment.

Benefits for surgical procedures, such as sigmoidoscopy and colonoscopy, other than routine, will be provided at the benefit payment level for Surgery described in this benefit booklet.

## **BENEFIT PAYMENT FOR PHYSICIAN SERVICES**

The benefits provided by the Claim Administrator and the expenses that are your responsibility for your Covered Services will depend on whether you receive services from a Participating or Non-Participating Professional Provider.

### **Participating Provider**

When you receive any of the Covered Services described in this Physician Benefit Section from a Participating Provider or from a Dentist, benefits will be provided at 90% of the Maximum Allowance after you have met your program deductible, unless otherwise specified in this benefit booklet. Although Dentists are not Participating Providers they will be treated as such for purposes of benefit payment made under this benefit booklet and may bill you for the difference between the Claim Administrator's benefit payment and the Provider's charge to you.

When you receive Covered Services in a Participating Provider's office, benefits for office visits are subject to a Copayment of \$20 per visit. Benefits for office visits will then be provided at 100% of the Maximum Allowance. Your program deductible will not apply.

When you receive Covered Services in a Participating Provider's office such as Surgery performed in the Provider's office, anesthesia, x-rays or prescription drugs dispensed in the Provider's office, benefits will be provided at 100% of the Maximum Allowance after you have met your \$20 Copayment. Your program deductible will not apply.

When you receive Covered Services for well child care from a Participating Provider, benefits will be provided at 100% of the Maximum Allowance and are subject to a Copayment of \$20 per visit.

Benefits for well child care from a Participating Provider will not be subject to the program deductible.

## **Non-Participating Provider**

When you receive any of the Covered Services described in this Physician Benefit Section from a Non-Participating Provider, benefits will be provided at 70% of the Maximum Allowance after you have met your program deductible.

When you receive Covered Services in a Non-Participating Provider's office such as Surgery performed in the Provider's office, anesthesiology, x-rays or prescription drugs dispensed in the Provider's office, benefits will be provided at 70% of the Maximum Allowance after you have met your program deductible.

No benefits are available for well child care from a Non-Participating Provider.

## **Emergency Care**

Benefits for Emergency Accident Care will be provided at 90% of the Maximum Allowance when rendered by a Participating Provider after you have met your program deductible. Benefits for Emergency Accident Care will be provided at 70% of the Maximum Allowance when rendered by a Non-Participating Provider after you have met your program deductible.

Benefits for Emergency Medical Care will be provided at 90% of the Maximum Allowance when rendered by a Participating Provider after you have met your program deductible. Benefits for Emergency Medical Care will be provided at 70% of the Maximum Allowance when rendered by a Non-Participating Provider after you have met your program deductible.

However, Covered Services for Emergency Accident Care and Emergency Medical Care resulting from a criminal sexual assault or abuse will be paid at 100% of the Maximum Allowance whether or not you have met your program deductible.

## **Participating Providers are:**

- Physicians
- Podiatrists
- Psychologists
- Certified Clinical Nurse Specialists
- Certified Nurse-Midwives
- Certified Nurse Practitioners
- Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists
- Chiropractors
- Clinical Laboratories
- Clinical Professional Counselors
- Clinical Social Workers
- Durable Medical Equipment Providers
- Home Infusion Therapy Providers

- Marriage and Family Therapists
- Occupational Therapists
- Optometrists
- Orthotic Providers
- Physical Therapists
- Prosthetic Providers
- Registered Surgical Assistants
- Retail Health Clinics
- Speech Therapists

who have signed an Agreement with the Claim Administrator to accept the Maximum Allowance as payment in full. Such Participating Providers have agreed not to bill you for Covered Services amounts in excess of the Maximum Allowance. Therefore, you will be responsible only for the difference between the Claim Administrator's benefit payment and the Maximum Allowance for the particular Covered Service — that is, your program deductible, Copayment and Coinsurance amounts.

**Non-Participating Providers are:**

- Physicians
- Podiatrists
- Psychologists
- Dentists
- Certified Nurse-Midwives
- Certified Nurse Practitioners
- Certified Clinical Nurse Specialists
- Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists
- Chiropractors
- Clinical Social Workers
- Clinical Professional Counselors
- Clinical Laboratories
- Durable Medical Equipment Providers
- Home Infusion Therapy Providers
- Marriage and Family Therapists
- Occupational Therapists
- Optometrists
- Orthotic Providers

- Physical Therapists
- Prosthetic Providers
- Registered Surgical Assistants
- Retail Health Clinics
- Speech Therapists
- other Professional Providers

who have not signed an agreement with the Claim Administrator to accept the Maximum Allowance as payment in full. Therefore, you are responsible to these Providers for the difference between the Claim Administrator's benefit payment and such Provider's charge to you.

Should you wish to know the Maximum Allowance for a particular procedure or whether a particular Provider is a Participating Provider, contact your Employer, your Professional Provider or the Claim Administrator.

## OTHER COVERED SERVICES

### OTHER COVERED SERVICES

This section of your benefit booklet describes “Other Covered Services” and the benefits that will be provided for them.

- Blood and blood components
- Private Duty Nursing Service—Benefits for Private Duty Nursing Service will be provided to you in your home only when the services are of such a nature that they cannot be provided by non-professional personnel and can only be provided by a licensed health care provider. No benefits will be provided when a nurse ordinarily resides in your home or is a member of your immediate family. Private Duty Nursing includes teaching and monitoring of complex care skills such as tracheotomy suctioning, medical equipment use and monitoring to home caregivers and is not intended to provide for long term supportive care. Benefits for Private Duty Nursing Service will not be provided due to the lack of willing or available non-professional personnel. Your benefits for Private Duty Nursing Service are limited to a maximum of \$3,000 per month.
- Ambulance Transportation—Benefits will not be provided for long distance trips or for use of an ambulance because it is more convenient than other transportation.
- Dental accident care—Dental services rendered by a Dentist or Physician which are required as the result of an accidental injury.
- Oxygen and its administration
- Medical and surgical dressings, supplies, casts and splints

### BENEFIT PAYMENT FOR OTHER COVERED SERVICES

**After you have met your program deductible, benefits will be provided at 90% of the Eligible Charge or 90% of the Maximum Allowance for any of the Covered Services described in this section.**

When you receive Other Covered Services from a Participating or Non-Participating Provider, benefits for Other Covered Services will be provided at the payment levels previously described in this benefit booklet for Hospital and Physician Covered Services.

#### **Participating Providers are:**

- Physicians
- Podiatrists
- Psychologists
- Certified Clinical Nurse Specialists
- Certified Nurse-Midwives
- Certified Nurse Practitioners

- Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists
- Chiropractors
- Clinical Laboratories
- Clinical Professional Counselors
- Clinical Social Workers
- Durable Medical Equipment Providers
- Home Infusion Therapy Providers
- Marriage and Family Therapists
- Occupational Therapists
- Optometrists
- Orthotic Providers
- Physical Therapists
- Prosthetic Providers
- Registered Surgical Assistants
- Retail Health Clinics
- Speech Therapists

who have signed an Agreement with the Claim Administrator to accept the Maximum Allowance as payment in full. Such Participating Providers have agreed not to bill you for Covered Services amounts in excess of the Maximum Allowance. Therefore, you will be responsible only for the difference between the Claim Administrator's benefit payment and the Maximum Allowance for the particular Covered Service — that is, your program deductible, Copayment and Coinsurance amounts.

**Non-Participating Providers are:**

- Physicians
- Podiatrists
- Psychologists
- Dentists
- Certified Clinical Nurse Specialists
- Certified Nurse-Midwives
- Certified Nurse Practitioners
- Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists
- Chiropractors
- Clinical Laboratories
- Clinical Professional Counselors

- Clinical Social Workers
- Durable Medical Equipment Providers
- Home Infusion Therapy Providers
- Marriage and Family Therapists
- Occupational Therapists
- Optometrists
- Orthotic Providers
- Physical Therapists
- Prosthetic Providers
- Registered Surgical Assistants
- Retail Health Clinics
- Speech Therapists
- other Professional Providers

who have not signed an agreement with the Claim Administrator to accept the Maximum Allowance as payment in full. Therefore, you are responsible to these Providers for the difference between the Claim Administrator's benefit payment and such Provider's charge to you.

Should you wish to know the Maximum Allowance for a particular procedure or whether a particular Provider is a Participating Provider, contact your Employer, your Professional Provider or the Claim Administrator.

## SPECIAL CONDITIONS AND PAYMENTS

There are some special things that you should know about your benefits should you receive any of the following types of treatments:

### HUMAN ORGAN TRANSPLANTS

Your benefits for certain human organ transplants are the same as your benefits for any other condition. Benefits will be provided only for cornea, kidney, bone marrow, heart valve, muscular-skeletal, parathyroid, heart, lung, heart/lung, liver, pancreas or pancreas/kidney human organ or tissue transplants. Benefits are available to both the recipient and donor of a covered transplant as follows:

- If both the donor and recipient have coverage each will have their benefits paid by their own program.
- If you are the recipient of the transplant, and the donor for the transplant has no coverage from any other source, the benefits described in this benefit booklet will be provided for both you and the donor. In this case, payments made for the donor will be charged against your benefits.
- If you are the donor for the transplant and no coverage is available to you from any other source, the benefits described in this benefit booklet will be provided for you. However, no benefits will be provided for the recipient.

Benefits will be provided for:

- Inpatient and Outpatient Covered Services related to the transplant Surgery.
- the evaluation, preparation and delivery of the donor organ.
- the removal of the organ from the donor.
- the transportation of the donor organ to the location of the transplant Surgery. Benefits will be limited to the transportation of the donor organ in the United States or Canada.

In addition to the above provisions, benefits for heart, lung, heart/lung, liver, pancreas or pancreas/kidney transplants will be provided as follows:

- **Whenever a heart, lung, heart/lung, liver, pancreas or pancreas/kidney transplant is recommended by your Physician, you must contact the Claim Administrator by telephone before your transplant Surgery has been scheduled. The Claim Administrator will furnish you with the names of Hospitals which have Claim Administrator approved Human Organ Transplant Programs. No benefits will be provided for heart, lung, heart/lung, liver, pancreas or pancreas/kidney transplants performed at any Hospital that does not have a Claim Administrator approved Human Organ Transplant Program.**

- In addition to the other exclusions of this benefit booklet, benefits will not be provided for the following:
  - Cardiac rehabilitation services when not provided to the transplant recipient immediately following discharge from a Hospital for transplant Surgery.
  - Travel time and related expenses required by a Provider.
  - Drugs which do not have approval of the Food and Drug Administration.
  - Storage fees.
  - Services provided to any individual who is not the recipient or actual donor, unless otherwise specified in this provision.

## **CARDIAC REHABILITATION SERVICES**

Your benefits for cardiac rehabilitation services are the same as your benefits for any other condition. Benefits will be provided for cardiac rehabilitation services only in Claim Administrator approved programs. Benefits are available if you have a history of any of the following: acute myocardial infarction, coronary artery bypass graft Surgery, percutaneous transluminal coronary angioplasty, heart valve Surgery, heart transplantation, stable angina pectoris, compensated heart failure or transmyocardial revascularization. Benefits will be limited to a maximum of 36 Outpatient treatment sessions within the six month period.

## **WELLNESS CARE**

Benefits will be provided for Covered Services rendered to persons age 4 and over, unless otherwise specified below, even though you are not ill. Benefits will be limited to the following services:

1. Immunizations for children under age 19;
2. Routine physical examinations – one per benefit period;
3. Routine gynecological examinations – one per benefit period;
4. Routine Pap smear test.

### **Participating Provider**

When you receive Covered Services for wellness care from a Participating Provider other than in a Physician's office, benefits for wellness care will be provided at 100% of the Eligible Charge or 100% of the Maximum Allowance and will not be subject to the program deductible.

When you receive Covered Services for wellness care in a Participating Professional Provider's office, benefits for office visits are subject to a Copayment of \$20 per visit. Benefits for office visits will then be provided at 100% of the Maximum Allowance. Your program deductible will not apply.

## **Non-Participating Provider**

No benefits are available for wellness care from a Non-Participating Provider.

## **SKILLED NURSING FACILITY CARE**

The following are Covered Services when you receive them in a Skilled Nursing Facility:

1. Bed, board and general nursing care.
2. Ancillary services (such as drugs and surgical dressings or supplies).

No benefits will be provided for admissions to a Skilled Nursing Facility which are for the convenience of the patient or Physician or because care in the home is not available or the home is unsuitable for such care.

Benefits for Covered Services rendered in an Administrator Skilled Nursing Facility will be provided at 90% of the Eligible Charge after you have met your program deductible.

Benefits for Covered Services rendered in a Non-Administrator Skilled Nursing Facility will be provided at 50% of the Eligible Charge, once you have met your program deductible. Benefits will not be provided for Covered Services received in an Uncertified Skilled Nursing Facility.

## **AMBULATORY SURGICAL FACILITY**

Benefits for all of the Covered Services previously described in this benefit booklet are available for Outpatient Surgery. In addition, benefits will be provided if these services are rendered by an Ambulatory Surgical Facility.

Benefits for services rendered by an Administrator Ambulatory Surgical Facility will be provided at 90% of the Eligible Charge. Benefits for services rendered by a Non-Administrator Ambulatory Surgical Facility will be provided at 50% of the Eligible Charge.

Benefits for Outpatient Surgery will be provided as stated above after you have met your program deductible.

## **SUBSTANCE ABUSE REHABILITATION TREATMENT**

Benefits for all of the Covered Services previously described in this benefit booklet are available for Substance Abuse Rehabilitation Treatment. In addition, benefits will be provided if these services are rendered by a Substance Abuse Treatment Facility. Benefits will be provided at the payment levels described later in this benefit booklet. Substance Abuse Rehabilitation Treatment Covered Services rendered in a program that does not have a written agreement with the Claim Administrator or in a Non-Administrator Provider facility will be paid at the Non-Administrator Provider facility payment level described later in this benefit section.

## **MENTAL ILLNESS SERVICES**

Benefits for all of the Covered Services previously described in this benefit booklet are available for the diagnosis and/or treatment of a Mental Illness. Medical Care for the treatment of a Mental Illness is eligible when rendered by (1) a Physician; (2) a Psychologist, Clinical Social Worker or Clinical Professional Counselor; or (3) a Marriage and Family Therapist working within the scope of their license.

### **Benefit Payment for Outpatient treatment of Mental Illness and Substance Abuse Rehabilitation Treatment**

Benefits for Outpatient Mental Illness treatment will be provided at 90% of the Eligible Charge or at 90% of the Maximum Allowance when you receive services from a Participating Provider after you have met your program deductible. When you receive Covered Services from a Non-Participating Provider for Outpatient Mental Illness treatment, benefits will be provided at 70% of the Eligible Charge or 70% of the Maximum Allowance after you have met your program deductible.

Benefits for Outpatient Substance Abuse Rehabilitation Treatment (in a program approved by the Claim Administrator) will be provided at 90% of the Eligible Charge or at 90% of the Maximum Allowance when you receive services from a Participating Provider after you have met your program deductible.

When you receive Covered Services from a Non-Participating Provider for Outpatient Substance Abuse Rehabilitation Treatment, benefits will be provided at 70% of the Eligible Charge or 70% of the Maximum Allowance after you have met your program deductible.

### **Benefit Maximum for Outpatient treatment of Mental Illness and Substance Abuse Rehabilitation Treatment**

Your benefits for Outpatient treatment of Mental Illness and Outpatient Substance Abuse Rehabilitation Treatment are limited to a combined maximum of 20 visits per benefit period.

### **Benefit Payment for Inpatient treatment of Mental Illness and Substance Abuse Rehabilitation Treatment**

Benefits for the Inpatient treatment of Mental Illness and Inpatient Substance Abuse Rehabilitation Treatment will be provided at the payment levels previously described in this benefit booklet for Hospital and Physician Covered Services.

### **Benefit Maximum for Inpatient treatment of Mental Illness and Substance Abuse Rehabilitation Treatment**

You are entitled to a combined maximum of 20 Inpatient Hospital days each benefit period for Inpatient treatment of Mental Illness and Inpatient Substance Abuse Rehabilitation Treatment when you receive Covered Services from a Participating Provider.

## **Lifetime Benefit Maximum for treatment of Mental Illness and Substance Abuse Rehabilitation Treatment**

You are entitled to a combined lifetime maximum of 30 Inpatient Hospital days for Inpatient treatment of Mental Illness and Substance Abuse Rehabilitation Treatment when you receive Covered Services from a Non-Participating Provider.

None of the charges for the Inpatient and/or Outpatient treatment of Mental Illness or Substance Abuse Rehabilitation Treatment will be included in the calculation of your out-of-pocket expenses.

## **MATERNITY SERVICE**

Your benefits for Maternity Service are the same as your benefits for any other condition and are available whether you have Individual Coverage or Family Coverage. Benefits will also be provided for Covered Services rendered by a Certified Nurse-Midwife.

Benefits will be paid for Covered Services received in connection with both normal pregnancy and Complications of Pregnancy. As part of your maternity benefits certain services rendered to your newborn infant are also covered, even if you have Individual Coverage. These Covered Services are: a) the routine Inpatient Hospital nursery charges and b) one routine Inpatient examination and c) one Inpatient hearing screening as long as this examination is rendered by a Physician other than the Physician who delivered the child or administered anesthesia during delivery. (If the newborn child needs treatment for an illness or injury, benefits will be available for that care only if you have Family Coverage. You may apply for Family Coverage within 31 days of date of the birth. Your Family Coverage will then be effective from the date of the birth.)

Benefits will be provided for any hospital length of stay in connection with childbirth for the mother or newborn child for no less than 48 hours following a normal vaginal delivery, or no less than 96 hours following a cesarean section. Your Provider will not be required to obtain authorization from the Claim Administrator for prescribing a length of stay less than 48 hours (or 96 hours).

Your coverage also includes benefits for elective abortions if legal where performed.

## **INFERTILITY TREATMENT**

Benefits will be provided the same as your benefits for any other condition for Covered Services rendered in connection with the diagnosis of infertility. Benefits will **not** be provided for the treatment of infertility.

Infertility means the inability to conceive a child after one year of unprotected sexual intercourse or the inability to sustain a successful pregnancy. The one year requirement will be waived if your Physician determines a medical condition exists that makes conception impossible through unprotected sexual intercourse including, but not limited to, congenital absence of the uterus or ovaries, absence of the uterus or ovaries due to surgical removal due to a medi-

cal condition, or involuntary sterilization due to chemotherapy or radiation treatments.

Unprotected sexual intercourse means sexual union between a male and female without the use of any process, device or method that prevents conception including, but not limited to, oral contraceptives, chemicals, physical or barrier contraceptives, natural abstinence or voluntary permanent surgical procedures.

## **TEMPOROMANDIBULAR JOINT DYSFUNCTION AND RELATED DISORDERS**

Benefits for all of the Covered Services previously described in this benefit booklet are available for the diagnosis and treatment of Temporomandibular Joint Dysfunction and Related Disorders.

Your benefits for the diagnosis and/or treatment of Temporomandibular Joint Dysfunction and Related Disorders are limited to a lifetime maximum of \$2,500. Benefits will be limited to \$1,000 per benefit period for the diagnosis and/or treatment of Temporomandibular Joint Dysfunction and Related Disorders.

## **MASTECTOMY-RELATED SERVICES**

Benefits for Covered Services related to mastectomies are the same as for any other condition. Mastectomy-related Covered Services include, but are not limited to:

1. Reconstruction of the breast on which the mastectomy has been performed;
2. Surgery and reconstruction of the other breast to produce a symmetrical appearance;
3. Inpatient care following a mastectomy for the length of time determined by your attending Physician to be medically necessary and in accordance with protocols and guidelines based on sound scientific evidence and patient evaluation and a follow-up Physician office visit or in-home nurse visit within 48 hours after discharge; and
4. Prostheses and physical complications of all stages of the mastectomy including, but not limited to, lymphedemas.

## **PAYMENT PROVISIONS**

### **Lifetime Maximum**

The total maximum amount of benefits to which you are entitled under this Participating Provider Option program is \$2,000,000. This is an individual maximum. There is no family maximum.

As you use your benefits, a certain amount will automatically be restored to your lifetime maximum each year. This amount will be \$1,000 or the amount you have received in benefits that benefit period, whichever is less.

## **Cumulative Benefit Maximums**

All benefits payable under this benefit booklet are cumulative. Therefore, in calculating the benefit maximums payable for a particular Covered Service or in calculating the remaining balance under the Lifetime Maximums, the Claim Administrator will include benefit payments under both this and/or any prior or subsequent Claim Administrator's benefit booklet issued to you as an Eligible Person or a dependent of an Eligible Person under this plan.

## **OUT-OF-POCKET EXPENSE LIMIT**

There are separate Out-of-Pocket Expense Limits applicable to Covered Services received from Participating Providers and Non-Participating Providers.

### **For Participating Providers**

If, during one benefit period, your out-of-pocket expense (the amount remaining unpaid after benefits have been provided) equals \$1,024, any additional eligible Claims for Participating Providers (except for those Covered Services specifically excluded below) during that benefit period will be paid in full up to the Eligible Charge or Maximum Allowance.

This out-of-pocket expense limit may be reached by:

- the Participating Provider program deductible
- the payments for which you are responsible after benefits have been provided (except for any expenses incurred for Covered Services rendered by a Non-Participating or Non-Administrator Provider other than Emergency Accident Care, Emergency Medical Care and Inpatient treatment during the period of time when your condition is serious)
- and any unreimbursed expenses incurred for "comprehensive major medical" covered services within your prior contract's benefit period, if not completed.

The following expenses for Covered Services cannot be applied to the out-of-pocket expense limit and will not be paid at 100% of the Eligible Charge or Maximum Allowance when your out-of-pocket expense limit is reached:

- charges that exceed the Eligible Charge or Maximum Allowance
- the Coinsurance resulting from Covered Services rendered by a Non-Administrator Provider
- charges for Covered Services which have a separate dollar maximum specifically mentioned in this benefit booklet
- charges for Covered Services received for the treatment of Mental Illness and/or Substance Abuse Rehabilitation Treatment
- the Copayment for Physician office visits
- Copayments resulting from noncompliance with the provisions of the Utilization Review Program and/or the Claim Administrator's Mental Health Unit

If you have Family Coverage and your out-of-pocket expense as described above equals \$2,048 during one benefit period, then, for the rest of the benefit period, all other family members will have benefits for Covered Services (except for those Covered Services specifically excluded above) provided at 100% of the Eligible Charge or Maximum Allowance. A member may not apply more than the individual out-of-pocket expense limit toward this amount.

### **For Non-Participating Providers**

If, during one benefit period, your out-of-pocket expense (the amount remaining unpaid after benefits have been provided) equals \$2,490, any additional eligible Claims for Non-Participating Providers (except for those Covered Services specifically excluded below) during that benefit period will be paid in full up to the Eligible Charge or Maximum Allowance.

This out-of-pocket expense limit may be reached by:

- the Non-Participating Provider program deductible
- the payments for Covered Services rendered by a Non-Participating Provider for which you are responsible after benefits have been provided

The following expenses for Covered Services cannot be applied to the out-of-pocket expense limit and will not be paid at 100% of the Eligible Charge or Maximum Allowance when your out-of-pocket expense limit is reached:

- charges that exceed the Eligible Charge or Maximum Allowance
- the Coinsurance resulting from Covered Services rendered by a Non-Administrator Hospital or other Non-Administrator Provider facility
- charges for Covered Services which have a separate dollar maximum specifically mentioned in this benefit booklet
- charges for Covered Services received for the treatment of Mental Illness and/or Substance Abuse Rehabilitation Treatment
- the Copayment for Physician office visits
- Copayments resulting from noncompliance with the provisions of the Utilization Review Program and/or the Claim Administrator's Mental Health Unit
- any unreimbursed expenses incurred for "comprehensive major medical" covered services within your prior contract's benefit period.

If you have Family Coverage and your expense as described above equals \$4,980 during one benefit period, then, for the rest of the benefit period, all other family members will have benefits for Covered Services (except for those Covered Services specifically excluded above) provided at 100% of the Eligible Charge or Maximum Allowance. A member may not apply more than the individual out-of-pocket expense limit toward this amount.

## **EXTENSION OF BENEFITS IN CASE OF TERMINATION**

If you are an Inpatient at the time your coverage under this plan is terminated, benefits will be provided for, and limited to, the Covered Services of this plan which are rendered by and regularly charged for by a Hospital, Skilled Nursing Facility, Substance Abuse Treatment Facility, Partial Hospitalization Treatment Program or Coordinated Home Care Program. Benefits will be provided until you are discharged or until the end of your benefit period, whichever occurs first.

## HOSPICE CARE PROGRAM

Your Hospital coverage also includes benefits for Hospice Care Program Service.

Benefits will be provided for the Hospice Care Program Service described below when these services are rendered to you by a Hospice Care Program Provider. However, for benefits to be available you must have a terminal illness with a life expectancy of one year or less, as certified by your attending Physician; and you will no longer benefit from standard medical care or have chosen to receive hospice care rather than standard care. Also, a family member or friend should be available to provide custodial type care between visits from Hospice Care Program Providers if hospice is being provided in the home.

The following services are covered under the Hospice Care Program:

1. Coordinated Home Care;
2. Medical supplies and dressings;
3. Medication;
4. Nursing Services – Skilled and non-Skilled;
5. Occupational Therapy;
6. Pain management services;
7. Physical Therapy;
8. Physician visits;
9. Social and spiritual services;
10. Respite Care Service.

The following services are **not** covered under the Hospice Care Program:

1. Durable medical equipment;
2. Home delivered meals;
3. Homemaker services;
4. Traditional medical services provided for the direct care of the terminal illness, disease or condition;
5. Transportation, including but not limited, to Ambulance Transportation.

Notwithstanding the above, there may be clinical situations when short episodes of traditional care would be appropriate even when the patient remains in the hospice setting. While these traditional services are not eligible under this Hospice Care Program section, they may be Covered Services under other sections of this benefit booklet.

Benefit payment for Covered Services rendered by a Participating Hospice Care Program Provider will be provided at 90% of the Eligible Charge after you have met your program deductible. Benefit payment for Covered Services rendered by a Non-Participating Hospice Care Program Provider will be provided at 70% of the Eligible Charge after you have met your program deductible.

Your benefits under the Hospice Care Program are limited to a lifetime maximum of 182 days.

## **BENEFITS FOR MEDICARE ELIGIBLE COVERED PERSONS**

This section describes the benefits which will be provided for Medicare Eligible Covered Persons who are not affected by MSP laws, unless otherwise specified in this benefit booklet (see provisions entitled “Medicare Eligible Covered Persons” in the ELIGIBILITY SECTION of this benefit booklet).

The benefits and provisions described throughout this benefit booklet apply to you, however, in determining the benefits to be paid for your Covered Services, consideration is given to the benefits available under Medicare.

The process used in determining benefits under the Health Care Plan is as follows:

1. determine what the payment for a Covered Service would be following the payment provisions of this coverage and
2. deduct from this resulting amount the amount paid or payable by Medicare. (If you are eligible for Medicare, the amount that is available from Medicare will be deducted whether or not you have enrolled and/or received payment from Medicare.) The difference, if any, is the amount that will be paid under the Health Care Plan.

When you have a Claim, you must send the Claim Administrator a copy of your Explanation of Medicare Benefits (“EOMB”) in order for your Claim to be processed. In the event you are eligible for Medicare but have not enrolled in Medicare, the amount that would have been available from Medicare, had you enrolled, will be used.

## EXCLUSIONS—WHAT IS NOT COVERED

Expenses for the following are not covered under your benefit program:

— **Hospitalization, services and supplies which are not Medically Necessary.**

No benefits will be provided for services which are not, in the reasonable judgment of the Claim Administrator, Medically Necessary. Medically Necessary means that a specific medical, health care or Hospital service is required, in the reasonable medical judgment of the Claim Administrator, for the treatment or management of a medical symptom or condition and that the service or care provided is the most efficient and economical service which can safely be provided.

Hospitalization is not Medically Necessary when, in the reasonable medical judgment of the Claim Administrator, the medical services provided did not require an acute Hospital Inpatient (overnight) setting, but could have been provided in a Physician's office, the Outpatient department of a Hospital or some other setting without adversely affecting the patient's condition.

Examples of hospitalization and other health care services and supplies that are not Medically Necessary include:

- Hospital admissions for or consisting primarily of observation and/or evaluation that could have been provided safely and adequately in some other setting, e.g., a Physician's office or Hospital Outpatient department.
- Hospital admissions primarily for diagnostic studies (x-ray, laboratory and pathological services and machine diagnostic tests) which could have been provided safely and adequately in some other setting, e.g., Hospital Outpatient department or Physician's office.
- Continued Inpatient Hospital care, when the patient's medical symptoms and condition no longer require their continued stay in a Hospital.
- Hospitalization or admission to a Skilled Nursing Facility, nursing home or other facility for the primary purposes of providing Custodial Care Service, convalescent care, rest cures or domiciliary care to the patient.
- Hospitalization or admission to a Skilled Nursing Facility for the convenience of the patient or Physician or because care in the home is not available or is unsuitable.
- The use of skilled or private duty nurses to assist in daily living activities, routine supportive care or to provide services for the convenience of the patient and/or his family members.

These are just some examples, not an exhaustive list, of hospitalizations or other services and supplies that are not Medically Necessary.

The Claim Administrator will make the decision whether hospitalization or other health care services or supplies were not Medically Necessary and therefore not eligible for payment under the terms of your health care plan. In most instances this decision is made by the Claim Administrator **AFTER YOU HAVE BEEN HOSPITALIZED OR HAVE RECEIVED OTHER HEALTH CARE SERVICES OR SUPPLIES AND AFTER A CLAIM FOR PAYMENT HAS BEEN SUBMITTED.**

The fact that your Physician may prescribe, order, recommend, approve or view hospitalization or other health care services and supplies as Medically Necessary does not make the hospitalization, services or supplies Medically Necessary and does not mean that the Claim Administrator will pay the cost of the hospitalization, services or supplies.

If your Claim for benefits is denied on the basis that the services or supplies were not Medically Necessary, and you disagree with the Claim Administrator's decision, your plan provides for an appeal of that decision. You must exercise your right to this appeal as a precondition to the taking of any further action against the Claim Administrator, either at law or in equity. To initiate your appeal, you must give the Claim Administrator written notice of your intention to do so within 180 days after you have been notified that your Claim has been denied by writing to:

Claim Review Section  
Health Care Service Corporation  
P.O. Box 2401  
Chicago, Illinois 60690

You may furnish or submit any additional documentation which you or your Physician believe appropriate.

**REMEMBER, EVEN IF YOUR PHYSICIAN PRESCRIBES, ORDERS, RECOMMENDS, APPROVES OR VIEWS HOSPITALIZATION OR OTHER HEALTH CARE SERVICES AND SUPPLIES AS MEDICALLY NECESSARY, THE CLAIM ADMINISTRATOR WILL NOT PAY FOR THE HOSPITALIZATION, SERVICES AND SUPPLIES IF IT DECIDES THEY WERE NOT MEDICALLY NECESSARY.**

- Services or supplies that are not specifically mentioned in this benefit booklet.
- Services or supplies for any illness or injury arising out of or in the course of employment for which benefits are available under any Workers' Compensation Law or other similar laws whether or not you make a claim for such compensation or receive such benefits. However, this exclusion shall not apply if you are a corporate officer of any domestic or foreign corporation and are employed by the corporation and elect to withdraw yourself from the operation of the Illinois Workers' Compensation Act according to the provisions of the Act.
- Services or supplies that are furnished to you by the local, state or federal government and for any services or supplies to the extent payment or benefits are provided or available from the local, state or federal govern-

ment (for example, Medicare) whether or not that payment or benefits are received, except however, this exclusion shall not be applicable to medical assistance benefits under Article V or VI of the Illinois Public Aid Code (305 ILCS 5/5-1 et seq. or 5/6-1 et seq.) or similar Legislation of any state, benefits provided in compliance with the Tax Equity and Fiscal Responsibility Act or as otherwise provided by law.

- Services and supplies for any illness or injury occurring on or after your Coverage Date as a result of war or an act of war.
- Services or supplies that do not meet accepted standards of medical and/or dental practice.
- Investigational Services and Supplies and all related services and supplies, other than the cost of routine patient care associated with Investigational cancer treatment, if those services or supplies would otherwise be covered under the benefit booklet if not provided in connection with an approved clinical trial program.
- Custodial Care Service.
- Long Term Care Service.
- Respite Care Service, except as specifically mentioned under the Hospice Care Program.
- Inpatient Private Duty Nursing Service.
- Routine physical examinations, unless otherwise specified in this benefit booklet.
- Services or supplies received during an Inpatient stay when the stay is primarily related to behavioral, social maladjustment, lack of discipline or other antisocial actions which are not specifically the result of Mental Illness.
- Cosmetic Surgery and related services and supplies, except for the correction of congenital deformities or for conditions resulting from accidental injuries, scars, tumors or diseases.
- Services or supplies for which you are not required to make payment or would have no legal obligation to pay if you did not have this or similar coverage.
- Charges for failure to keep a scheduled visit or charges for completion of a Claim form.
- Personal hygiene, comfort or convenience items commonly used for other than medical purposes, such as air conditioners, humidifiers, physical fitness equipment, televisions and telephones.
- Special braces, splints, specialized equipment, appliances, ambulatory apparatus, battery implants, except as specifically mentioned in this benefit booklet.
- Blood derivatives which are not classified as drugs in the official formularies.

- Eyeglasses, contact lenses or cataract lenses and the examination for prescribing or fitting of glasses or contact lenses or for determining the refractive state of the eye, except as specifically mentioned in this benefit booklet.
- Treatment of flat foot conditions and the prescription of supportive devices for such conditions and the treatment of subluxations of the foot.
- Routine foot care, except for persons diagnosed with diabetes.
- Immunizations, unless otherwise specified in this benefit booklet.
- Maintenance Occupational Therapy, Maintenance Physical Therapy and Maintenance Speech Therapy, except as specifically mentioned in this benefit booklet.
- Maintenance Care.
- Speech Therapy when rendered for the treatment of psychosocial speech delay, behavioral problems (including impulsive behavior and impulsivity syndrome), attention disorder, conceptual handicap or mental retardation.
- Hearing aids or examinations for the prescription or fitting of hearing aids, unless otherwise specified in this benefit booklet.
- Services and supplies to the extent benefits are duplicated because the spouse, parent and/or child are covered separately under this Health Care Plan.
- Diagnostic Service as part of routine physical examinations or check-ups, premarital examinations, determination of the refractive errors of the eyes, auditory problems, surveys, casefinding, research studies, screening, or similar procedures and studies, or tests which are Investigational, unless otherwise specified in this benefit booklet.
- Procurement or use of prosthetic devices, special appliances and surgical implants which are for cosmetic purposes, the comfort and convenience of the patient, or unrelated to the treatment of a disease or injury.
- Wigs (also referred to as cranial prostheses), unless otherwise specified in this benefit booklet.
- Services and supplies rendered or provided for human organ or tissue transplants other than those specifically named in this benefit booklet.
- Services and supplies rendered or provided for the treatment of infertility including, but not limited to, Hospital services, Medical Care, therapeutic injections, fertility and other drugs, Surgery, artificial insemination and all forms of in-vitro fertilization.
- Outpatient prescription drugs or medicines except for immunosuppressive drugs prescribed in connection with a human organ transplant.

## COORDINATION OF BENEFITS SECTION

Coordination of Benefits (COB) applies when you have health care coverage through more than one group program. The purpose of COB is to insure that you receive all of the coverage to which you are entitled but no more than the actual cost of the care received. In other words, the total payment from all of your coverages together will not add up to be more than the total charges that you have incurred. It is your obligation to notify the Claim Administrator of the existence of such other group coverages.

To coordinate benefits, it is necessary to determine what the payment responsibility is for each benefit program. This is done by following these rules:

1. The coverage under which the patient is the Eligible Person (rather than a dependent) is primary (that is, full benefits are paid under that program). The other coverage is secondary and only pays any remaining eligible charges.
2. When a dependent child receives services, the birthdays of the child's parents are used to determine which coverage is primary. The coverage of the parent whose birthday (month and day) comes before the other parent's birthday in the calendar year will be considered the primary coverage. If both parents have the same birthday, then the coverage that has been in effect the longest is primary. If the other coverage does not have this "birthday" type of COB provision and, as a result, both coverages would be considered either primary or secondary, then the provisions of the other coverage will determine which coverage is primary.
  - However, when the parents are separated or divorced and the parent with custody of the child has not remarried, the benefits of a contract which covers the child as a dependent of the parent with custody of the child will be determined before the benefits of a contract which covers the child as a dependent of the parent without custody;
  - when the parents are divorced and the parent with custody of the child has remarried, the benefits of a contract which covers the child as a dependent of the parent with custody shall be determined before the benefits of a contract which covers that child as a dependent of the stepparent, and the benefits of a contract which covers that child as a dependent of the stepparent will be determined before the benefits of a contract which covers that child as a dependent of the parent without custody.

Notwithstanding the items above, if there is a court decree which would otherwise establish financial responsibility for the medical, dental, or other health care expenses with respect to the child, the benefits of a contract which covers the child as a dependent of the parent with such financial responsibility shall be determined before the benefits of any other contract which covers the child as a dependent child. It is the obligation of the person claiming benefits to notify the Claim Administrator, and upon its request to provide a copy, of such court decree.

3. If neither of the above rules apply, then the coverage that has been in effect the longest is primary.

The only time these rules will not apply is if the other group benefit program does not include a COB provision. In that case, the other group program is automatically primary.

The Claim Administrator has the right in administering these COB provisions to:

- pay any other organization an amount which it determines to be warranted if payments which should have been made by the Claim Administrator have been made by such other organization under any other group program.
- recover any overpayment which the Claim Administrator may have made to you, any Provider, insurance company, person or other organization.

# CONTINUATION OF COVERAGE AFTER TERMINATION (COBRA)

NOTE: Certain employers may not be affected by CONTINUATION OF COVERAGE AFTER TERMINATION (COBRA). See your employer or Group Administrator should you have any questions about COBRA.

## **Introduction**

You are receiving this notice because you have recently become covered under your employer's group health plan (the Plan). This notice contains important information about your right to COBRA continuation coverage, which is a temporary extension of coverage under the Plan. **This notice generally explains COBRA continuation coverage, when it may become available to you and your family, and what you need to do to protect the right to receive it.**

The right to COBRA continuation coverage was created by a federal law, the Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1985 (COBRA). COBRA continuation coverage can become available to you when you would otherwise lose your group health coverage. It can also become available to other members of your family who are covered under the Plan when they would otherwise lose their group health coverage.

For additional information about your rights and obligations under the Plan and under federal law, you should review the Plan's Summary Plan Description or contact the Plan Administrator.

## **What Is COBRA Continuation Coverage?**

COBRA continuation coverage is a continuation of Plan coverage when coverage would otherwise end because of a life event known as a "qualifying event." Specific qualifying events are listed later in this notice. After a qualifying event, COBRA continuation coverage must be offered to each person who is a "qualified beneficiary." You, your spouse, and your dependent children could become qualified beneficiaries if coverage under the Plan is lost because of the qualifying event. Under the Plan, qualified beneficiaries who elect COBRA continuation coverage must pay for COBRA continuation coverage.

If you are an employee, you will become a qualified beneficiary if you lose your coverage under the Plan because either one of the following qualifying events happens:

- Your hours of employment are reduced; or
- Your employment ends for any reason other than your gross misconduct.

If you are the spouse of an employee, you will become a qualified beneficiary if you lose your coverage under the Plan because any of the following qualifying events happens:

- Your spouse dies;
- Your spouse's hours of employment are reduced;

- Your spouse’s employment ends for any reason other than his or her gross misconduct;
- Your spouse becomes enrolled in Medicare benefits (under Part A, Part B, or both); or
- You become divorced or legally separated from your spouse.

Your dependent children will become qualified beneficiaries if they lose coverage under the Plan because any of the following qualifying events happen:

- The parent-employee dies;
- The parent-employee’s hours of employment are reduced;
- The parent-employee’s employment ends for any reason other than his or her gross misconduct;
- The parent-employee becomes enrolled in Medicare benefits (under Part A, Part B, or both);
- The parents become divorced or legally separated; or
- The child stops being eligible for coverage under the Plan as a “dependent child.”

If the Plan provides health care coverage to retired employees, the following applies: Sometimes, filing a proceeding in bankruptcy under title 11 of the United States Code can be a qualifying event. If a proceeding in bankruptcy is filed with respect to your employer, and that bankruptcy results in the loss of coverage of any retired employee covered under the Plan, the retired employee will become a qualified beneficiary with respect to the bankruptcy. The retired employee’s spouse, surviving spouse, and dependent children will also become qualified beneficiaries if bankruptcy results in the loss of their coverage under the Plan.

### **When Is COBRA Coverage Available?**

The Plan will offer COBRA continuation coverage to qualified beneficiaries only after the Plan Administrator has been notified that a qualifying event has occurred. When the qualifying event is the end of employment or reduction of hours of employment, death of the employee, in the event of retired employee health coverage, commencement of a proceeding in bankruptcy with respect to the employer, or the employee’s becoming entitled to Medicare benefits (under Part A, Part B, or both), the employer must notify the Plan Administrator of the qualifying event.

### **You Must Give Notice of Some Qualifying Events**

For the other qualifying events (divorce or legal separation of the employee and spouse or a dependent child’s losing eligibility for coverage as a dependent child), you must notify the Plan Administrator within 60 days after the qualifying event occurs. Contact your employer and/or COBRA Administrator for procedures for this notice, including a description of any required information or documentation.

## **How Is COBRA Coverage Provided?**

Once the Plan Administrator receives notice that a qualifying event has occurred, COBRA continuation coverage will be offered to each of the qualified beneficiaries. Each qualified beneficiary will have an independent right to elect COBRA continuation coverage. Covered employees may elect COBRA continuation coverage on behalf of their spouses, and parents may elect COBRA continuation coverage on behalf of their children.

COBRA continuation coverage is a temporary continuation of coverage. When the qualifying event is the death of the employee, the employee's becoming entitled to Medicare benefits (under Part A, Part B, or both), your divorce or legal separation, or a dependent child's losing eligibility as a dependent child, COBRA continuation coverage lasts for up to 36 months.

When the qualifying event is the end of employment or reduction of the employee's hours of employment, and the employee became entitled to Medicare benefits less than 18 months before the qualifying event, COBRA continuation coverage for qualified beneficiaries other than the employee lasts until 36 months after the date of Medicare entitlement. For example, if a covered employee becomes entitled to Medicare 8 months before the date on which his employment terminates, COBRA continuation coverage for his spouse and children can last up to 36 months after the date of Medicare entitlement, which is equal to 28 months after the date of the qualifying event (36 months minus 8 months). Otherwise, when the qualifying event is the end of employment or reduction of the employee's hours of employment, COBRA continuation coverage generally lasts for only up to a total of 18 months. There are two ways in which this 18-month period of COBRA continuation coverage can be extended.

### **Disability Extension Of 18-Month Period Of Continuation Coverage**

If you or anyone in your family covered under the Plan is determined by the Social Security Administration to be disabled and you notify the Plan Administrator in a timely fashion, you and your entire family may be entitled to receive up to an additional 11 months of COBRA continuation coverage, for a total maximum of 29 months. The disability would have to have started at some time before the 60th day of COBRA continuation coverage and must last at least until the end of the 18-month period of continuation coverage. Contact your employer and/or the COBRA Administrator for procedures for this notice, including a description of any required information or documentation.

### **Second Qualifying Event Extension Of 18-Month Period Of Continuation Coverage**

If your family experiences another qualifying event while receiving 18 months of COBRA continuation coverage, the spouse and dependent children in your family can get up to 18 additional months of COBRA continuation coverage, for a maximum of 36 months, if notice of the second qualifying event is properly given to the Plan. This extension may be available to the spouse and dependent children receiving continuation coverage if the employee or former employee dies, becomes entitled to Medicare benefits (under Part A, Part B, or

both), or gets divorced or legally separated or if the dependent child stops being eligible under the Plan as a dependent child, but only if the event would have caused the spouse or dependent child to lose coverage under the Plan had the first qualifying event not occurred.

### **If You Have Questions**

Questions concerning your Plan or your COBRA continuation coverage rights, should be addressed to your Plan Administrator. For more information about your rights under ERISA, including COBRA, the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA), and other laws affecting group health plans, contact the nearest Regional or District Office of the U. S. Department of Labor's Employee Benefits Security Administration (EBSA) in your area or visit the EBSA website at [www.dol.gov/ebsa](http://www.dol.gov/ebsa). (Addresses and phone numbers of Regional and District EBSA Offices are available through EBSA's website.)

### **Keep Your Plan Informed Of Address Changes**

In order to protect your family's rights, you should keep the Plan Administrator informed of any changes in the addresses of family members. You should also keep a copy, for your records, of any notices you send to the Plan Administrator.

### **Plan Contact Information**

Contact your employer for the name, address and telephone number of the party responsible for administering your COBRA continuation coverage.

## HOW TO FILE A CLAIM

In order to obtain your benefits under this Health Care Plan, it is necessary for a Claim to be filed with the Claim Administrator. To file a Claim, usually all you will have to do is show your ID card to your Hospital or Physician (or other Provider). They will file your Claim for you. Remember however, it is your responsibility to insure that the necessary Claim information has been provided to the Claim Administrator.

Once the Claim Administrator receives your Claim, it will be processed and the benefit payment will usually be sent directly to the Hospital or Physician. You will receive a statement telling you how much was paid. In some cases the Claim Administrator will send the payment directly to you or if applicable, in the case of a Qualified Medical Child Support Order, to the designated representative as it appears on the Claim Administrator's records.

In certain situations, you will have to file your own Claims. This is primarily true when you are receiving services or supplies from Providers other than a Hospital or Physician. An example would be when you have had ambulance expenses. To file your own Claim, follow these instructions:

1. Complete a Claim Form. These are available from your Employee Benefits Department or from the Claim Administrator's office.
2. Attach copies of all bills to be considered for benefits. These bills must include the Provider's name and address, the patient's name, the diagnosis, the date of service and a description of the service and the Claim Charge.
3. Mail the completed Claim Form with attachments to:

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Illinois  
P. O. Box 805107  
Chicago, Illinois 60680-4112

In any case, Claims should be filed with the Claim Administrator within 12 months of the date in which your Covered Service was rendered. **Claims not filed within the required time period will not be eligible for payment.**

Should you have any questions about filing Claims, ask your Employee Benefits Department or call the Claim Administrator's office.

### CLAIMS PROCEDURES

The Claim Administrator will pay all Claims within 30 days of receipt of all information required to process a Claim. In the event that the Claim Administrator does not process a Claim within this 30-day period, you or the valid assignee shall be entitled to interest at the rate of 9% per year, from the 30th day after the receipt of all Claim information until the date payment is actually made. However, interest payment will not be made if the amount is \$1.00 or less. The Claim Administrator will notify you or the valid assignee when all information required to pay a Claim within 30 days of the Claim's receipt has not been received. (For information regarding assigning benefits, see "Payment of Claims and Assignment of Benefits" provisions in the GENERAL PROVISIONS section of this benefit booklet.)

If the Claim is denied in whole or in part, you will receive a notice from the Claim Administrator with: (1) the reasons for denial; (2) a reference to the health care plan provisions on which the denial is based; (3) a description of additional information which may be necessary to perfect the appeal, and (4) an explanation of how you may have the Claim reviewed by the Claim Administrator if you do not agree with the denial.

## **CLAIM REVIEW PROCEDURES**

If your Claim has been denied in whole or in part, you may have your Claim reviewed. The Claim Administrator will review its decision in accordance with the following procedure.

Within 180 days after you receive notice of a denial or partial denial, write to the Claim Administrator. The Claim Administrator will need to know the reasons why you do not agree with the denial or partial denial. Send your request to:

Claim Review Section  
Health Care Service Corporation  
P.O. Box 2401  
Chicago, Illinois 60690

You may also designate a representative to act for you in the review procedure. Your designation of a representative must be in writing as it is necessary to protect against disclosure of information about you except to your authorized representative.

While the Claim Administrator will honor telephone requests for information, such inquiries will not constitute a request for review.

You and your authorized representative may ask to see relevant documents and may submit written issues, comments and additional medical information within 180 days after you receive notice of a denial or partial denial. The Claim Administrator will give you a written decision within 60 days after it receives your request for review.

If you have any questions about the Claims procedures or the review procedure, write or call the Claim Administrator Headquarters. The Claim Administrator offices are open from 8:45 A.M. to 4:45 P.M., Monday through Friday.

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Illinois  
300 East Randolph  
Chicago, IL 60601

If you have a Claim for benefits which is denied or ignored, in whole or in part, you may file suit in a state or federal court.

## GENERAL PROVISIONS

### 1. CLAIM ADMINISTRATOR'S SEPARATE FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS WITH PROVIDERS

The Claim Administrator hereby informs you that it has contracts with certain Providers (“Administrator Providers”) in its service area to provide and pay for health care services to all persons entitled to health care benefits under health policies and contracts to which the Claim Administrator is a party, including all persons covered under the Health Care Plan. Under certain circumstances described in its contracts with Administrator Providers, the Claim Administrator may:

- receive substantial payments from Administrator Providers with respect to services rendered to you for which the Claim Administrator was obligated to pay the Administrator Provider, or
- pay Administrator Providers substantially less than their Claim Charges for services, by discount or otherwise, or
- receive from Administrator Providers other substantial allowances under the Claim Administrator’s contracts with them.

In the case of Hospitals and other facilities, the calculation of any out-of-pocket maximums or any maximum amounts of benefits payable by the Claim Administrator as described in this benefit booklet and the calculation of all required deductible and Coinsurance amounts payable by you as described in this benefit booklet shall be based on the Eligible Charge or Provider’s Claim Charge for Covered Services rendered to you, reduced by the Average Discount Percentage (“ADP”) applicable to your Claim or Claims. Your Employer has been advised that the Claim Administrator may receive such payments, discounts and/or other allowances during the term of the agreement between your Employer and the Claim Administrator. Neither the Employer nor you are entitled to receive any portion of any such payments, discounts and/or other allowances in excess of the ADP.

To help you understand how the Claim Administrator’s separate financial arrangements with Providers work, please consider the following example:

- a. Assume you go into the Hospital for one night and the normal, full amount the Hospital bills for Covered Services is \$1,000. How is the \$1,000 bill paid?
- b. You personally will have to pay the deductible and Coinsurance amounts set out in your benefit booklet.
- c. However, for purposes of calculating your deductible and Coinsurance amounts, and whether you have reached any out-of-pocket or benefit maximums, the Hospital’s Eligible Charge would be reduced by the ADP applicable to your Claim. In our example, if the applicable ADP were 30%, the \$1,000 Hospital bill would be reduced by 30% to \$700 for purposes of calculating your deductible and Coinsurance amounts, and whether you have reached any out-of-pocket or benefit maximums.

- d. Assuming you have already satisfied your deductible, you will still have to pay the Coinsurance portion of the \$1,000 Hospital bill after it has been reduced by the ADP. In our example, if your Coinsurance obligation is 20%, you personally will have to pay 20% of \$700, or \$140. You should note that your 20% Coinsurance is based on the full \$1,000 Hospital bill, after it is reduced by the applicable ADP.
- e. After taking into account the deductible and Coinsurance amounts, the Claim Administrator will satisfy its portion of the Hospital bill. In most cases, the Claim Administrator has a contract with Hospitals that allows it to pay less, and requires the Hospital to accept less, than the amount of money the Claim Administrator would be required to pay if it did not have a contract with the Hospital.

So, in the example we are using, since the full Hospital bill is \$1,000, your deductible has already been satisfied, and your Coinsurance is \$140, then the Claim Administrator has to satisfy the rest of the Hospital bill, or \$860. Assuming the Claim Administrator has a contract with the Hospital, the Claim Administrator will usually be able to satisfy the \$860 bill that remains after your Coinsurance and deductible, by paying less than \$860 to the Hospital, often substantially less than \$860. The Claim Administrator receives, and keeps for its own account, the difference between the \$860 bill and whatever the Claim Administrator ultimately pays under its contracts with Administrator Providers, and neither you nor your Employer are entitled to any part of these savings.

### **Other Blue Cross and Blue Shields' Separate Financial Arrangements with Providers**

#### **Blue Card**

The Claim Administrator hereby informs you that other Blue Cross and Blue Shield Plans outside of Illinois ("Host Blue") may have contracts similar to the contracts described above with certain Providers ("Host Blue Providers") in their service area.

When you receive health care services through BlueCard outside of Illinois and from a Provider which does not have a contract with the Claim Administrator, the amount you pay for Covered Services is calculated on the lower of:

- The billed charges for your Covered Services, or
- The negotiated price that the Host Blue passes on to the Claim Administrator.

To help you understand how this calculation would work, please consider the following example:

- a. Suppose you receive covered medical services for an illness while you are on vacation outside of Illinois. You show your identification card to the provider to let him or her know that you are covered by the Claim Administrator.

- b. The provider has negotiated with the Host Blue a price of \$80, even though the provider's standard charge for this service is \$100. In this example, the provider bills the Host Blue \$100.
- c. The Host Blue, in turn, forwards the claim to the Claim Administrator and indicates that the negotiated price for the covered service is \$80. The Claim Administrator would then base the amount you must pay for the service – the amount applied to your deductible, if any, and your coinsurance percentage – on the \$80 negotiated price, not the \$100 billed charge.
- d. So, for example, if your coinsurance is 20%, you would pay \$16 (20% of \$80), not \$20 (20% of \$100). You are not responsible for amounts over the negotiated price for a covered service.

PLEASE NOTE: The coinsurance percentage in the above example is for illustration purposes only. The example assumes that you have met your deductible and that there are no copayments associated with the service rendered. Your deductible(s), Coinsurance and Copayment(s) are specified in this benefit booklet.

Often, this “negotiated price” will consist of a simple discount which reflects the actual price paid by the Host Blue. Sometimes, however, it is an estimated price that factors into the actual price increases or reductions to reflect aggregate payment from expected settlements, withholds, any other contingent payment arrangements and non-claims transactions with your health care provider or with a specified group of providers. The negotiated price may also be billed charges reduced to reflect an average expected savings with your health care provider or with a specified group of providers. The price that reflects average savings may result in greater variation (more or less) from the actual price paid than will the estimated price. The negotiated price will also be adjusted in the future to correct for over- or underestimation of past prices. However, the amount you pay is considered a final price.

Statutes in a small number of states may require the Host Blue to use a basis for calculating your liability for Covered Services that does not reflect the entire savings realized, or expected to be realized, on a particular claim or to add a surcharge. Should any state statutes mandate your liability calculation methods that differ from the usual BlueCard method noted above or require a surcharge, the Claim Administrator would then calculate your liability for any covered health care services in accordance with the applicable state statute in effect at the time you received your care.

### **Claim Administrator's Separate Financial Arrangements with Prescription Drug Providers**

The Claim Administrator hereby informs you that it has contracts, either directly or indirectly, with Prescription Drug Providers (“Participating Prescription Drug Providers”) to provide prescription drug services to all persons entitled to prescription drug benefits under health policies and contracts to which the Claim Administrator is a party, including all persons covered under this Health Care Plan. Under its contracts with

Participating Prescription Drug Providers, the Claim Administrator may receive from these Providers discounts for prescription drugs dispensed to you.

### **Claim Administrator's Separate Financial Arrangements with Pharmacy Benefit Managers**

The Claim Administrator owns a significant portion of the equity of Prime Therapeutics LLC and informs you that the Claim Administrator has entered into one or more agreements with Prime Therapeutics LLC or other entities (collectively referred to as "Pharmacy Benefit Managers") to provide, on the Claim Administrator's behalf, Claim Payments and certain administrative services for your prescription drug benefits. Pharmacy Benefit Managers have agreements with pharmaceutical manufacturers to receive rebates for using their products. The Pharmacy Benefit Manager may share a portion of those rebates with the Claim Administrator. Neither the Employer nor you are entitled to receive any portion of such rebates as they are figured into the pricing of the product.

## **2. PAYMENT OF CLAIMS AND ASSIGNMENT OF BENEFITS**

- a. Under this Health Care Plan, the Claim Administrator has the right to make any benefit payment either to you or directly to the Provider of the Covered Services. For example, the Claim Administrator may pay benefits to you if you receive Covered Services from a Non-Administrator Provider. The Claim Administrator is specifically authorized by you to determine to whom any benefit payment should be made.
- b. Once Covered Services are rendered by a Provider, you have no right to request the Claim Administrator not to pay the Claim submitted by such Provider and no such request will be given effect. In addition, the Claim Administrator will have no liability to you or any other person because of its rejection of such request.
- c. A Covered Person's claim for benefits under this Health Care Plan is expressly non-assignable and non-transferable in whole or in part to any person or entity, including any Provider, at anytime before or after Covered Services are rendered to a Covered Person. Coverage under this Health Care Plan is expressly non-assignable and non-transferable and will be forfeited if you attempt to assign or transfer coverage or aid or attempt to aid any other person in fraudulently obtaining coverage. Any such assignment or transfer of a claim for benefits or coverage shall be null and void.

## **3. YOUR PROVIDER RELATIONSHIPS**

- a. The choice of a Provider is solely your choice and the Claim Administrator will not interfere with your relationship with any Provider.
- b. The Claim Administrator does not itself undertake to furnish health care services, but solely to make payments to Providers for the Covered Services received by you. The Claim Administrator is not in any event liable for any act or omission of any Provider or the agent or employee of such Provider, including, but not limited to, the failure or refusal to

render services to you. Professional services which can only be legally performed by a Provider are not provided by the Claim Administrator. Any contractual relationship between a Physician and an Administrator Provider shall not be construed to mean that the Claim Administrator is providing professional service.

- c. The use of an adjective such as Participating, Administrator or approved in modifying a Provider shall in no way be construed as a recommendation, referral or any other statement as to the ability or quality of such Provider. In addition, the omission, non-use or non-designation of Participating, Administrator, approved or any similar modifier or the use of a term such as Non-Administrator or Non-Participating should not be construed as carrying any statement or inference, negative or positive, as to the skill or quality of such Provider.
- d. Each Provider provides Covered Services only to you and does not deal with or provide any services to your Employer (other than as an individual Covered Person) or your Employer's ERISA Health Benefit Program.

#### **4. NOTICES**

Any information or notice which you furnish to the Claim Administrator under the Health Care Plan as described in this benefit booklet must be in writing and sent to the Claim Administrator at its offices at 300 East Randolph, Chicago, Illinois 60601 (unless another address has been stated in this benefit booklet for a specific situation). Any information or notice which the Claim Administrator furnishes to you must be in writing and sent to you at your address as it appears on the Claim Administrator's records or in care of your Employer and if applicable, in the case of a Qualified Medical Child Support Order, to the designated representative as it appears on the Claim Administrator's records.

#### **5. LIMITATIONS OF ACTIONS**

No legal action may be brought to recover under the Health Care Plan as described in this benefit booklet, prior to the expiration of sixty (60) days after a Claim has been furnished to the Claim Administrator in accordance with the requirements described in this benefit booklet. In addition, no such action shall be brought after the expiration of three (3) years after the time a Claim is required to be furnished to the Claim Administrator in accordance with the requirements described in this benefit booklet.

#### **6. INFORMATION AND RECORDS**

You agree that it is your responsibility to insure that any Provider, other Blue Cross and Blue Shield Plan, insurance company, employee benefit association, government body or program, any other person or entity, having knowledge of or records relating to (a) any illness or injury for which a Claim or Claims for benefits are made under the Health Care Plan, (b) any medical history which might be pertinent to such illness, injury, Claim or Claims, or (c) any benefits or indemnity on account of such illness or injury or on account of any previous illness or injury which may be perti-

ment to such Claim or Claims, furnish to the Claim Administrator or its agent, and agree that any such Provider, person or other entity may furnish to the Claim Administrator or its agent, at any time upon its request, any and all information and records (including copies of records) relating to such illness, injury, Claim or Claims. In addition, the Claim Administrator may furnish similar information and records (or copies of records) to Providers, Blue Cross and Blue Shield Plans, insurance companies, governmental bodies or programs or other entities providing insurance-type benefits requesting the same. It is also your responsibility to furnish the Claim Administrator and/or your Employer or group administrator information regarding your or your dependents becoming eligible for Medicare, termination of Medicare eligibility or any changes in Medicare eligibility status in order that the Claim Administrator be able to make Claim Payments in accordance with MSP laws.

## **REIMBURSEMENT PROVISION**

If you or one of your covered dependents incur expenses for sickness or injury that occurred due to negligence of a third party and benefits are provided for Covered Services described in this benefit booklet, you agree:

- a. the Claim Administrator has the rights to reimbursement for all benefits the Claim Administrator provided from any and all damages collected from the third party for those same expenses whether by action at law, settlement, or compromise, by you or your legal representative as a result of sickness or injury, in the amount of the total Eligible Charge or Provider's Claim Charge for Covered Services for which the Claim Administrator has provided benefits to you, reduced by any Average Discount Percentage ("ADP") applicable to your Claim or Claims.
- b. the Claim Administrator is assigned the right to recover from the third party, or his or her insurer, to the extent of the benefits the Claim Administrator provided for that sickness or injury.

The Claim Administrator shall have the right to first reimbursement out of all funds you, your covered dependents or your legal representative, are or were able to obtain for the same expenses for which the Claim Administrator has provided benefits as a result of that sickness or injury.

You are required to furnish any information or assistance or provide any documents that the Claim Administrator may reasonably require in order to obtain our rights under this provision. This provision applies whether or not the third party admits liability. (See provisions of this benefit booklet regarding "Claim Administrator's Separate Financial Arrangements with Providers.")

## **RIDER TO THE BENEFIT BOOKLET FOR DISABLED OR RETIRED PUBLIC EMPLOYEES**

The benefit booklet to which this Rider is attached and becomes a part, is hereby amended as follows:

If you are a public employee and are eligible for continued coverage for accident and health insurance under Sections 367g, 367h and 367j of the Illinois Insurance Code, you may establish and maintain such continued health coverage under this Health Care Plan, if you meet the following conditions:

1. You and your eligible dependents, must have been covered under this Health Care Plan on the day immediately preceding the effective date of eligibility for continued health coverage.
2. Once properly established, continued health coverage under this Health Care Plan may be maintained by you or your surviving spouse, until the loss of eligibility as specified in Sections 367g, 367h and 367j of the Insurance Code. It shall be your responsibility to inform the Claim Administrator of the loss of eligibility.
3. If you or your surviving spouse is continuing coverage under this Health Care Plan and becomes eligible for Medicare, the benefits under this Health Care Plan shall be reduced in accordance with the benefit provisions for Medicare Eligibles stated in this benefit booklet.
4. If a timely and valid election of continued health coverage has been made, you must remit the total monthly premium payment required to establish and maintain such coverage, whether such total monthly premium is contributed by you, deducted from a pension payment or paid directly to your Employer by you.

Except as amended by this Rider, all terms and conditions of the benefit booklet to which the Rider is attached will remain in full force and effect.

Administered by:



**BlueCross BlueShield of Illinois**

*Experience. Wellness. Everywhere.™*

ASO-1

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**[www.bcbsil.com](http://www.bcbsil.com)**

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