

# BlueChoice<sup>®</sup>

**PPO**

## MEDICAL BENEFIT BOOKLET

FOR

## CITY OF ALBANY

Pre-65 Retiree Plan

Administered By



Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Georgia, Inc.

**Si necesita ayuda en español para entender este documento, puede solicitarla sin costo adicional, llamando al número de servicio al cliente.**

If you need Spanish-language assistance to understand this document, you may request it at no additional cost by calling Member Services at the number on the back of your Identification Card.

Effective 01/01/2018

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# **Federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act Notices**

## **Choice of Primary Care Physician**

The Plan generally allows the designation of a Primary Care Physician (PCP). You have the right to designate any PCP who participates in the Claims Administrator's network and who is available to accept you or your family members. For information on how to select a PCP, and for a list of PCPs, contact the telephone number on the back of your Identification Card or refer to the Claims Administrator's website, [www.anthem.com](http://www.anthem.com). For children, you may designate a pediatrician as the PCP.

## **Access to Obstetrical and Gynecological (ObGyn) Care**

You do not need prior authorization from the Plan or from any other person (including a PCP) in order to obtain access to obstetrical or gynecological care from a health care professional in the Claims Administrator's network who specializes in obstetrics or gynecology. The health care professional, however, may be required to comply with certain procedures, including obtaining prior authorization for certain services or following a pre-approved treatment plan. For a list of participating health care professionals who specialize in obstetrics or gynecology, contact the telephone number on the back of your Identification Card or refer to the Claims Administrator's website, [www.anthem.com](http://www.anthem.com)

## **Additional Federal Notices**

### **Statement of Rights under the Newborns' and Mother's Health Protection Act**

Group health plans and health insurance issuers generally may not, under Federal law, restrict benefits for any Hospital length of stay in connection with childbirth for the mother or newborn child to less than 48 hours following a vaginal delivery, or less than 96 hours following a cesarean section. However, Federal law generally does not prohibit the mother's or newborn's attending Provider, after consulting with the mother, from discharging the mother or her newborn earlier than 48 hours (or 96 hours as applicable). In any case, plans and issuers may not, under Federal law, require that a provider obtain authorization from the Plan or the insurance issuer for prescribing a length of stay not in excess of 48 hours (or 96 hours).

### **Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act**

The Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act provides for parity in the application of aggregate treatment limitations (day or visit limits) on mental health and substance abuse benefits with dollar limits or day/visit limits on medical/surgical benefits. In general, group health plans offering mental health and substance abuse benefits cannot set day/visit limits on mental health or substance abuse benefits that are lower than any such day or visit limits for medical and surgical benefits. A plan that does not impose day or visit limits on medical and surgical benefits may not impose such day or visit limits on mental health and substance abuse benefits offered under the Plan. Also, the Plan may not impose Deductibles, Copayment, Coinsurance, and out of pocket expenses on mental health and substance abuse benefits that are more restrictive than Deductibles, Copayment, Coinsurance, and out of pocket expenses applicable to other medical and surgical benefits. Medical Necessity criteria are available upon request.

### **Coverage for a Child Due to a Qualified Medical Support Order ("QMCSO")**

If you or your spouse are required, due to a QMCSO, to provide coverage for your child(ren), you may ask your Employer or Plan Administrator to provide you, without charge, a written statement outlining the procedures for getting coverage for such child(ren).

### **Statement of Rights Under the Women's Cancer Rights Act of 1998**

If you have had or are going to have a mastectomy, you may be entitled to certain benefits under the Women's Health and Cancer Rights Act of 1998 (WHCRA). For individuals receiving mastectomy-related benefits, coverage will be provided in a manner determined in consultation with the attending Physician and the patient, for:

- All stages of reconstruction of the breast on which the mastectomy was performed;
- Surgery and reconstruction of the other breast to produce a symmetrical appearance;
- Prostheses; and
- Treatment of physical complications of the mastectomy, including lymphedema.

These benefits will be provided subject to the same Deductibles and Coinsurance applicable to other medical and surgical benefits provided under this Plan. (See the "Schedule of Benefits" for details.) If you would like more information on WHCRA benefits, call the number on the back of your Identification Card.

### **Special Enrollment Notice**

If you are declining enrollment for yourself or your Dependents (including your spouse) because of other health insurance coverage, you may in the future be able to enroll yourself or your Dependents in this Plan,

if you or your Dependents lose eligibility for that other coverage (or if the employer stops contributing towards your or your Dependents' other coverage). However, you must request enrollment within 31 days after your or your Dependents' other coverage ends (or after the employer stops contributing toward the other coverage).

In addition, if you have a new Dependent as a result of marriage, birth, adoption, or placement for adoption, you may be able to enroll yourself and your Dependents. However, you must request enrollment within 31 days after the marriage, birth, adoption, or placement for adoption.

Eligible Subscribers and Dependents may also enroll under two additional circumstances:

- The Subscriber's or Dependent's Medicaid or Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) coverage is terminated as a result of loss of eligibility; or
- The Subscriber or Dependent becomes eligible for a subsidy (state premium assistance program).

The Subscriber or Dependent must request Special Enrollment within 60 days of the loss of Medicaid/CHIP or of the eligibility determination.

To request special enrollment or obtain more information, call the Member Services telephone number on your Identification Card, or contact your Employer.

## Introduction

This Benefit Booklet gives you a description of your benefits while you are enrolled under the health care plan (the "Plan") offered by your Employer. You should read this Benefit Booklet carefully to get to know the Plan's main provisions and keep it handy for reference. A thorough understanding of your coverage will allow you to use your benefits wisely. If you have any questions about the benefits shown in this Benefit Booklet, please call your Employer's Health Plan Administrator or the Member Services number on the back of your Identification Card.

The Plan benefits described in this Benefit Booklet are for eligible Members only. The health care services are subject to the limitations and Exclusions, Copayments, Deductible, and Coinsurance rules given in this Benefit Booklet. Any group plan or certificate which you received before will be replaced by this Benefit Booklet.

Many words used in the Benefit Booklet have special meanings (e.g., Employer, Covered Services, and Medical Necessity). These words are capitalized and are defined in the "Definitions" section. See these definitions for the best understanding of what is being stated. Throughout this Benefit Booklet you will also see references to "we", "us", "our", "you", and "your". The words "we", "us", and "our" mean the Claims Administrator. The words "you" and "your" mean the Member, Subscriber and each covered Dependent.

If you have any questions about your Plan, please be sure to call Member Services at the number on the back of your Identification Card. Also be sure to check the Claims Administrator's website, [www.bcbsga.com](http://www.bcbsga.com) for details on how to find a Provider, get answers to questions, and access valuable health and wellness tips.

**Important:** This is not an insured benefit Plan. The benefits described in this Benefit Booklet or any rider or amendments attached hereto are funded by the Employer who is responsible for their payment. BCBSGA provides administrative claims payment services only and does not assume any financial risk or obligation with respect to claims.

BCBSGA is an independent corporation operating under a license from the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association, permitting BCBSGA to use the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Service Marks in the State of Georgia. Although BCBSGA is the Claims Administrator and is licensed in Georgia you will have access to providers participating in the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association BlueCard® PPO network across the country. BCBSGA has entered into a contract with the Employer on its own behalf and not as the agent of the Association.

## How to Get Language Assistance

The Plan is committed to communicating with Members about the health Plan, no matter what their language is. The Claims Administrator employs a language line interpretation service for use by all their Member Services call centers. Simply call the Member Services phone number on the back of your Identification Card and a representative will be able to help you. Translation of written materials about your benefits can also be asked for by contacting Member Services. TTY/TDD services also are available by dialing 711. A special operator will get in touch with us to help with your needs.

## Identity Protection Services

Identity protection services are available your Employer's [BCBSGA] [Anthem] health plans. To learn more about these services, please visit [www.bcbsga.com/resources](http://www.bcbsga.com/resources) [www.anthem.com/resources](http://www.anthem.com/resources).

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## Schedule of Benefits

In this section you will find an outline of the benefits included in your Plan and a summary of any Deductibles, Coinsurance, and Copayments that you must pay. Also listed are any Benefit Period Maximums or limits that apply. Please read the "What's Covered" and Prescription Drugs section(s) for more details on the Plan's Covered Services. Read the "What's Not Covered" section for details on Excluded Services.

All Covered Services are subject to the conditions, Exclusions, limitations, and terms of this Benefit Booklet including any endorsements, amendments, or riders.

**To get the highest benefits at the lowest out-of-pocket cost, you must get Covered Services from an In-Network Provider.** Benefits for Covered Services are based on the Maximum Allowed Amount, which is the most the Claims Administrator will allow for a Covered Service. When you use an Out-of-Network Provider you may have to pay the difference between the Out-of-Network Provider's billed charge and the Maximum Allowed Amount in addition to any Coinsurance, Copayments, Deductibles, and non-covered charges. This amount can be substantial. Please read the "Claims Payment" section for more details.

Deductibles, Coinsurance, and Benefit Period Maximums are calculated based upon the Maximum Allowed Amount, not the Provider's billed charges.

<b>Benefit Period</b>	Calendar Year
<b>Dependent Age Limit</b>	To the end of the month in which the child attains age 26  Please see the "Eligibility and Enrollment – Adding Members" section for further details.

Deductible	In-Network	Out-of-Network
Individual	\$1,000	\$1,000
	In- and Out-of-Network not combined	
Per Family	\$3,000	\$3,000
All other eligible Members combined	In- and Out-of-Network not combined	
<p>Note: The Family Deductible is an aggregate Deductible. This means any combination of amounts paid by family Members toward Covered Services can be used to satisfy the Family Deductible.</p> <p>The In-Network and Out-of-Network Deductibles are separate and cannot be combined.</p> <p>When the Deductible applies, you must pay it before benefits begin. See the sections below to find out when the Deductible applies.</p> <p>No benefits are payable until the Calendar Year Deductible is satisfied, unless otherwise indicated. For family coverage, all eligible family Members share one combined Deductible.</p> <p>Copayments and Coinsurance are separate from and do not apply to the Deductible.</p>		

<b>Deductible</b>	<b>In-Network</b>	<b>Out-of-Network</b>
Any amounts applied to the Deductible for costs you pay during the last three months of the Benefit Period will also apply to the next Benefit Period's Deductible.		

<b>Coinsurance</b>	<b>In-Network</b>	<b>Out-of-Network</b>
Plan Pays (unless otherwise noted)	80%	60%
Member Pays (unless otherwise noted)	20%	40%
Reminder: Your Coinsurance will be based on the Maximum Allowed Amount. If you use an Out-of-Network Provider, you may have to pay Coinsurance plus the difference between the Out-of-Network Provider's billed charge and the Maximum Allowed Amount.		
Note: The Coinsurance listed above may not apply to all benefits, and some benefits may have a different Coinsurance. Please see the rest of this Schedule for details.		

<b>Out-of-Pocket Limit</b>	<b>In-Network</b>	<b>Out-of-Network</b>
Individual	\$5,000	\$10,000
	In- and Out-of-Network not combined	
Per Family	\$10,000	\$20,000
All other eligible Members combined	In- and Out-of-Network not combined	
If you, the Subscriber, are the only person covered by this Plan, only the "Individual" amounts apply to you. If you also cover Dependents (other family members) under this Plan, only the "per Family" amounts apply.		
The Out-of-Pocket Limit includes all Deductibles, Coinsurance, and Copayments you pay during a Benefit Period unless otherwise indicated.		
<b>The Out-of-Pocket Limit does not include amounts you pay for the following benefits:</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Charges over the Maximum Allowed Amount,</li> <li>• Penalties for not getting required pre-authorization / Precertification of services,</li> <li>• Amounts you pay for non-Covered Services.</li> </ul>		
Once the Out-of- Pocket Limit is satisfied, you will not have to pay any additional Deductibles, Coinsurance, or Copayments for the rest of the Benefit Period, except for the services listed above.		
The In-Network and Out-of-Network Out-of-Pocket Limits are separate and do not apply toward each other.		

## Important Notice about Your Cost Shares

In certain cases, if a Provider is paid amounts that are your responsibility, such as Deductibles, Copayments or Coinsurance, such amounts may be collected directly from you. You agree that the Claims Administrator, on behalf of the Plan, has the right to collect such amounts from you.

The tables below outline the Plan's Covered Services and the cost share(s) you must pay. In many spots you will see the statement, "Benefits are based on the setting in which Covered Services are received". In these cases you should determine where you will receive the service (i.e., in a Doctor's office, at an outpatient Hospital facility, etc.) and look up that location to find out which cost share will apply. For example, you might get physical therapy in a Doctor's office, an outpatient Hospital facility, or during an Inpatient Hospital stay. For services in the office, look up "Office Visits". For services in the outpatient department of a Hospital, look up "Outpatient Facility Services". For services during an Inpatient stay, look up "Inpatient Services".

Benefits	In-Network	Out-of-Network
<b>Allergy Services</b>	Benefits are based on the setting in which Covered Services are received.	
<b>Ambulance Services (Air and Water)</b>	20% Coinsurance after Deductible Out-of-Network Providers may also bill you for any charges that exceed the Plan's Maximum Allowed Amount. <b>Important Note:</b> Air ambulance services for non-Emergency Hospital to Hospital transfers must be approved through precertification. Please see "Getting Approval for Benefits" for details.	
<b>Ambulance Services (Ground)</b>	20% Coinsurance after Deductible Out-of-Network Providers may also bill you for any charges that exceed the Plan's Maximum Allowed Amount. <b>Important Note:</b> All scheduled ground ambulance services for non-Emergency transfers, except transfers from one acute Facility to another, must be approved through precertification. Please see "Getting Approval for Benefits" for details.	
<b>Behavioral Health Services</b>	See "Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services."	
<b>Cardiac Rehabilitation</b>	Benefits are based on the setting in which Covered Services are received.	
<b>Chemotherapy</b>	Benefits are based on the setting in which Covered Services are received.	

Benefits	In-Network	Out-of-Network
<b>Chiropractic Services/ Manipulation Therapy</b>	Benefits are based on the setting in which Covered Services are received. Also see “Therapy Services”.	
<b>Clinical Trials/ Cancer Clinical Trial Programs for Children</b>	Benefits are based on the setting in which Covered Services are received.	
<b>Dental Services All Members/ All Ages</b>	Benefits are based on the setting in which Covered Services are received.	
<b>Diabetes Equipment, Education, and Supplies</b>	Benefits are based on the setting in which Covered Services are received.	
<b>Diagnostic Services</b>	Benefits are based on the setting in which Covered Services are received.	
<b>Dialysis/ Hemodialysis</b>	Benefits are based on the setting in which Covered Services are received	
<b>Durable Medical Equipment (DME) and Medical Devices, Orthotics, Prosthetics, Medical and Surgical Supplies (Received from a Supplier)</b>	20% Coinsurance after Deductible	40% Coinsurance after Deductible
The cost-shares listed above only apply when you get the equipment or supplies from a third-party supplier. If you receive the equipment or supplies as part of an office or outpatient visit, or during a Hospital stay, benefits will be based on the setting in which the covered equipment or supplies are received.		
<b>Emergency Services</b>		
Emergency Room		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Emergency Room Facility Charge</li> </ul>	\$200 Copayment	20% Coinsurance after Deductible Copayment waived if admitted
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Emergency Room Doctor Charge</li> </ul>	20% Coinsurance no Deductible	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Other Facility Charges (including diagnostic x-ray and lab services, medical supplies)</li> </ul>	20% Coinsurance no Deductible	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Advanced Diagnostic Imaging (including MRIs, CAT scans)</li> </ul>	20% Coinsurance no Deductible	

Benefits	In-Network	Out-of-Network
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Non-emergency use of Emergency Room Services</li> </ul>	\$200 Copayment then 20% Coinsurance after Deductible	\$200 Copayment then 20% Coinsurance after Deductible
<p>Out-of-Network Providers may also bill you for any charges over the Plan's Maximum Allowed Amount.</p>		
<p><b>Home Care</b></p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Home Care Visits</li> </ul>	20% Coinsurance after Deductible	40% Coinsurance after Deductible
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Home Dialysis</li> </ul>	20% Coinsurance after Deductible	40% Coinsurance after Deductible
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Home Infusion Therapy</li> </ul>	20% Coinsurance after Deductible	40% Coinsurance after Deductible
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Specialty Prescription Drugs</li> </ul>	20% Coinsurance after Deductible	40% Coinsurance after Deductible
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Other Home Care Services / Supplies</li> </ul>	20% Coinsurance after Deductible	40% Coinsurance after Deductible
<p>Home Care Benefit Maximum</p>	<p>120 visits per Benefit Period In- and Out-of-Network combined The limit does not apply to Home Infusion Therapy or Home Dialysis.</p>	
<p><b>Home Infusion Therapy</b></p>		
		See "Home Care."
<p><b>Hospice Care</b></p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Home Care</li> </ul>	0% Coinsurance no Deductible	
<p>Out-of-Network Providers may also bill you for any charges over the Plan's Maximum Allowed Amount.</p>		
<p><b>Human Organ and Tissue Transplant (Bone Marrow / Stem Cell) Services</b></p>		
		Please see the separate summary later in this section
<p><b>Infertility Services</b></p>		
		See "Maternity and Reproductive Health Services."
<p><b>Inpatient Facility Services</b></p>		
<p>Facility Room &amp; Board Charge:</p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hospital / Acute Care Facility</li> </ul>	20% Coinsurance after Deductible	40% Coinsurance after Deductible

Benefits	In-Network	Out-of-Network
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Skilled Nursing Facility</li> </ul> <p>Skilled Nursing Facility / Rehabilitation Services (Includes Services in an Outpatient Day Rehabilitation Program) Benefit Maximum</p>	20% Coinsurance after Deductible  30 days per Benefit Period In- and Out-of-Network combined	40% Coinsurance after Deductible
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Other Facility Services / Supplies (including diagnostic lab/x-ray, medical supplies, therapies, anesthesia)</li> </ul>	20% Coinsurance after Deductible	40% Coinsurance after Deductible
Doctor Services for:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>General Medical Care / Evaluation and Management (E&amp;M)</li> </ul>	20% Coinsurance after Deductible	40% Coinsurance after Deductible
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Surgery</li> </ul>	20% Coinsurance after Deductible	40% Coinsurance after Deductible
<b>Maternity and Reproductive Health Services</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maternity Services (Global fee for the ObGyn's prenatal, postnatal, and delivery services)</li> </ul> <p>If you change Doctors during your pregnancy, the prenatal and postnatal fees will be billed separately.</p>	20% Coinsurance after Deductible	40% Coinsurance after Deductible
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prenatal Office Visit Services</li> </ul> <p>Global Obstetrical Care Copayment applies to first pre-natal visit only.</p>	\$35 Copayment no Deductible	40% Coinsurance after Deductible
Primary Care Physician / Provider (PCP)	\$35 Copayment no Deductible	40% Coinsurance after Deductible
Specialty Care Physician / Provider (SCP)	\$35 Copayment no Deductible	40% Coinsurance after Deductible
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Inpatient Services (Delivery)</li> </ul>	20% Coinsurance after Deductible	40% Coinsurance after Deductible
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Inpatient Facility Services</li> </ul>	20% Coinsurance after Deductible	40% Coinsurance after Deductible
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Inpatient Doctor Services</li> </ul>	20% Coinsurance after Deductible	40% Coinsurance after Deductible
<b>Newborn/ Maternity Stays:</b> If the newborn needs services other than routine nursery care or stays in the Hospital after the mother is discharged (sent home), benefits for the newborn will be treated as a separate admission.		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Infertility</b> Limited to diagnostic services and treatment</li> </ul>	Benefits are based on the setting in which Covered Services are received.	
<b>Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services</b>		

Benefits	In-Network	Out-of-Network
• Inpatient Facility Services	20% Coinsurance after Deductible	40% Coinsurance after Deductible
• Inpatient Doctor Services	20% Coinsurance after Deductible	40% Coinsurance after Deductible
• Residential Treatment Center	20% Coinsurance after Deductible	40% Coinsurance after Deductible
• Outpatient Facility Services	20% Coinsurance after Deductible	40% Coinsurance after Deductible
• Outpatient Doctor Services	\$35 Copayment no Deductible	40% Coinsurance after Deductible
• Partial Hospitalization Program / Intensive Outpatient Program Services	20% Coinsurance after Deductible	40% Coinsurance after Deductible
• Office Visits	\$35 Copayment no Deductible	40% Coinsurance after Deductible
Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services will be covered as required by law. Please see “Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act” in the “Additional Federal Notices” section for details.		
<b>Occupational Therapy</b>		
Benefits are based on the setting in which Covered Services are received.		
<b>Office Visits and Physician Services</b>		
• Primary Care Physician / Provider (PCP)	20% Coinsurance after Deductible	40% Coinsurance after Deductible
• Specialty Care Physician / Provider (SCP)	20% Coinsurance after Deductible	40% Coinsurance after Deductible
• Retail Health Clinic Visit	20% Coinsurance after Deductible	40% Coinsurance after Deductible
• Online Visits	20% Coinsurance after Deductible	40% Coinsurance after Deductible
• Counseling (including family planning)	Covered in PCP / SCP Copayment	40% Coinsurance after Deductible
• Nutritional Counseling	Covered in PCP / SCP Copayment	40% Coinsurance after Deductible
○ Nutritional Counseling – Benefit Maximum	4 visits per Benefit Period	
○ Nutritional Counseling for Diabetes – Benefit Maximum	Unlimited	
• Allergy Testing	20% Coinsurance after Deductible	40% Coinsurance after Deductible



Benefits	In-Network	Out-of-Network
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Allergy Shots and, Serum</li> <li>• Diagnostic Labs (non-preventive) (i.e., reference labs)</li> <li>• Diagnostic X-ray (non-preventive)</li> <li>• Diagnostic Tests (non-preventive; including hearing and EKG)</li> <li>• Advanced Diagnostic Imaging (including MRIs, CAT scans)</li> <li>• Office Surgery</li> <li>• Second Surgical Opinion</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>20% Coinsurance after Deductible</li> <li>0% Coinsurance no Deductible</li> <li>Covered in PCP / SCP Copayment</li> <li>Covered in PCP / SCP Copayment</li> <li>20% Coinsurance after Deductible</li> <li>20% Coinsurance after Deductible</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>40% Coinsurance after Deductible</li> <li>30% Coinsurance after Deductible</li> <li>40% Coinsurance after Deductible</li> <li>40% Coinsurance after Deductible</li> <li>40% Coinsurance after Deductible</li> <li>40% Coinsurance after Deductible</li> </ul>
Therapy Services:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chiropractic Care / Manipulation Therapy</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>50% Coinsurance after Deductible</li> <li>30 visits per Benefit Period</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>50% Coinsurance after Deductible</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Physical / Occupational / Speech Therapy</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>20% Coinsurance after Deductible</li> <li>50 visits per Benefit Period</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>40% Coinsurance after Deductible</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Respiratory and Pulmonary</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>20% Coinsurance after Deductible</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>40% Coinsurance after Deductible</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cardiac Rehabilitation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>20% Coinsurance after Deductible</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>40% Coinsurance after Deductible</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dialysis / Hemodialysis</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>20% Coinsurance after Deductible</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>40% Coinsurance after Deductible</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Radiation / Chemotherapy / Non-Preventive Infusion &amp; Injection</li> </ul> <p>See "Therapy Services" for details on Benefit Maximums.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>20% Coinsurance after Deductible</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>40% Coinsurance after Deductible</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prescription Drugs Administered in the Office (includes allergy serum)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>20% Coinsurance after Deductible</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>40% Coinsurance after Deductible</li> </ul>
<b>Orthotics</b>	See "Durable Medical Equipment (DME) and Medical Devices, Orthotics, Prosthetics, Medical and Surgical Supplies"	

Benefits	In-Network	Out-of-Network
<b>Outpatient Facility Services</b>		
Facility Surgery Charge	20% Coinsurance after Deductible	40% Coinsurance after Deductible
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Other Facility Surgery Charges (including diagnostic x-ray and lab services, medical supplies)</li> </ul>	20% Coinsurance after Deductible	40% Coinsurance after Deductible
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Doctor Surgery Charges</li> </ul>	20% Coinsurance after Deductible	40% Coinsurance after Deductible
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Other Doctor Charges (including Anesthesiologist, Pathologist, Radiologist, Surgical Assistant)</li> </ul>	20% Coinsurance after Deductible	40% Coinsurance after Deductible
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Other Facility Charges (for procedure rooms or other ancillary services)</li> </ul>	20% Coinsurance after Deductible	40% Coinsurance after Deductible
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Diagnostic Lab</li> </ul>	20% Coinsurance after Deductible	40% Coinsurance after Deductible
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Diagnostic X-ray</li> </ul>	20% Coinsurance after Deductible	40% Coinsurance after Deductible
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Diagnostic Tests: Hearing, EKG, etc. (Non-Preventive)</li> </ul>	20% Coinsurance after Deductible	40% Coinsurance after Deductible
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Advanced Diagnostic Imaging (including MRIs, CAT scans)</li> </ul>	20% Coinsurance after Deductible	40% Coinsurance after Deductible
Therapy Services:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chiropractic Care / Manipulation Therapy</li> </ul>	50% Coinsurance after Deductible	50% Coinsurance after Deductible
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Physical / Occupational / Speech Therapy</li> </ul>	20% Coinsurance after Deductible	40% Coinsurance after Deductible
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Respiratory and Pulmonary</li> </ul>	20% Coinsurance after Deductible	40% Coinsurance after Deductible
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cardiac Rehabilitation</li> </ul>	20% Coinsurance after Deductible	40% Coinsurance after Deductible
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dialysis / Hemodialysis</li> </ul>	20% Coinsurance after Deductible	40% Coinsurance after Deductible
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Radiation / Chemotherapy / Non-Preventive Infusion &amp; Injection</li> </ul>	20% Coinsurance after Deductible	40% Coinsurance after Deductible
See "Therapy Services" for details on Benefit Maximums.		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prescription Drugs Administered in an Outpatient Facility</li> </ul>	20% Coinsurance after Deductible	40% Coinsurance after Deductible

Benefits	In-Network	Out-of-Network
<b>Outpatient Freestanding Facility</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Facility Surgery Charge / Ambulatory Surgery Center</li> </ul>	20% Coinsurance after Deductible	40% Coinsurance after Deductible
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Other Facility Surgery Charges/ Ambulatory Surgical Center (including diagnostic x-ray and lab services, medical supplies)</li> </ul>	20% Coinsurance after Deductible	40% Coinsurance after Deductible
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Doctor Charges in Ambulatory Surgical Center / Freestanding Radiology Center (including Anesthesiologist, Pathologist, Radiologist, Surgery, Surgical Assistant)</li> </ul>	20% Coinsurance after Deductible	40% Coinsurance after Deductible
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Diagnostic X-ray / Freestanding Radiology Center</li> </ul>	20% Coinsurance after Deductible	40% Coinsurance after Deductible
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Advanced Diagnostic Imaging (including MRIs, CAT scans) / Freestanding Radiology Center</li> </ul>	20% Coinsurance after Deductible	4 0% Coinsurance after Deductible
•		
<b>Physical Therapy</b>	Benefits are based on the setting in which Covered Services are received. Also see "Therapy Services".	
<b>Preventive Care</b>	0% No Copayment, Deductible, or Coinsurance	30% Coinsurance after Deductible
No In-Network or Out-of-Network Deductible for preventive care services through age 5.		
<b>Prosthetics</b>	See "Durable Medical Equipment (DME) and Medical Devices, Orthotics, Prosthetics, Medical and Surgical Supplies"	
<b>Pulmonary Therapy</b>	Benefits are based on the setting in which Covered Services are received.	
<b>Radiation Therapy</b>	Benefits are based on the setting in which Covered Services are received.	
<b>Rehabilitation Services</b>	Benefits are based on the setting in which Covered Services are received.	
<b>Respiratory Therapy</b>	Benefits are based on the setting in which Covered Services are received.	

Benefits	In-Network	Out-of-Network
<b>Skilled Nursing Facility</b>	See "Inpatient Services"	
<b>Speech Therapy</b>	Benefits are based on the setting in which Covered Services are received. Also see "Therapy Services".	
<b>Surgery</b>	Benefits are based on the setting in which Covered Services are received.	
<b>Telemedicine</b>		
• Facility Services	20% Coinsurance after Deductible	40% Coinsurance after Deductible
• Primary Care Physician / Provider (PCP)	20% Coinsurance after Deductible	40% Coinsurance after Deductible
• Specialist Care Physician / Provider (SCP)	20% Coinsurance after Deductible	40% Coinsurance after Deductible
<b>Therapy Services</b>	Benefits are based on the setting in which Covered Services are received.	
Benefit Maximum(s):	Benefit Maximum(s) are for In- and Out-of-Network visits combined, and for office and outpatient visits combined.	
• Physical / Occupational / Speech Therapy	50 visits per Benefit Period combined	
• Respiratory / Pulmonary Therapy	30 visits per Benefit Period	
• Chiropractic Care / Manipulation Therapy	30 visits per Benefit Period	
<b>Notes:</b> The limits for physical, occupational, and speech therapy will not apply if you get that care as part of the Hospice Care or the Inpatient Facility Services benefit.		
When physical, occupational, speech therapy, or cardiac rehabilitation is rendered in the home, the Home Care Visit limit will apply instead of the Therapy Services limits listed above.		
<b>Transplant Services</b>	Please see "Human Organ and Tissue Transplant (Bone Marrow / Stem Cell) Services" summary later in this section.	
<b>Urgent Care Services</b>	\$60 Copayment no Deductible	
If you get urgent care at a Hospital or other outpatient Facility, please refer to "Outpatient Facility Services" for details on what you will pay.		

Benefits	In-Network	Out-of-Network
<p><b>Vision Services (All Members/ All Ages)</b> (For medical and surgical treatment of injuries and/or diseases of the eye)</p> <p>Certain vision screenings required by Federal law are covered under the "Preventive Care" benefit.</p>	<p>Benefits are based on the setting in which Covered Services are received.</p>	
<p><b>Wigs/ Toupees</b> (limit one per benefit period)</p>	<p>See "Durable Medical Equipment (DME) and Medical Devices, Orthotics, Prosthetics, Medical and Surgical Supplies"</p>	

**Human Organ and Tissue Transplant (Bone Marrow / Stem Cell) Services**

**Please call our Transplant Department as soon as you think you may need a transplant to talk about your benefit options. You must do this *before* you have an evaluation and/or work-up for a transplant. To get the most benefits under your Plan, you must get certain human organ and tissue transplant services from an In-Network Transplant Provider.** Even if a Hospital is an In-Network Provider for other services, it may not be an In-Network Transplant Provider for certain transplant services. Please call us to find out which Hospitals are In-Network Transplant Providers. (When calling Member Services, ask for the Transplant Case Manager for further details.)

**The requirements described below do not apply to the following:**

- Cornea transplants, which are covered as any other surgery; and
- Any Covered Services related to a Covered Transplant Procedure that you get before or after the Transplant Benefit Period. Please note that the initial evaluation, any added tests to determine your eligibility as a candidate for a transplant by your Provider, and the collection and storage of bone marrow/stem cells is included in the Covered Transplant Procedure benefit regardless of the date of service.

Benefits for Covered Services that are not part of the Human Organ and Tissue Transplant benefit will be based on the setting in which Covered Services are received. Please see the “What’s Covered” section for additional details.

<b>Transplant Benefit Period</b>	<b>In-Network Transplant Provider</b>	<b>Out-of-Network Transplant Provider</b>
	Starts one day before a Covered Transplant Procedure and lasts for the applicable case rate / global time period. The number of days will vary depending on the type of transplant received and the In-Network Transplant Provider agreement. Call the Case Manager for specific In-Network Transplant Provider information for services received at or coordinated by an In-Network Transplant Provider Facility.	Starts one day before a Covered Transplant Procedure and continues to the date of discharge at an Out-of- Network Transplant Provider Facility.

Covered Transplant Procedure during the Transplant Benefit Period	In-Network Transplant Provider Facility / In-Network Transplant Provider Professional and Ancillary (non-Hospital) Providers	Out-of-Network Transplant Provider Facility / Out-of-Network Transplant Provider Professional and Ancillary (non-Hospital) Providers
Precertification required	Before and after the Transplant Benefit Period, Covered Services will be covered as Inpatient Services, Outpatient Services, Home Visits, or Office Visits depending where the service is performed.	<p>If the Provider is also an In-Network Provider for this Plan (for services other than Covered Transplant Procedures), then you will <b>not</b> have to pay for Covered Transplant Procedure charges over the Maximum Allowed Amount.</p> <p>If the Provider is an Out-of-Network Provider for this Plan, you <b>will</b> have to pay for Covered Transplant Procedure charges over the Maximum Allowed Amount.</p> <p>Prior to and after the Transplant Benefit Period, Covered Services will be covered as Inpatient Services, Outpatient Services, Home Visits, or Office Visits depending where the service is performed.</p>
<b>Transportation and Lodging</b>	Covered, as approved by us, up to \$10,000 per transplant In- and Out-of-Network combined	
<b>Unrelated donor searches from an authorized, licensed registry for bone marrow/stem cell transplants for a Covered Transplant Procedure</b>		Covered, as approved by us, up to \$30,000 per transplant In- and Out-of-Network combined
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Transportation and Lodging Limit</b></li> </ul>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Donor Search Limit</b></li> </ul>		

## Healthy Support

Your Plan includes the added benefit of voluntary incentive programs. These programs are designed to encourage you to take an active role in improving your health and wellness. A full listing of tools and program options can be found on our website at [www.bcbsga.com](http://www.bcbsga.com) by selecting the 360° Health® tab. Information is also available by calling Customer Service at the number on the back of your Identification Card.

### ConditionCare Programs

ConditionCare programs help maximize your health status, improve health outcomes and control health care expenses associated with the following prevalent conditions:

- Asthma (pediatric and adult).
- Diabetes (pediatric and adult).
- Heart failure (HF).
- Coronary artery disease (CAD).
- Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD).

#### You'll get:

- 24/7 phone access to a nurse coach who can answer your questions and give you up-to-date information about your condition.
- A health review and follow-up calls if you need them.
- Tips on prevention and lifestyle choices to help you improve your quality of life.

### Future Moms

The Future Moms program offers a guided course of care and treatment, leading to overall healthier outcomes for mothers and their newborns. Future Moms helps routine to high-risk expectant mothers focus on early prenatal interventions, risk assessments and education. The program includes special management emphasis for expectant mothers at highest risk for premature birth or other serious maternal issues. The program consists of nurse coaches, supported by pharmacists, registered dietitians, social workers and medical directors. You'll get:

- 24/7 phone access to a nurse coach who can talk with you about your pregnancy and answer your questions.
- *Your Pregnancy Week by Week*, a book to show you what changes you can expect for you and your baby over the next nine months.
- Useful tools to help you, your doctor and your Future Moms nurse coach track your pregnancy and spot possible risks.

### 24/7 NurseLine

You may have emergencies or questions for nurses around-the-clock. 24/7 NurseLine provides you with accurate health information any time of the day or night. Through one-on-one counseling with experienced nurses available 24 hours a day via a convenient toll-free number, you can make more informed decisions about the most appropriate and cost-effective use of health care services. A staff of experienced nurses is trained to address common health care concerns such as medical triage, education, access to health care, diet, social/family dynamics and mental health issues. Specifically, the 24/7 NurseLine features:



- A skilled clinical team – RN license (BSN preferred) that helps Members assess systems, understand medical conditions, ensure Members receive the right care in the right setting and refer you to programs and tools appropriate to your condition.
- Bilingual RNs, language line and hearing impaired services.
- Access to the AudioHealth Library, containing hundreds of audiotapes on a wide variety of health topics.
- Proactive callbacks within 24 to 48 hours for Members referred to 911 emergency services, poison control and pediatric Members with needs identified as either emergent or urgent.
- Referrals to relevant community resources.

# How Your Plan Works

## Introduction

If you have any questions about this Benefit Booklet, please call the member service number located on the back of your Identification (ID) Card.

Your Plan is a PPO plan. The Plan has two sets of benefits: In-Network and Out-of-Network. If you choose an In-Network Provider, you will pay less in out-of-pocket costs, such as Copayments, Deductibles, and Coinsurance. If you use an Out-of-Network Provider, you will have to pay more in out-of-pocket costs.

## In-Network Services

When you use an In-Network Provider or get care as part of an Authorized Service, Covered Services will be covered at the In-Network level. Regardless of Medical Necessity, benefits will be denied for care that is not a Covered Service. The Claims Administrator has final authority to decide the Medical Necessity of the service.

**In-Network Providers** include Primary Care Physicians / Providers (PCPs), Specialists (Specialty Care Physicians / Providers - SCPs, other professional Providers, Hospitals, and other Facilities who contract with the Claims Administrator to care for you. Referrals are never needed to visit an In-Network Specialist, including behavioral health Providers.

To see a Doctor, call their office:

- Tell them you are a BCBSGA,
- Have your Member Identification Card handy. The Doctor's office may ask you for your group or Member ID number.
- Tell them the reason for your visit.

When you go to the office, be sure to bring your Member Identification Card with you.

For services from In-Network Providers:

1. You will not be required to file any claims. In-Network Providers will file claims for Covered Services for you. (You will still need to pay any Coinsurance, Copayments, and/or Deductibles that apply.) You may be billed by your In-Network Provider(s) for any non-Covered Services you get or when you have not followed the terms of this Benefit Booklet.
2. Precertification will be done by the In-Network Provider. (See the "Getting Approval for Benefits" section for further details.)

Please refer to the "Claims Payment" section for additional information on Authorized Services.

## After Hours Care

If you need care after normal business hours, your Doctor may have several options for you. You should call your Doctor's office for instructions if you need care in the evenings, on weekends, or during a holiday and cannot wait until the office reopens. If you have an Emergency, call 911 or go to the nearest Emergency Room.

## Out-of-Network Services

When you do not use an In-Network Provider or get care as part of an Authorized Service, Covered Services are covered at the Out-of-Network level, unless otherwise indicated in this Benefit Booklet.

For services from an Out-of-Network Provider:

1. The Out-of-Network Provider can charge you the difference between their bill and the Plan's Maximum Allowed Amount plus any Deductible and/or Coinsurance/Copayments;
2. You may have higher cost sharing amounts (i.e., Deductibles, Coinsurance, and/or Copayments);
3. You will have to pay for services that are not Medically Necessary;
4. You will have to pay for non-Covered Services;
5. You may have to file claims; and
6. You must make sure any necessary Precertification is done. (Please see "Getting Approval for Benefits" for more details.)

## How to Find a Provider in the Network

There are three ways you can find out if a Provider or Facility is in the network for this Plan. You can also find out where they are located and details about their license or training.

- See your Plan's directory of In-Network Providers at [www.bcbsga.com](http://www.bcbsga.com), which lists the Doctors, Providers, and Facilities that participate in this Plan's network.
- Call Member Services to ask for a list of Doctors and Providers that participate in this Plan's network, based on specialty and geographic area.
- Check with your Doctor or Provider.

Please note that not all In-Network Providers offer all services. For example, some Hospital-based labs are not part of our Reference Lab Network. In those cases you will have to go to a lab in the Reference Lab Network to get In-Network benefits. Please call Member Services before you get services for more information.

If you need details about a Provider's license or training, or help choosing a Doctor who is right for you, call the Member Services number on the back of your Member Identification Card. TTY/TDD services also are available by dialing 711. A special operator will get in touch with the Claims Administrator to help with your needs.

Please note that BCBSGA has several networks, and that a Provider that is In-Network for one plan may not be In-Network for another. Be sure to check your Identification Card or call Member Services to find out which network this Plan uses.

## Your Cost-Shares

Your Plan may involve Copayments, Deductibles, and/or Coinsurance, which are charges that you must pay when receiving Covered Services. Your Plan may also have an Out-of-Pocket Limit, which limits the cost-shares you must pay. Please read the "Schedule of Benefits" for details on your cost-shares. Also read the "Definitions" section for a better understanding of each type of cost share.

## **The BlueCard Program**

Like all Blue Cross & Blue Shield plans throughout the country, we participate in a program called "BlueCard" which provides services to you when you are outside our Service Area. For more details on this program, please see "Inter-Plan Arrangements" in the "Claims Payment" section.

## **Identification Card**

The Claims Administrator will give an Identification Card to each Member enrolled in the Plan. When you get care, you must show your Identification Card. Only covered Members have the right to receive services under this Plan. If anyone gets services or benefits to which they are not entitled to under the terms of this Benefit Booklet, he/she must pay for the actual cost of the services.

## Getting Approval for Benefits

Your Plan includes the process of Utilization Review to decide when services are Medically Necessary or Experimental/Investigative as those terms are defined in this Benefit Booklet. Utilization Review aids the delivery of cost-effective health care by reviewing the use of treatments and, when proper, level of care and/or the setting or place of service that they are performed. A service must be Medically Necessary to be a Covered Service. When level of care, setting or place of service is part of the review, services that can be safely given to you in a lower level of care or lower cost setting/place of care, will not be Medically Necessary if they are given in a higher level of care, or higher cost setting/place of care.

Certain Services must be reviewed to determine Medical Necessity in order for you to get benefits. Utilization Review criteria will be based on many sources including medical policy and clinical guidelines. It may be decided that a service that was asked for is not Medically Necessary if you have not tried other treatments that are more cost effective.

If you have any questions about the information in this section, you may call the Member Services phone number on the back of your Identification Card.

**Coverage for or payment of the service or treatment reviewed is not guaranteed even if the Plan decides Your services are Medically Necessary. For benefits to be covered, on the date You get service:**

1. You must be eligible for benefits;
2. Fees must be paid for the time period that services are given;
3. The service or supply must be a Covered Service under Your Plan;
4. The service cannot be subject to an Exclusion under Your Plan; and
5. You must not have exceeded any applicable limits under Your Plan.

### Types of Reviews

- **Pre-service Review** – A review of a service, treatment or admission for a benefit coverage determination which is done before the service or treatment begins or admission date.
- **Precertification** – A required Pre-service Review for a benefit coverage determination for a service or treatment. Certain services require Precertification in order for you to get benefits. The benefit coverage review will include a review to decide whether the service meets the definition of Medical Necessity or is Experimental/Investigative as those terms are defined in this Benefit Booklet.

For admissions following Emergency Care, you, your authorized representative or Doctor must tell the Claims Administrator within 48 hours of the admission or as soon as possible within a reasonable period of time. For childbirth admissions, Precertification is not needed unless there is a problem and/or the mother and baby are not sent home at the same time. Precertification is not required for the first 48 hours for a vaginal delivery or 96 hours for a cesarean section. Admissions longer than 48/96 hours require precertification.

- **Continued Stay/Concurrent Review** - A Utilization Review of a service, treatment or admission for a benefit coverage determination which must be done during an ongoing stay in a facility or course of treatment.

Both Pre-Service and Continued Stay/Concurrent Reviews may be considered urgent when, in the view of the treating Provider or any Doctor with knowledge of your medical condition, without such care or treatment, your life or health or your ability to regain maximum function could be seriously threatened or you could be subjected to severe pain that cannot be adequately managed without such care or treatment. Urgent reviews are conducted under a shorter timeframe than standard reviews.

- **Post-service Review** – A review of a service, treatment or admission for a benefit coverage that is conducted after the service has been provided. Post-service reviews are performed when a service, treatment or admission did not need a Precertification, or when a needed Precertification was not obtained. Post-service reviews are done for a service, treatment or admission in which the Claims Administrator has a related clinical coverage guideline and are typically initiated by the Claims Administrator.

The Provider, facility or attending Physician should contact the Claims Administrator to request a Precertification or Predetermination review. The Claims Administrator will work directly with the requesting Provider for the Precertification request. However, you may designate an authorized representative to act on your behalf for a specific request. The authorized representative can be anyone who is 18 years of age or older.

## Who is Responsible for Precertification?

Typically, Network Providers know which services need Precertification and will get any Precertification when needed. your Primary Care Physician and other Network Providers have been given detailed information about these procedures and are responsible for meeting these requirements. Generally, the ordering Provider, facility or attending Doctor (“requesting Provider”) will get in touch with the Claims Administrator to ask for a Precertification. However, you may request a Precertification or you may choose an authorized representative to act on your behalf for a specific request. The authorized representative can be anyone who is 18 years of age or older. The table below outlines who is responsible for Precertification and under what circumstances.

Provider Network Status	Responsibility to Get Precertification	Comments
In Network	Provider	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Provider must get Precertification when required</li> </ul>
Out-of- Network/ Non-Participating	Member	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Member must get Precertification when required. (Call Member Services.)</li> <li>• Member may be financially responsible for charges/costs related to the service and/or setting in whole or in part if the service and or setting is found to not be Medically Necessary.</li> </ul>
Blue Card Provider	Member (Except for Inpatient Admissions)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Member must get Precertification when required. (Call Member Services.)</li> <li>• Member may be financially responsible for charges/costs related to the service and/or setting in whole or in part if the service and or setting is found to not be Medically Necessary.</li> <li>• <b>Blue Card Providers must obtain precertification for all Inpatient Admissions.</b></li> </ul>
<p><b>NOTE: For an Emergency Care admission, precertification is not required. However, you, your authorized representative or Doctor must tell the Claims Administrator within 24 hours of the admission or as soon as possible within a reasonable period of time.</b></p>		

## How Decisions are Made

The Claims Administrator will utilize its clinical coverage guidelines, such as medical policy, clinical guidelines, and other applicable policies and procedures to help make Medical Necessity decisions. Medical policies and clinical guidelines reflect the standards of practice and medical interventions identified as proper medical practice. The Claims Administrator reserves the right to review and update these clinical coverage guidelines from time to time.

You are entitled to ask for and get, free of charge, reasonable access to any records concerning your request. To ask for this information, call the Precertification phone number on the back of your Identification Card.

If you are not satisfied with the Plan's decision under this section of your benefits, please refer to the "Your Right To Appeal" section to see what rights may be available to you.

## Decision and Notice Requirements

The Claims Administrator will review requests for benefits according to the timeframes listed below. Timeframes and requirements listed are based on Federal laws. You may call the telephone number on your Identification Card for additional information.

<b>Request Category</b>	<b>Timeframe Requirement for Decision and Notification</b>
Prospective Urgent	72 hours from the receipt of request
Prospective Non-Urgent	15 calendar days from the receipt of the request
Continued Stay Review Urgent when request is received more than 24 hours before the expiration of the previous authorization	24 hours from the receipt of the request
Continued Stay Review Urgent when request is received less than 24 hours before the expiration of the previous authorization or no previous authorization exists	72 hours from the receipt of the request
Continued Review Non-Urgent for ongoing outpatient treatment	15 calendar days from the receipt of the request
Retrospective	30 calendar days from the receipt of the request

If more information is needed to make a decision, the Claims Administrator will tell the requesting Provider and send written notice to you or your authorized representative of the specific information needed to finish the review. If the Claims Administrator does not get the specific information needed or if the information is not complete by the timeframe identified in the written notice, a decision will be made based upon the information received.

The Claims Administrator will give notice of its decision as required by Federal law. Notice may be given by one or more of the following methods: verbal, written, and/or electronic.

## Important Information

From time to time certain medical management processes (including utilization management, case management, and disease management) may be waived, enhanced, changed or ended. An alternate benefit may be offered if in the Plan's sole discretion, such change furthers the provision of cost effective, value based and/or quality services.

Certain qualifying Providers may be selected to take part in a program or a provider arrangement that exempts them from certain procedural or medical management processes that would otherwise apply. Your claim may also be exempted from medical review if certain conditions apply.

Just because a process, Provider or Claim is exempted from the standards which otherwise would apply, it does not mean that this will occur in the future, or will do so in the future for any other Provider, claim or Member. The Plan may stop or change any such exemption with or without advance notice.

You may find out whether a Provider is taking part in certain programs or a provider arrangement by contacting the Member Services number on the back of your Identification Card.

The Claims Administrator also may identify certain Providers to review for potential fraud, waste, abuse or other inappropriate activity if the claims data suggests there may be inappropriate billing practices. If a Provider is selected under this program, then the Claims Administrator may use one or more clinical utilization management guidelines in the review of claims submitted by this Provider, even if those guidelines are not used for all Providers delivering services to this Plan's Members.

## **Health Plan Individual Case Management**

The Claims Administrator's health plan individual case management programs (Case Management) help coordinate services for Members with health care needs due to serious, complex, and/or chronic health conditions. The Claims Administrator's programs coordinate benefits and educate Members who agree to take part in the Case Management program to help meet their health-related needs.

Case Management programs are confidential and voluntary and are made available at no extra cost to you. These programs are provided by, or on behalf of and at the request of, your health plan case management staff. These Case Management programs are separate from any Covered Services you are receiving.

If you meet program criteria and agree to take part in, the Claims Administrator will help you meet your identified health care needs. This is reached through contact and team work with you and/or your chosen authorized representative, treating Doctor(s), and other Providers.

In addition, the Claims Administrator may assist with coordinating care with existing community-based programs and services to meet your needs. This may include giving you information about external agencies and community-based programs and services.

In certain cases of severe or chronic illness or injury, the Plan may provide benefits for alternate care that is not listed as a Covered Service. The Plan may also extend Covered Services beyond the Benefit Period Maximums of this Plan. The Claims Administrator will make its decision case-by-case, if in the Claims Administrator's discretion the alternate or extended benefit is in the best interest of you and the Plan and You or Your authorized representative agree to the alternate or extended benefit in writing. A decision to provide extended benefits or approve alternate care in one case does not obligate the Plan to provide the same benefits again to you or to any other Member. The Plan reserves the right, at any time, to alter or stop providing extended benefits or approving alternate care. In such case, the Claims Administrator will notify you or your representative in writing.



## What's Covered

This section describes the Covered Services available under your Plan. Your Covered Services are subject to all the terms and conditions listed in this Benefit Booklet, including, but not limited to, Benefit Maximums, Deductibles, Copayments, Coinsurance, Exclusions and Medical Necessity requirements. Please read the "Schedule of Benefits" section for details on the amounts you must pay for Covered Services and for details on any Benefit Maximums. Also be sure to read the "How Your Plan Works" section for more information on your Plan's rules. Read the "What's Not Covered" section for important details on Excluded Services.

Your benefits are described below. Benefits are listed alphabetically to make them easy to find. Please note that several sections may apply to your claims. For example, if you have a surgery, benefits for your Hospital stay will be described under "Inpatient Hospital Care" and benefits for your Doctor's services will be described under "Inpatient Professional Service". As a result, you should read all the sections that might apply to your claims.

You should also know that many of the Covered Services can be received in several settings, including a Doctor's office, an Urgent Care Facility, an Outpatient Facility, or an Inpatient Facility. Benefits will often vary depending on where you choose to get Covered Services, and this can result in a change in the amount you will need to pay. Please see the "Schedule of Benefits" section for more details on how benefits vary in each setting.

### Allergy Services

Your Plan includes benefits for Medically Necessary allergy testing and treatment, including allergy serum and allergy shots.

### Ambulance Services

Medically Necessary ambulance services are a Covered Service when one or more of the following criteria are met:

- You are transported by a state licensed vehicle that is designed, equipped, and used only to transport the sick and injured and staffed by Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT), paramedics, or other certified medical professionals. This includes ground, water, fixed wing, and rotary wing air transportation.
- For ground ambulance, you are taken:
  - From your home, the scene of accident or medical Emergency to a Hospital;
  - Between Hospitals, including when the Claims Administrator requires you to move from an Out-of-Network Hospital to an In-Network Hospital
  - Between a Hospital and Skilled Nursing Facility or other approved Facility.
- For air or water ambulance, you are taken:
  - From the scene of an accident or medical Emergency to a Hospital;
  - Between Hospitals, including when the Claims Administrator requires you to move from an Out-of-Network Hospital to an In-Network Hospital
  - Between a Hospital and an approved Facility.

Ambulance services are subject to Medical Necessity reviews. Emergency ground ambulance services do not require precertification and are allowed regardless of whether the Provider is an In-Network or Out-of-Network Provider.

Non-Emergency ambulance services are subject to Medical Necessity reviews. When using an air ambulance for non-Emergency transportation, the Claims Administrator reserves the right to select the air

ambulance Provider. If you do not use the air ambulance Provider selected, no benefits will be available. Please note that an Out-of-Network Provider may bill you for any charges that exceed the Maximum Allowed Amount.

You must be taken to the nearest Facility that can give care for your condition. In certain cases the Claims Administrator may approve benefits for transportation to a Facility that is not the nearest Facility.

Benefits also include Medically Necessary treatment of a sickness or injury by medical professionals from an ambulance service, even if you are not taken to a Facility.

Ambulance services are not covered when another type of transportation can be used without endangering your health. Ambulance services for your convenience or the convenience of your family or Doctor are not a Covered Service.

Other non-covered ambulance services include, but are not limited to, trips to:

- a) A Doctor's office or clinic;
- b) A morgue or funeral home.

### **Important Notes on Air Ambulance Benefits**

Benefits are only available for air ambulance when it is not appropriate to use a ground or water ambulance. For example, if using a ground ambulance would endanger your health and your medical condition requires a more rapid transport to a Facility than the ground ambulance can provide, the Plan will cover the air ambulance. Air ambulance will also be covered if you are in an area that a ground or water ambulance cannot reach.

Air ambulance will not be covered if you are taken to a Hospital that is not an acute care Hospital (such as a Skilled Nursing Facility), or if you are taken to a Physician's office or your home.

### **Hospital to Hospital Transport**

If you are moving from one Hospital to another, air ambulance will only be covered if using a ground ambulance would endanger your health and if the Hospital that first treats cannot give you the medical services you need. Certain specialized services are not available at all Hospitals. For example, burn care, cardiac care, trauma care, and critical care are only available at certain Hospitals. To be covered, you must be taken to the closest Hospital that can treat you. **Coverage is not available for air ambulance transfers simply because you, your family, or your Provider prefers a specific Hospital or Physician.**

### **Autism Services**

Your Plan includes coverage for the treatment of neurological deficit disorders, including autism. Your Plan also covers certain treatments associated with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) for dependents through age five. Coverage for ASD includes but is not limited to the following:

- Diagnosis of autism spectrum disorder;
- Treatment of autism spectrum disorder;
- Pharmacy care;
- Psychiatric care;
- Psychological care; and
- Therapeutic care.

Treatment for ASD includes Habilitative or rehabilitative services including Applied Behavior Analysis when provided or supervised by a person professionally certified by a national board of behavior analysts, or performed under the supervision of a person professionally certified by a national board of behavior

analysts. Coverage is subject to the annual benefit limitation for Applied Behavior Analysis shown in the Schedule of Benefits.

## **Behavioral Health Services**

See “Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services” later in this section.

## **Cardiac Rehabilitation**

Please see “Therapy Services” later in this section.

## **Chemotherapy**

Please see “Therapy Services” later in this section.

## **Chiropractic Services**

Benefits are available for chiropractic treatments provided by a Doctor of Chiropractic medicine when rendered within the scope of the chiropractic license. Covered Services include diagnostic testing, manipulations, and treatment.

Benefits do not include the following:

1. Maintenance therapy, which is treatment given when no additional progress is apparent or expected to occur. Maintenance therapy includes treatment that preserves your present level of functioning and prevents loss of that functioning, but which does not result in any additional improvement.
2. Nutritional or dietary supplements, including vitamins.
3. Cervical pillows.
4. Spinal decompression devices. This includes, but is not limited to, Vertebral Axial Decompression (Vax-D) and DRX9000.

## **Clinical Trials**

Benefits include coverage for services, such as routine patient care costs, given to you as a participant in an approved clinical trial if the services are Covered Services under this Plan. An “approved clinical trial” means a phase I, phase II, phase III, or phase IV clinical trial that studies the prevention, detection, or treatment of cancer or other life-threatening conditions. The term life-threatening condition means any disease or condition from which death is likely unless the disease or condition is treated.

Benefits are limited to the following trials:

1. Federally funded trials approved or funded by one of the following:
  - a. The National Institutes of Health.
  - b. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.
  - c. The Agency for Health Care Research and Quality.
  - d. The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services.
  - e. Cooperative group or center of any of the entities described in (a) through (d) or the Department of Defense or the Department of Veterans Affairs.
  - f. A qualified non-governmental research entity identified in the guidelines issued by the National Institutes of Health for center support grants.

- g. Any of the following in i-iii below if the study or investigation has been reviewed and approved through a system of peer review that the Secretary of Health and Human Services determines 1) to be comparable to the system of peer review of studies and investigations used by the National Institutes of Health, and 2) assures unbiased review of the highest scientific standards by qualified individuals who have no interest in the outcome of the review.
  - i. The Department of Veterans Affairs.
  - ii. The Department of Defense.
  - iii. The Department of Energy.
2. Studies or investigations done as part of an investigational new drug application reviewed by the Food and Drug Administration;
3. Studies or investigations done for drug trials which are exempt from the investigational new drug application.

Your Plan may require you to use an In-Network Provider to maximize your benefits.

Routine patient care costs include items, services, and drugs provided to you in connection with an approved clinical trial that would otherwise be covered by this Plan.

All requests for clinical trials services including services that are not part of approved clinical trials will be reviewed according to the Claims Administrator's Clinical Coverage Guidelines, related policies and procedures.

Your Plan is not required to provide benefits for the following services and reserves the right to exclude any of the following services:

- i. The Investigational item, device, or service; or
- ii. Items and services that are given only to satisfy data collection and analysis needs and that are not used in the direct clinical management of the patient; or
- iii. A service that is clearly inconsistent with widely accepted and established standards of care for a particular diagnosis;
- iv. Any item or service that is paid for, or should have been paid for, by the sponsor of the trial.

## **Cancer Clinical Trial Programs for Children**

Covered Services include routine patient care costs incurred in connection with the provision of goods, services, and benefits to Members who are dependent children in connection with approved clinical trial programs for the treatment of children's cancer. Routine patient care costs mean those Medically Necessary costs as provided in Georgia law (OCGA 33-24-59.1).

## **Dental Services (All Members / All Ages)**

### **Preparing the Mouth for Medical Treatments**

Your Plan includes coverage for dental services to prepare the mouth for medical services and treatments such as radiation therapy to treat cancer and prepare for transplants. Covered Services include:

- Evaluation
- Dental x-rays
- Extractions, including surgical extractions
- Anesthesia

## **Treatment of Accidental Injury**

Benefits are also available for dental work needed to treat injuries to the jaw, sound natural teeth, mouth or face as a result of an accident. An injury that results from chewing or biting is not considered an Accidental Injury under this Plan, unless the chewing or biting results from a medical or mental condition.

Treatment must begin within 12 months of the injury, or as soon after that as possible to be a Covered Service under this Plan.

## **Other Dental Services**

Hospital or Facility charges and anesthesia needed for dental care are covered if the Member meets any of the following conditions:

- The Member is under the age of 7;
- The Member has a chronic disability that is attributable to a mental and/ or physical impairment which results in substantial functional limitation in an area of the Member's major life activity, and the disability is likely to continue indefinitely; or
- The Member has a medical condition that requires hospitalization or general anesthesia for dental care.

## **Diabetes Equipment, Education, and Supplies**

Benefits are provided for medical supplies, services, and equipment used in the treatment of diabetes, including diabetes self-management education programs.

Diabetes self management training is covered for an individual with insulin dependent diabetes, non-insulin dependent diabetes, or elevated blood glucose levels induced by pregnancy or another medical condition when:

- Medically Necessary;
- Ordered in writing by a Physician or a podiatrist; and
- Provided by a health care professional who is licensed, registered, or certified under state law.

For the purposes of this provision, a "health care professional" means the Physician or podiatrist ordering the training or a Provider who has obtained certification in diabetes education by the American Diabetes Association.

For information on equipment and supplies, please refer to the "Medical Supplies, Durable Medical Equipment, and Appliances" provision in this section. For information on Prescription Drug coverage, please refer to the "Prescription Drugs" section in this Benefit Booklet.

## **Diagnostic Services**

Your Plan includes benefits for tests or procedures to find or check a condition when specific symptoms exist. Tests must be ordered by a Provider and include diagnostic services ordered before a surgery or Hospital admission. Benefits include the following services:

### **Diagnostic Laboratory and Pathology Services**

### **Diagnostic Imaging Services and Electronic Diagnostic Tests**

- X-rays / regular imaging services
- Ultrasound
- Electrocardiograms (EKG)
- Electroencephalography (EEG)

- Echocardiograms
- Hearing and vision tests for a medical condition or injury (not for screenings or preventive care)
- Tests ordered before a surgery or admission.

## **Advanced Imaging Services**

Benefits are also available for advanced imaging services, which include but are not limited to:

- CT scan
- CTA scan
- Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI)
- Magnetic Resonance Angiography (MRA)
- Magnetic Resonance Spectroscopy (MRS)
- Nuclear Cardiology
- PET scans
- PET/CT Fusion scans
- QTC Bone Densitometry
- Diagnostic CT Colonography

The list of advanced imaging services may change as medical technologies change.

## **Dialysis**

See “Therapy Services” later in this section.

## **Durable Medical Equipment and Medical Devices, Orthotics, Prosthetics, and Medical and Surgical Supplies**

### **Durable Medical Equipment and Medical Devices**

Your Plan includes benefits for durable medical equipment and medical devices when the equipment meets the following criteria:

- Is meant for repeated use and is not disposable.
- Is used for a medical purpose and is of no further use when medical need ends.
- Is meant for use outside a medical Facility.
- Is only for use of the patient.
- Is made to serve a medical use.
- Is ordered by a Provider.

Benefits include purchase-only equipment and devices (e.g., crutches and customized equipment), purchase or rent-to-purchase equipment and devices (e.g., Hospital beds and wheelchairs), and continuous rental equipment and devices (e.g., oxygen concentrator, ventilator, and negative pressure wound therapy devices). Continuous rental equipment must be approved by the Claims Administrator. The Plan may limit the amount of coverage for ongoing rental of equipment. The Plan may not cover more in rental costs than the cost of simply purchasing the equipment).

Benefits include repair and replacement costs as well as supplies and equipment needed for the use of the equipment or device, for example, a battery for a powered wheelchair.

Oxygen and equipment for its administration are also Covered Services. Benefits are also available for cochlear implants.

Your Plan includes benefits for prosthetics and durable medical equipment and medical supplies for the treatment of diabetes. Your plan also includes benefits for breast pumps as described in the “Preventive Care” section.

## **Orthotics**

Benefits are available for certain types of orthotics (braces, boots, splints). Covered Services include the initial purchase, fitting, and repair of a custom made rigid or semi-rigid supportive device used to support, align, prevent, or correct deformities or to improve the function of movable parts of the body, or which limits or stops motion of a weak or diseased body part.

## **Prosthetics**

Your Plan also includes benefits for prosthetics, which are artificial substitutes for body parts for functional or therapeutic purposes, when they are Medically Necessary for activities of daily living.

Benefits include the purchase, fitting, adjustments, repairs and replacements. Covered Services may include, but are not limited to:

- Artificial limbs and accessories;
- One pair of glasses or contact lenses used after surgical removal of the lens(es) of the eyes);
- Breast prosthesis (whether internal or external) after a mastectomy, as required by the Women’s Health and Cancer Rights Act.
- Colostomy and other ostomy (surgical construction of an artificial opening) supplies directly related to ostomy care.
- Restoration prosthesis (composite facial prosthesis).
- Wigs needed after cancer treatment [and alopecia areata], limited to the maximum shown in the “Schedule of Benefits”.

## **Medical and Surgical Supplies**

Your Plan includes coverage for medical and surgical supplies that serve only a medical purpose, are used once, and are purchased (not rented). Covered supplies include syringes, needles, surgical dressings, splints, and other similar items that serve only a medical purpose. Covered Services do not include items often stocked in the home for general use like Band-Aids, thermometers, and petroleum jelly.

## **Blood and Blood Products**

Your Plan also includes coverage for the administration of blood products unless they are received from a community source, such as blood donated through a blood bank.

## **Emergency Care Services**

If you are experiencing an Emergency please call 911 or visit the nearest Hospital for treatment.

### **Emergency Services**

Benefits are available in a Hospital Emergency Room for services and supplies to treat the onset of symptoms for an Emergency, which is defined below:

#### **Emergency (Emergency Medical Condition)**

“Emergency,” or “Emergency Medical Condition” means a medical or behavioral health condition of recent onset and sufficient severity, including but not limited to, severe pain, that would lead a prudent layperson,

possessing an average knowledge of medicine and health, to believe that his or her condition, sickness, or injury is of such a nature that not getting immediate medical care could result in: (a) placing the patient's mental or physical health or the health of another person in serious danger or, for a pregnant woman, placing the woman's health or the health of her unborn child in serious danger; (b) serious impairment to bodily functions; or (c) serious dysfunction of any bodily organ or part. Such conditions include but are not limited to, chest pain, stroke, poisoning, serious breathing problems, unconsciousness, severe burns or cuts, uncontrolled bleeding, or seizures and such other acute conditions as may be determined to be Emergencies by the Claims Administrator.

## **Emergency Care**

"Emergency Care" means a medical or behavioral health exam done in the Emergency Department of a Hospital, and includes services routinely available in the Emergency Department to evaluate an Emergency Condition. It includes any further medical or behavioral health exams and treatment required to stabilize the patient.

Medically Necessary services will be covered whether you get care from an In-Network or Out-of-Network Provider. Emergency Care you get from an Out-of-Network Provider will be covered as an In-Network service, but you may have to pay the difference between the Out-of-Network Provider's charge and the Maximum Allowed Amount, as well as any applicable Coinsurance, Copayment or Deductible.

The Maximum Allowed Amount for Emergency Care from an Out-of-Network Provider will be the greatest of the following:

1. The amount negotiated with In-Network Providers for the Emergency service;
2. The amount for the Emergency service calculated using the same method the Claims Administrator generally uses to determine payments for Out-of-Network services but substituting the In-Network cost-sharing for the Out-of-Network cost-sharing provisions; or
3. The amount that would be paid under Medicare for the Emergency service.

If you are admitted to the Hospital from the Emergency Room, be sure that you or your Doctor calls the Claims Administrator as soon as possible. The Claims Administrator will review your care to decide if a Hospital stay is needed and how many days you should stay. See "Getting Approval for Benefits" for more details. If you or your Doctor fails to call the Claims Administrator, you may have to pay for services that are determined to be not Medically Necessary.

Treatment you get after your condition has stabilized is not Emergency Care. If you continue to get care from an Out-of-Network Provider, Covered Services will be covered at the Out-of-Network level unless the Claims Administrator agrees to cover them as an Authorized Service.

## **Habilitative Services**

Benefits also include habilitative health care services and devices that help you keep, learn or improve skills and functioning for daily living. Examples include therapy for a child who isn't walking or talking at the expected age. These services may include physical and occupational therapy, speech-language pathology and other services for people with disabilities in a variety of inpatient and/or outpatient settings.

Please see "Therapy Services" later in this section for further details.

## **Home Care Services**

Benefits are available for Covered Services performed by a Home Health Care Agency or other Provider in your home. To be eligible for benefits, you must essentially be confined to the home, as an alternative to a Hospital stay, and be physically unable to get needed medical services on an outpatient basis. Services



must be prescribed by a Doctor and the services must be so inherently complex that they can be safely and effectively performed only by qualified, technical, or professional health staff.

Covered Services include but are not limited to:

- Intermittent skilled nursing services by an R.N. or L.P.N.
- Medical / social services
- Diagnostic services
- Nutritional guidance
- Training of the patient and/or family/caregiver
- Home health aide services. You must be receiving skilled nursing or therapy. Services must be given by appropriately trained staff working for the home health care Provider. Other organizations may give services only when approved by the Claims Administrator, and their duties must be assigned and supervised by a professional nurse on the staff of the home health care Provider.
- Therapy Services (except for Manipulation Therapy which will not be covered when given in the home)
- Medical supplies
- Durable medical equipment

Benefits are also available for Intensive In-home Behavioral Health Services. These do not require confinement to the home. These services are described in the “Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services” section below.

## Home Infusion Therapy

See “Therapy Services” later in this section.

## Hospice Care

The services and supplies listed below are Covered Services when given by a Hospice for the palliative care of pain and other symptoms that are part of a terminal disease. Palliative care means care that controls pain and relieves symptoms, but is not meant to cure a terminal illness. Covered Services include:

1. Care from an interdisciplinary team with the development and maintenance of an appropriate plan of care.
2. Short-term Inpatient Hospital care when needed in periods of crisis or as respite care.
3. Skilled nursing services, home health aide services, and homemaker services given by or under the supervision of a registered nurse.
4. Social services and counseling services from a licensed social worker.
5. Nutritional support, such as intravenous feeding and feeding tubes
6. Physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy, and respiratory therapy given by a licensed therapist.
7. Pharmaceuticals, medical equipment, and supplies needed for the palliative care of your condition, including oxygen and related respiratory therapy supplies.
8. Bereavement (grief) services, including a review of the needs of the bereaved family and the development of a care plan to meet those needs, both before and after the Member’s death. Bereavement services are available to surviving members of the immediate family for one year after the Member’s death. Immediate family means your spouse, children, stepchildren, parents, brothers and sisters.

Your Doctor and Hospice medical director must certify that you are terminally ill and likely have less than 12 months to live. Your Doctor must agree to care by the Hospice and must be consulted in the development of the treatment plan. The Hospice must keep a written care plan on file and give it to the Claims Administrator upon request.

Benefits for Covered Services beyond those listed above, such as chemotherapy and radiation therapy given as palliative care, are available to a Member in Hospice. These additional Covered Services will be covered under other parts of this Plan.

## **Human Organ and Tissue Transplant (Bone Marrow / Stem Cell) Services**

Your Plan includes coverage for Medically Necessary human organ and tissue transplants. Certain transplants (e.g., cornea and kidney) are covered like any other surgery, under the regular inpatient and outpatient benefits described elsewhere in this Benefit Booklet.

In this section, you will see the term Covered Transplant Procedure, which is defined below:

### **Covered Transplant Procedure**

As decided by the Claims Administrator, any Medically Necessary human organ, tissue, and stem cell / bone marrow transplants and infusions including necessary acquisition procedures, mobilization, collection and storage. It also, includes Medically Necessary myeloablative or reduced intensity preparative chemotherapy, radiation therapy, or a combination of these therapies.

### **Prior Approval and Precertification**

**To maximize your benefits, you should call the Claims Administrator's Transplant Department as soon as you think you may need a transplant to talk about your benefit options. You must do this before you have an evaluation and/or work-up for a transplant.** They will help you maximize your benefits by giving you coverage information, including details on what is covered and if any clinical coverage guidelines, medical policies, or Exclusions apply. Call the Member Services phone number on the back of your Identification Card and ask for the transplant coordinator. Even if you are given a prior approval for the Covered Transplant Procedure, you or your Provider must call the Transplant Department for Precertification prior to the transplant whether this is performed in an Inpatient or Outpatient setting.

Precertification is required before the Plan will cover benefits for a transplant. Your Doctor must certify, and the Claims Administrator must agree, that the transplant is Medically Necessary. Your Doctor should send a written request for Precertification to the Claims Administrator as soon as possible to start this process. Not getting Precertification will result in a denial of benefits.

Please note that there are cases where your Provider asks for approval for HLA testing, donor searches and/or a collection and storage of stem cells prior to the final decision as to what transplant procedure will be needed. In these cases, the HLA testing and donor search charges are covered as routine diagnostic testing. The collection and storage request will be reviewed for Medical Necessity and may be approved. However, such an approval for HLA testing, donor search and/or collection and storage is NOT an approval for the later transplant. A separate Medical Necessity decision will be needed for the transplant.

### **Donor Benefits**

Benefits for an organ donor are as follows:

- When both the person donating the organ and the person getting the organ are covered Members under this Plan, each will get benefits under their plan.
- When the person getting the organ is a covered Member under this Plan, but the person donating the organ is not, benefits under this Plan are limited to benefits not available to the donor from any other source. This includes, but is not limited to, other insurance, grants, foundations, and government programs.

- If a covered Member under this Plan is donating the organ to someone who is not a covered Member, benefits are not available under this Plan.

## **Transportation and Lodging**

The Plan will cover the cost of reasonable and necessary travel costs when you get prior approval and need to travel more than 75 miles from your permanent home to reach the Facility where the Covered Transplant Procedure will be performed. Assistance with travel costs includes transportation to and from the Facility, and lodging for the patient and one companion. If the Member receiving care is a minor, then reasonable and necessary costs for transportation and lodging may be allowed for two companions. You must send itemized receipts for transportation and lodging costs in a form satisfactory to the Claims Administrator when claims are filed. Call the Claims Administrator for complete information.

For lodging and ground transportation benefits, the Plan will cover costs up to the current limits set forth in the Internal Revenue Code.

Non-Covered Services for transportation and lodging include, but are not limited to:

1. Child care,
2. Mileage within the medical transplant Facility city,
3. Rental cars, buses, taxis, or shuttle service, except as specifically approved by the Claims Administrator,
4. Frequent Flyer miles,
5. Coupons, Vouchers, or Travel tickets,
6. Prepayments or deposits,
7. Services for a condition that is not directly related, or a direct result, of the transplant,
8. Phone calls,
9. Laundry,
10. Postage,
11. Entertainment,
12. Travel costs for donor companion/caregiver,
13. Return visits for the donor for a treatment of an illness found during the evaluation.
14. Meals.

**Certain Human Organ and Tissue Transplant Services may be limited. ]**

## **Infertility Services**

Please see “Maternity and Reproductive Health Services” later in this section.

## **Inpatient Services**

### **Inpatient Hospital Care**

Covered Services include acute care in a Hospital setting.

Benefits for room, board, and nursing services include:

- A room with two or more beds.

- A private room. The most the Plan will cover for a private room is the Hospital's average semi-private room rate unless it is Medically Necessary that you use a private room for isolation and no isolation facilities are available.
- A room in a special care unit approved by the Claims Administrator. The unit must have facilities, equipment, and supportive services for intensive care or critically ill patients.
- Routine nursery care for newborns during the mother's normal Hospital stay.
- Meals, special diets.
- General nursing services.

Benefits for ancillary services include:

- Operating, childbirth, and treatment rooms and equipment.
- Prescribed Drugs.
- Anesthesia, anesthesia supplies and services given by the Hospital or other Provider.
- Medical and surgical dressings and supplies, casts, and splints.
- Diagnostic services.
- Therapy services, including infusion therapy services.

## **Inpatient Professional Services**

Covered Services include:

1. Medical care visits.
2. Intensive medical care when your condition requires it.
3. Treatment for a health problem by a Doctor who is not your surgeon while you are in the Hospital for surgery. Benefits include treatment by two or more Doctors during one Hospital stay when the nature or severity of your health problem calls for the skill of separate Doctors.
4. A personal bedside exam by a Doctor when asked for by your Doctor. Benefits are not available for staff consultations required by the Hospital, consultations asked for by the patient, routine consultations, phone consultations, or EKG transmittals by phone.
5. Surgery and general anesthesia.
6. Newborn exam. A Doctor other than the one who delivered the child must do the exam.
7. Professional charges to interpret diagnostic tests such as imaging, pathology reports, and cardiology.

## **Maternity and Reproductive Health Services**

### **Maternity Services**

Covered Services include services needed during a normal or complicated pregnancy and for services needed for a miscarriage. Covered maternity services include:

- Professional and Facility services for childbirth in a Facility or the including the services of an appropriately licensed nurse midwife;
- Routine nursery care for the newborn during the mother's normal Hospital stay, including circumcision of a covered male Dependent;
- Prenatal, postnatal, and postpartum services; and
- Medically Necessary fetal screenings, which are genetic or chromosomal tests of the fetus, as allowed.

If you are pregnant on your Effective Date and in the first trimester of the pregnancy, you must change to an In-Network Provider to have Covered Services covered at the In-Network level. If you are pregnant on your Effective Date and in your second or third trimester of pregnancy (13 weeks or later) as of the Effective Date, benefits for obstetrical care will be available at the In-Network level even if an Out-of-Network Provider is used if you fill out a Continuation of Care Request Form and send it to the Claims Administrator. Covered

Services will include the obstetrical care given by that Provider through the end of the pregnancy and the immediate post-partum period.

**Important Note About Maternity Admissions:** Under federal law, the Plan may not limit benefits for any Hospital length of stay for childbirth for the mother or newborn to less than 48 hours after vaginal birth, or less than 96 hours after a cesarean section (C-section). However, federal law as a rule does not stop the mother's or newborn's attending Provider, after consulting with the mother, from discharging the mother or her newborn earlier than 48 hours, or 96 hours, as applicable. In any case, as provided by federal law, the Plan may not require a Provider to get authorization before prescribing a length of stay which is not more than 48 hours for a vaginal birth or 96 hours after a C-section.

## Contraceptive Benefits

Benefits include prescription oral contraceptive drugs, injectable contraceptive drugs and patches. Benefits also include contraceptive devices such as diaphragms, intra uterine devices (IUDs), and implants. Certain contraceptives are covered under the "Preventive Care" benefit. Please see that section for further details.

## Sterilization Services

Benefits include sterilization services and services to reverse a non-elective sterilization that resulted from an illness or injury. Reversals of elective sterilizations are not covered. Sterilizations for women are covered under the "Preventive Care" benefit.

## Abortion Services

Benefits include services for a therapeutic abortion, which is an abortion recommended by a Provider, performed to save the life or health of the mother, or as a result of incest or rape. The Plan will also cover elective abortions.

## Infertility Services

**Important Note:** Although this Plan offers limited coverage of certain infertility services, it does not cover all forms of infertility treatment. Benefits do not include assisted reproductive technologies (ART) or the diagnostic tests and Prescription Drugs to support it. Examples of ART include artificial insemination, in-vitro fertilization, zygote intrafallopian transfer (ZIFT), or gamete intrafallopian transfer (GIFT).

Covered Services include diagnostic tests to find the cause of infertility, such as diagnostic laparoscopy, endometrial biopsy, and semen analysis. Benefits also include services to treat the underlying medical conditions that cause infertility (e.g., endometriosis, obstructed fallopian tubes, and hormone deficiency). Fertility treatments such as artificial insemination and in-vitro fertilization are not a Covered Service.

## Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services

Covered Services include the following:

- **Inpatient Services** in a Hospital or any Facility that must be covered by law. Inpatient benefits include psychotherapy, psychological testing, electroconvulsive therapy, and detoxification or outpatient Facility, such as partial hospitalization programs and intensive outpatient programs.
- **Online Visits** when available in your area. Covered Services include a medical visit with the Doctor using the internet by a webcam, chat or voice. Online visits do not include reporting normal lab or other test results, requesting office visits, getting answers to billing, insurance coverage or payment

questions, asking for referrals to doctors outside the online care panel, benefit precertification, or Doctor to Doctor discussions.

- **Residential Treatment** which is specialized 24-hour treatment in a licensed Residential Treatment Center. It offers individualized and intensive treatment and includes:
  - Observation and assessment by a physician weekly or more often,
  - Rehabilitation, therapy, and education.
- **Outpatient Services** including office visits, therapy and treatment, Partial Hospitalization/Day Treatment Programs, Intensive Outpatient Programs and Intensive In-Home Behavioral Health Services.

Examples of Providers from whom you can get Covered Services include:

- Psychiatrist,
- Psychologist,
- Neuropsychologist,
- Licensed clinical social worker (L.C.S.W.),
- Mental health clinical nurse specialist,
- Licensed marriage and family therapist (L.M.F.T.),
- Licensed professional counselor (L.P.C) or
- Any agency licensed to give these services, when they must be covered by law.

## Nutritional Counseling

Covered Services include nutritional counseling visits when referred by your Doctor as indicated in the Schedule of Benefits.

## Occupational Therapy

Please see “Therapy Services” later in this section.

## Office Visits and Doctor Services

Covered Services include:

**Office Visits** for medical care (including second surgical opinion) to examine, diagnose, and treat an illness or injury.

**Home Visits** for medical care to examine, diagnose, and treat an illness or injury. Please note that Doctor visits in the home are different than the “Home Care Services” benefit described earlier in this Benefit Booklet.

**Retail Health Clinic Care** for limited basic health care services to Members on a “walk-in” basis. These clinics are normally found in major pharmacies or retail stores. Health care services are typically given by Physician’s Assistants or nurse practitioners. Services are limited to routine care and the treatment of common illnesses for adults and children.

**Walk-In Doctor’s Office** for services limited to routine care and the treatment of common illnesses for adults and children. You do not have to be an existing patient or have an appointment to use a walk-in Doctor’s office.

**Urgent Care** as described in the “Urgent Care Services” later in this section.

**Online Care Visits** when available in your area. Covered Services include a medical visit with the Doctor using the internet by a webcam, chat or voice. Online care visits do not include reporting normal lab or other test results, requesting office visits, getting answers to billing, insurance coverage or payment questions, asking for referrals to Doctors outside the online care panel, benefit precertification, or Doctor to Doctor discussions. For Mental Health and Substance Abuse online Visits, see the “Mental Health and Substance Abuse” section.

## **Prescription Drugs Administered in the Office**

## **Orthotics**

See “Durable Medical Equipment (DME) and Medical Devices, [Orthotics,] [Prosthetics,] Medical and Surgical Supplies” earlier in this section.

## **Outpatient Facility Services**

Your Plan includes Covered Services in an:

- Outpatient Hospital,
- Freestanding Ambulatory Surgical Facility,
- Mental Health / Substance Abuse Facility, or
- Other Facilities approved by the Claims Administrator.

Benefits include Facility and related (ancillary) charges, when proper, such as:

- Surgical rooms and equipment,
- Prescription Drugs including Specialty Drugs,
- Anesthesia and anesthesia supplies and services given by the Hospital or other Facility,
- Medical and surgical dressings and supplies, casts, and splints,
- Diagnostic services,
- Therapy services.

## **Physical Therapy**

Please see “Therapy Services” later in this section.

## **Preventive Care**

Preventive care includes screenings and other services for adults and children. All recommended preventive services will be covered as required by the Affordable Care Act (ACA) and applicable state law. This means many preventive care services are covered with no Deductible, Copayments or Coinsurance when you use an In-Network Provider.

Certain benefits for Members who have current symptoms or a diagnosed health problem may be covered under the “Diagnostic Services” benefit instead of this benefit, if the coverage does not fall within the state or ACA-recommended preventive services.

Preventive Care includes screenings and other services for adults and children with no current symptoms or history of a health problem.

Members who have current symptoms or a diagnosed health problem will get benefits under the “Diagnostic Services” benefit, not this benefit.

Preventive care services will meet the requirements of federal and state law. Many preventive care services are covered with no Deductible, Copayments or Coinsurance when you use an In-Network Provider. That means the Plan covers 100% of the Maximum Allowed Amount. Covered Services fall under the following broad groups:

1. Services with an “A” or “B” rating from the United States Preventive Services Task Force. Examples include screenings for:
  - a. Breast cancer,
  - b. Cervical cancer,
  - c. Colorectal cancer,
  - d. High blood pressure,
  - e. Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus,
  - f. Cholesterol,
  - g. Child and adult obesity.
2. Immunizations for children, adolescents, and adults recommended by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention;
3. Preventive care and screenings for infants, children and adolescents as listed in the guidelines supported by the Health Resources and Services Administration; and
4. Preventive care and screening for women as listed in the guidelines supported by the Health Resources and Services Administration, including:
  - a. Women’s contraceptives, sterilization treatments, and counseling. This includes Generic and single-source Brand Drugs as well as injectable contraceptives and patches. Contraceptive devices such as diaphragms, intra uterine devices (IUDs), and implants are also covered. Multi-source Brand Drugs will be covered under the “Prescription Drug Benefit at a Retail or Home Delivery (Mail Order) Pharmacy”.
  - b. Breastfeeding support, supplies, and counseling. Benefits for breast pumps are limited to one pump per Benefit Period.
  - c. Gestational diabetes screening.
5. Preventive care services for tobacco cessation for members age 18 and older as recommended by the United States Preventive Services Task Force including:
  - a) Counseling
  - b) Prescription Drugs
  - c) Nicotine replacement therapy products when prescribed by a Provider, including over the counter (OTC) nicotine gum, lozenges and patches.

Prescription Drugs and OTC items are limited to a no more than 180 day supply per 365 days.

6. Prescription Drugs and OTC items identified as an A or B recommendation by the United States Preventive Services Task Force when prescribed by a Provider including:
  - a) Aspirin
  - b) Folic acid supplement
  - c) Vitamin D supplement
  - d) Bowel preparations

Please note that certain age and gender and quantity limitations apply.



You may call Member Services at the number on your Identification Card for more details about these services or view the federal government's web sites, <https://www.healthcare.gov/what-are-my-preventive-care-benefits>, <http://www.ahrq.gov>, and <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/acip/index.html>.

Covered Services also include the following services required by state and federal law:

- Lead poisoning screening for children.
- Routine mammograms.
- Appropriate and necessary childhood immunizations that meet the standards approved by the U.S. public health service for such biological products against at least all of the following:
  - Diphtheria,
  - Pertussis,
  - Tetanus,
  - Polio,
  - Measles,
  - Mumps,
  - Rubella,
  - Hemophilus influenza b (Hib),
  - Hepatitis B,
  - Varicella.

(Additional immunizations will be covered per federal law, as indicated earlier in this section.)

- Routine colorectal cancer examination and related laboratory tests.
- Chlamydia screening.
- Ovarian surveillance testing.
- Pap smear.
- Prostate screening.

## **Prosthetics**

See "Durable Medical Equipment (DME) and Medical Devices, [Orthotics,] [Prosthetics,] Medical and Surgical Supplies" earlier in this section.

## **Pulmonary Therapy**

Please see "Therapy Services" later in this section.

## **Radiation Therapy**

Please see "Therapy Services" later in this section.

## **Rehabilitation Services**

Benefits include services in a Hospital, free-standing Facility, Skilled Nursing Facility, or in an outpatient day rehabilitation program.

Covered Services involve a coordinated team approach and several types of treatment, including skilled nursing care, physical, occupational, and speech therapy, and services of a social worker or psychologist.

To be Covered Services, rehabilitation services must involve goals you can reach in a reasonable period of time. Benefits will end when treatment is no longer Medically Necessary and you stop progressing toward those goals.

## Respiratory Therapy

Please see “Therapy Services” later in this section.

## Skilled Nursing Facility

When you require Inpatient skilled nursing and related services for convalescent and rehabilitative care, Covered Services are available if the Facility is licensed or certified under state law as a Skilled Nursing Facility. Custodial Care is not a Covered Service.

## Smoking Cessation

Please see the “Preventive Care” section in this Benefit Booklet.

## Speech Therapy

Please see “Therapy Services” later in this section.

## Surgery

Your Plan covers surgical services on an Inpatient or outpatient basis, including office surgeries. Covered Services include:

- 1) Accepted operative and cutting procedures;
- 2) Other invasive procedures, such as angiogram, arteriogram, amniocentesis, tap or puncture of brain or spine;
- 3) Endoscopic exams, such as arthroscopy, bronchoscopy, colonoscopy, laparoscopy;
- 4) Treatment of fractures and dislocations;
- 5) Anesthesia and surgical support when Medically Necessary;
- 6) Medically Necessary pre-operative and post-operative care.

### Oral Surgery

**Important Note:** Although this Plan provides coverage for certain oral surgeries, many types of oral surgery procedures are not covered by this medical Plan.

Benefits are also limited to certain oral surgeries including:

- Treatment of medically diagnosed cleft lip, cleft palate, or ectodermal dysplasia;
- Orthognathic surgery for a physical abnormality that prevents normal function of the upper and/or lower jaw and is Medically Necessary to attain functional capacity of the affected part.
- Oral / surgical correction of accidental injuries as indicated in the “Dental Services” section.
- Treatment of non-dental lesions, such as removal of tumors and biopsies.
- Incision and drainage of infection of soft tissue not including odontogenic cysts or abscesses.]

### Reconstructive Surgery

Benefits include reconstructive surgery performed to correct significant deformities caused by congenital or developmental abnormalities, illness, injury, or an earlier treatment in order to create a more normal appearance. Benefits include surgery performed to restore symmetry after a mastectomy. Reconstructive services needed as a result of an earlier treatment are covered only if the first treatment would have been a Covered Service under this Plan.

**Note:** This section does not apply to orthognathic surgery. See the “Oral Surgery” section above for that benefit.

## **Mastectomy Notice**

A Member who is getting benefits for a mastectomy or for follow-up care for a mastectomy and who chooses breast reconstruction, will also get coverage for:

- Reconstruction of the breast on which the mastectomy has been performed;
- Surgery and reconstruction of the other breast to give a symmetrical appearance; and
- Prostheses and treatment of physical problems of all stages of mastectomy, including lymphedemas.

## **Telemedicine**

Your coverage also includes telemedicine services provided by a duly licensed Doctor or healthcare Provider by means of audio, video, or data communications (to include secured electronic mail).

The use of standard phone, facsimile transmissions, unsecured electronic mail, or a combination thereof does not constitute telemedicine service and is not a covered benefit.

The use of telemedicine may substitute for a face-to-face “hands on” encounter for consultation.

To be eligible for payment, interactive audio and video telecommunications must be used, permitting real-time communications between the distant Doctor or Provider and the Member / patient. As a condition of payment, the patient (Member) must be present and participating.

## **Temporomandibular Joint (TMJ) and Craniomandibular Joint Services**

Benefits are available to treat temporomandibular and craniomandibular disorders. The temporomandibular joint connects the lower jaw to the temporal bone at the side of the head and the craniomandibular joint involves the head and neck muscles.

Covered Services include removable appliances for TMJ repositioning and related surgery, medical care, and diagnostic services. Covered Services do not include fixed or removable appliances which involve movement or repositioning of the teeth, repair of teeth (fillings), or prosthetics (crowns, bridges, dentures).

## **Therapy Services**

### **Physical Medicine Therapy Services**

Your Plan includes coverage for the therapy services described below. To be a Covered Service, the therapy must improve your level of function within a reasonable period of time. Covered Services include:

- **Physical therapy** – The treatment by physical means to ease pain, restore health, and to avoid disability after an illness, injury, or loss of an arm or leg. It includes hydrotherapy, heat, physical agents, bio-mechanical and neuro-physiological principles and devices. It does not include massage therapy services at spas or health clubs.
- **Speech therapy and speech-language pathology (SLP) services** – Services to identify, assess, and treat speech, language, and swallowing disorders in children and adults. Therapy will develop or treat communication or swallowing skills to correct a speech impairment.
- **Occupational therapy** – Treatment to restore a physically disabled person’s ability to do activities of daily living, such as walking, eating, drinking, dressing, using the toilet, moving from a wheelchair to bed, and bathing. It also includes therapy for tasks needed for the person’s job. Occupational therapy does not include recreational or vocational therapies, such as hobbies, arts and crafts.

- **Chiropractic / Osteopathic / Manipulation therapy** – Includes therapy to treat problems of the bones, joints, and the back. The two therapies are similar, but chiropractic therapy focuses on the joints of the spine and the nervous system, while osteopathic therapy also focuses on the joints and surrounding muscles, tendons and ligaments.

## Early Intervention Services

### Physical, Occupational and Speech Therapy

Benefits are available for the care and treatment of congenital defects and birth abnormalities for covered children without regard to whether the condition is acute or chronic and without regard to whether the purpose of the therapy is to maintain or improve functional capacity. From the Member's birth until the Member's third (3rd) birthday, these early intervention services shall be provided only to the extent required by law. From the Member's birth until the Member's sixth (6th) birthday, benefits are allowed up to the maximum visits listed in the "Schedule of Benefits" for physical, speech and occupational therapies.

For all other Members (e.g. those six (6) and older, or who not qualify for the benefits above), benefits are provided only if the physical, speech or occupational therapy will result in a practical improvement in the level of functioning within a reasonable period of time and the physical, speech or occupational therapy must be Medically Necessary. Benefits for physical, speech or occupational are allowed up to the maximum visits listed in the "Schedule of Benefits".

### Other Therapy Services

Benefits are also available for:

- **Cardiac Rehabilitation** – Medical evaluation, training, supervised exercise, and psychosocial support to care for you after a cardiac event (heart problem). Benefits do not include home programs, on-going conditioning, or maintenance care.
- **Chemotherapy** – Treatment of an illness by chemical or biological antineoplastic agents. See the section "Prescription Drugs Administered by a Medical Provider" for more details.
- **Dialysis** – Services for acute renal failure and chronic (end-stage) renal disease, including hemodialysis, home intermittent peritoneal dialysis (IPD), home continuous cycling peritoneal dialysis (CCPD), and home continuous ambulatory peritoneal dialysis (CAPD). Covered Services include dialysis treatments in an outpatient dialysis Facility. Covered Services also include home dialysis and training for you and the person who will help you with home self-dialysis.
- **Infusion Therapy** – Nursing, durable medical equipment and Prescription Drug services that are delivered and administered to you through an I.V. in your home. Also includes: Total Parenteral Nutrition (TPN), enteral nutrition therapy, antibiotic therapy, pain care and chemotherapy. May include injections (intra-muscular, subcutaneous, continuous subcutaneous). See the section "Prescription Drugs Administered by a Medical Provider" for more details.
- **Pulmonary Rehabilitation** – Includes outpatient short-term respiratory care to restore your health after an illness or injury.
- **Radiation Therapy** – Treatment of an illness by x-ray, radium, or radioactive isotopes. Covered Services include treatment (teletherapy, brachytherapy and intraoperative radiation, photon or high energy particle sources), materials and supplies needed, and treatment planning.
- **Respiratory Therapy** – Includes the use of dry or moist gases in the lungs, nonpressurized inhalation treatment; intermittent positive pressure breathing treatment, air or oxygen, with or without nebulized medication, continuous positive pressure ventilation (CPAP); continuous negative pressure ventilation (CNP); chest percussion; therapeutic use of medical gases or Prescription Drugs in the form of aerosols, and equipment such as resuscitators, oxygen tents, and incentive spirometers; broncho-pulmonary drainage and breathing exercises.

## **Transplant Services**

See “Human Organ and Tissue Transplant” earlier in this section.

## **Urgent Care Services**

Often an urgent rather than an Emergency health problem exists. An urgent health problem is an unexpected illness or injury that calls for care that cannot wait until a regularly scheduled office visit. Urgent health problems are not life threatening and do not call for the use of an Emergency Room. Urgent health problems include earache, sore throat, and fever (not above 104 degrees).

Benefits for urgent care include:

- X-ray services;
- Care for broken bones;
- Tests such as flu, urinalysis, pregnancy test, rapid strep;
- Lab services;
- Stitches for simple cuts; and
- Draining an abscess.

## **Vision Services (All Members / All Ages)**

Benefits include medical and surgical treatment of injuries and illnesses of the eye. Certain vision screenings required by Federal law are covered under the “Preventive Care” benefit.

Benefits do not include glasses and contact lenses except as listed in the “Prosthetics” benefit. Your Plan provides additional benefits for routine Vision Services as outlined in the “Schedule of Benefits”.

## Prescription Drugs Administered by a Medical Provider

Your Plan covers Prescription Drugs including Specialty Drugs that must be administered to you as part of a Doctor's visit, home care visit, or at an outpatient Facility when they are Covered Services. This may include drugs for infusion therapy, chemotherapy, blood products, certain injectables, and any drug that must be administered by a Provider. This section applies when a Provider orders the drug and a medical provider administers it to you in a medical setting. Benefits for drugs that you inject or get through your Pharmacy benefits (i.e., self-administered drugs) are not covered under this section. Benefits for those drugs are described in the "Prescription Drug Benefit at a Retail or Home Delivery (Mail Order) Pharmacy" section.

Benefits for other Prescription Drugs that you get from a Retail or Mail Order Pharmacy are described in the "Prescription Drug Benefit at a Retail or Home Delivery (Mail Order) Pharmacy" section.

### Important Details About Prescription Drug Coverage

Your Plan includes certain features to determine when Prescription Drugs should be covered, which are described below. As part of these features, your prescribing Doctor may be asked to give more details before the Claims Administrator can decide if the drug is eligible for coverage. In order to determine if the Prescription Drug is eligible for coverage, we have established criteria.

The criteria, which are called drug edits, may include requirements regarding one or more of the following:

- Quantity, dose, and frequency of administration,
- Specific clinical criteria including, but not limited to, requirements regarding age, test result requirements, and/or presence of a specific condition or disease,
- Specific Provider qualifications including, but not limited to, REMS certification (Risk, Evaluation and Mitigation Strategies),
- Step therapy requiring one Drug or a Drug regimen or another treatment be used prior to use of another Drug or Drug regimen for safety and/or affordability when clinically similar results may be anticipated and one option is less costly than another,
- Use of a Prescription Drug List (a formulary developed by us) which is a list of FDA-approved Drugs that have been reviewed and recommended for use based on their quality and cost effectiveness.

### Precertification

Precertification may be required for certain Prescription Drugs to help make sure proper use and guidelines for Prescription Drug coverage are followed. The Claims Administrator will give the results of its decision to both you and your Provider.

For a list of Prescription Drugs that need precertification, please call the phone number on the back of your Identification Card. The list will be reviewed and updated from time to time. Including a Prescription Drug or related item on the list does not guarantee coverage under your Plan. Your Provider may check with us to verify Prescription Drug coverage, to find out which drugs are covered under this section and if any drug edits apply.

Please refer to the section "Getting Approval for Benefits" for more details.

If precertification is denied you have the right to file a Grievance as outlined in the "Your Right to Appeal" section of this Booklet.

## **Designated Pharmacy Provider**

BCBSGA in its sole discretion, may establish one or more Designated Pharmacy Provider programs which provide specific pharmacy services (including shipment of Prescription Drugs) to Members. An In-Network Provider is not necessarily a Designated Pharmacy Provider. To be a Designated Pharmacy Provider, the In-Network Provider must have signed a Designated Pharmacy Provider Agreement with the Claims Administrator. You or your Provider can contact Member Services to learn which Pharmacy or Pharmacies are part of a Designated Pharmacy Provider program.

For Prescription Drugs that are shipped to you or your Provider and administered in your Provider's office, you and your Provider are required to order from a Designated Pharmacy Provider. A Patient Care coordinator will work with you and your Provider to obtain Precertification and to assist shipment to your Provider's office.

The Claims Administrator may also require you to use a Designated Pharmacy Provider to obtain Prescription Drugs for treatment of certain clinical conditions such as Hemophilia. The Claims Administrator reserves the right to modify the list of Prescription Drugs as well as the setting and/or level of care in which the care is provided to you. The Claims Administrator may, from time to time, change with or without advance notice, the Designated Pharmacy Provider for a Drug, if in the Claims Administrator's discretion, such change can help provide cost effective, value based and/or quality services.

If you are required to use a Designated Pharmacy Provider and you choose not to obtain your Prescription Drug from a Designated Pharmacy Provider, you will not have coverage for that Prescription Drug.

You can get the list of the Prescription Drugs covered under this section by calling Member Services at the phone number on the back of your Identification Card or check the website at [www.bcbsga.com](http://www.bcbsga.com).

## **Therapeutic Substitution**

Therapeutic substitution is an optional program that tells you and your Doctors about alternatives to certain prescribed Drugs. The Claims Administrator may contact you and your Doctor to make you aware of these choices. Only you and your Doctor can determine if the therapeutic substitute is right for you. For questions or issues about therapeutic drug substitutes, call Member Services at the phone number on the back of your Identification Card.

## What's Not Covered

In this section you will find a review of items that are not covered by your Plan. Excluded items will not be covered even if the service, supply, or equipment is Medically Necessary. This section is only meant to be an aid to point out certain items that may be misunderstood as Covered Services. This section is not meant to be a complete list of all the items that are excluded by your Plan.

1. **Abortion** Services, supplies, Prescription Drugs, and other care provided for elective (voluntary abortions and/or fetal reduction surgery).

This exclusion does not apply to therapeutic abortions, which are abortions performed to save the life or health of the mother, as a result of incest or rape, or as recommended by a Doctor.

2. **Acts of War, Disasters, or Nuclear Accidents** In the event of a major disaster, epidemic, war, or other event beyond the Claims Administrator's control, the Claims Administrator will make a good faith effort to give you Covered Services. The Claims Administrator will not be responsible for any delay or failure to give services due to lack of available Facilities or staff.

Benefits will not be given for any illness or injury that is a result of war, service in the armed forces, a nuclear explosion, nuclear accident, release of nuclear energy, a riot, or civil disobedience. This exclusion does not apply to acts of terrorism.

3. **Administrative Charges**

- a) Charges for the completion of claim forms,
- b) Charges to get medical records or reports,
- c) Membership, administrative, or access fees charged by Doctors or other Providers. Examples include, but are not limited to, fees for educational brochures or calling you to give you test results.

4. **Alternative / Complementary Medicine** Services or supplies for alternative or complementary medicine. This includes, but is not limited to:

- a) Acupuncture,
- b) Holistic medicine,
- c) Homeopathic medicine,
- d) Hypnosis,
- e) Aroma therapy,
- f) Massage and massage therapy,
- g) Reiki therapy,
- h) Herbal, vitamin or dietary products or therapies,
- i) Naturopathy,
- j) Thermography,
- k) Orthomolecular therapy,
- l) Contact reflex analysis,
- m) Bioenergetic synchronization technique (BEST),
- n) Iridology-study of the iris,
- o) Auditory integration therapy (AIT),
- p) Colonic irrigation,
- q) Magnetic innervation therapy,
- r) Electromagnetic therapy,
- s) Neurofeedback / Biofeedback.



5. **Applied Behavioral Treatment** (including, but not limited to Applied Behavior Analysis and Intensive Behavior Interventions) for all indications except as described under Autism Services in the “What’s Covered” section unless otherwise required by law.
6. **Before Effective Date or After Termination Date** Charges for care you get before your Effective Date or after your coverage ends, except as written in this Plan.
7. **Certain Providers** Services you get from Providers that are not licensed by law to provide Covered Services as defined in this Booklet. Examples include, but are not limited to, masseurs or masseuses (massage therapists), physical therapist technicians, and athletic trainers.
8. **Charges Over the Maximum Allowed Amount** Charges over the Maximum Allowed Amount for Covered Services.
9. **Charges Not Supported by Medical Records** Charges for services not described in your medical records.
10. **Clinically Equivalent Alternatives** Certain Prescription Drugs may not be covered if you could use a clinically equivalent drug, unless required by law. “Clinically equivalent” means drugs that for most Members, will give you similar results for a disease or condition. If you have questions about whether a certain drug is covered and which drugs fall into this group, please call the number on the back of your Identification Card, or visit our website at [www.bcbsga.com](http://www.bcbsga.com) [www.anthem.com](http://www.anthem.com).

If you or your Doctor believes you need to use a different Prescription Drug, please have your Doctor or pharmacist get in touch with the Claims Administrator. The Claims Administrator will cover the other Prescription Drug only if it agrees that it is Medically Necessary and appropriate over the clinically equivalent drug. The Claims Administrator will review benefits for the Prescription Drug from time to time to make sure the drug is still Medically Necessary.

11. **Cochlear Implants** Services for cochlear implants.
12. **Complications of Non-Covered Services** Care for problems directly related to a service that is not covered by this Plan. Directly related means that the care took place as a direct result of the non-Covered Service and would not have taken place without the non-Covered Service. This Exclusion does not apply to problems resulting from pregnancy.
13. **Contraceptives** Non-prescription contraceptive devices unless required by law.
14. **Cosmetic Services** Treatments, services, Prescription Drugs, equipment, or supplies given for cosmetic services. Cosmetic services are meant to preserve, change, or improve how you look or are given for psychiatric, psychological, or social reasons. No benefits are available for surgery or treatments to change the texture or look of your skin or to change the size, shape or look of facial or body features (such as your nose, eyes, ears, cheeks, chin, chest or breasts).

This Exclusion does not apply to reconstructive surgery for breast symmetry after a mastectomy, surgery to correct birth defects and birth abnormalities, or surgery to restore function of any body area that has been altered by illness or trauma.

15. **Court Ordered Testing** Court ordered testing or care unless Medically Necessary.
16. **Crime** Treatment of injury or illness that results from a crime you committed, or tried to commit. This Exclusion does not apply if your involvement in the crime was solely the result of a medical or mental condition, or where you were the victim of a crime, including domestic violence.
17. **Custodial Care** Custodial Care, convalescent care or rest cures. This Exclusion does not apply to Hospice services.
18. **Delivery Charges** Charges for delivery of Prescription Drugs.
19. **Dental Treatment**

Excluded dental treatment includes but is not limited to preventive care and fluoride treatments; dental x-rays, supplies, appliances and all associated expenses; and diagnosis and treatment for the teeth, jaw or gums such as:

- Removing, restoring, or replacing teeth;
- Medical care or surgery for dental problems (unless listed as a Covered Service in this Benefit Booklet);
- Services to help dental clinical outcomes.

Dental treatment for injuries that are a result of biting or chewing is also excluded, unless the chewing or biting results from a medical or mental condition.

This exclusion does not apply to services that must be covered by law.

- Dental Services** Dental services not described as Covered Services in this Benefit Booklet.
- Drugs Over Quantity or Age Limits** Drugs in quantities which are over the limits set by the Plan, or which are over any age limits set by the Claims Administrator.
- Drugs Prescribed by Providers Lacking Qualifications/Certifications** Prescription Drugs prescribed by a Provider that does not have the necessary qualifications, including certifications, as determined by the Claims Administrator.
- Drugs That Do Not Need a Prescription** Drugs that do not need a prescription by federal law (including Drugs that need a prescription by state law, but not by federal law), except for injectable insulin.
- Educational Services** Services or supplies for teaching, vocational, or self training purposes,
- Emergency Room Services for non-Emergency Care** Services provided in an emergency room for conditions that do not meet the definition of Emergency. This includes but is not limited to suture removal in an emergency room.
- Experimental or Investigational Services** Services or supplies that are found to be Experimental / Investigational. This also applies to services related to Experimental / Investigational services, whether you get them before, during, or after you get the Experimental / Investigational service or supply.  
  
The fact that a service or supply is the only available treatment for a condition will not make it eligible for coverage if the Claims Administrator deems it to be Experimental / Investigative.
- Eyeglasses and Contact Lenses** Eyeglasses and contact lenses to correct your eyesight. This Exclusion does not apply to lenses needed after a covered eye surgery.
- Eye Exercises** Orthoptics and vision therapy.
- Eye Surgery** Eye surgery to fix errors of refraction, such as near-sightedness. This includes, but is not limited to, LASIK, radial keratotomy or keratomileusis, and excimer laser refractive keratectomy.
- Family Members** Services prescribed, ordered, referred by or given by a member of your immediate family, including your spouse, child, brother, sister, parent, in-law, or self.
- Foot Care** Routine foot care unless Medically Necessary. This Exclusion applies to cutting or removing corns and calluses; trimming nails; cleaning and preventive foot care, including but not limited to:
  - a) Cleaning and soaking the feet.
  - b) Applying skin creams to care for skin tone.
  - c) Other services that are given when there is not an illness, injury or symptom involving the foot.
- Foot Orthotics** Foot orthotics, orthopedic shoes or footwear or support items unless used for an illness affecting the lower limbs, such as severe diabetes.
- Foot Surgery** Surgical treatment of flat feet; subluxation of the foot; weak, strained, unstable feet; tarsalgia; metatarsalgia; hyperkeratoses.
- Free Care** Services you would not have to pay for if you didn't have this Plan. This includes, but is not limited to government programs, services during a jail or prison sentence, services you get from Workers Compensation, and services from free clinics.

If Worker's Compensation benefits are not available to you, this Exclusion does not apply. This Exclusion will apply if you get the benefits in whole or in part. This Exclusion also applies whether or not you claim the benefits or compensation, and whether or not you get payments from any third party.

35. **Gene Therapy** Gene therapy as well as any Drugs, procedures, health care services related to it that introduce or is related to the introduction of genetic material into a person intended to replace or correct faulty or missing genetic material.
36. **Hearing Aids** Hearing aids or exams to prescribe or fit hearing aids, unless listed as covered in this Benefit Booklet. This Exclusion does not apply to cochlear implants. [This Exclusion does not apply to hearing aids to correct degenerative hearing loss.]
37. **Health Club Memberships and Fitness Services** Health club memberships, workout equipment, charges from a physical fitness or personal trainer, or any other charges for activities, equipment, or facilities used for physical fitness, even if ordered by a Doctor. This Exclusion also applies to health spas.
38. **Home Care**
  - a) Services given by registered nurses and other health workers who are not employees of or working under an approved arrangement with a home health care Provider.
  - b) Private duty nursing.
  - c) Food, housing, homemaker services and home delivered meals.
39. **Infertility Treatment** Testing or treatment related to infertility except for diagnostic services and procedures to correct an underlying medical condition. Infertility procedures not specified in this Benefit Booklet.
40. **Inpatient Rehabilitation Facility** Services for rehabilitation.
41. **Maintenance Therapy** Rehabilitative treatment given when no further gains are clear or likely to occur. Maintenance therapy includes care that helps you keep your current level of function and prevents loss of that function, but does not result in any change for the better. This Exclusion does not apply to "Habilitative Services" as described in the "What's Covered" section.
42. **Medical Equipment Devices and Supplies**
  - a) Replacement or repair of purchased or rental equipment because of misuse, abuse, or loss/theft.
  - b) Surgical supports, corsets, or articles of clothing unless needed to recover from surgery or injury.
  - c) Non-Medically Necessary enhancements to standard equipment and devices.
  - d) Supplies, equipment and appliances that include comfort, luxury, or convenience items or features that exceed what is Medically Necessary in your situation. Reimbursement will be based on the Maximum Allowable Amount for a standard item that is a Covered Service, serves the same purpose, and is Medically Necessary. Any expense that exceeds the Maximum Allowable Amount for the standard item which is a Covered Service is your responsibility.
43. **Medicare** Services for which benefits are payable under Medicare Parts A or B, or would have been payable if you had applied for Parts A or B, except, as listed in this Benefit Booklet or as required by federal law, as described in the section titled "Medicare" in the "General Provisions" section. If you do not enroll in Medicare Part B, the Claims Administrator will calculate benefits as if you had enrolled. You should sign up for Medicare Part B as soon as possible to avoid large out of pocket costs. If you are covered under an active group policy this may not apply to you.
44. **Missed or Cancelled Appointments** Charges for missed or cancelled appointments.]
45. **Non-Medically Necessary Services** Services the Claims Administrator concludes are not Medically Necessary. This includes services that do not meet medical policy, clinical coverage, or benefit policy guidelines.

46. **Nutritional or Dietary Supplements** Nutritional and/or dietary supplements, except as described in this Benefit Booklet or that must be covered by law. This Exclusion includes, but is not limited to, nutritional formulas and dietary supplements that you can buy over the counter and those you can get without a written prescription or from a licensed pharmacist.
47. **Office Services** Office Services except those listed as Covered Services in this Booklet unless required by law.
48. **Oral Surgery** Extraction of teeth, surgery for impacted teeth and other oral surgeries to treat the teeth or bones and gums directly supporting the teeth, except as listed in this Benefit Booklet.
49. **Outpatient Therapy or Rehabilitation** - Services for outpatient therapy or rehabilitation unless listed as a Covered Service in this Benefit Booklet.
50. **Personal Care and Convenience**
  - a) Items for personal comfort, convenience, protective, or cleanliness such as air conditioners, humidifiers, water purifiers, sports helmets, raised toilet seats, and shower chairs;
  - b) First aid supplies and other items kept in the home for general use (bandages, cotton-tipped applicators, thermometers, petroleum jelly, tape, non-sterile gloves, heating pads);
  - c) Home workout or therapy equipment, including treadmills and home gyms;
  - d) Pools, whirlpools, spas, or hydrotherapy equipment;
  - e) Hypo-allergenic pillows, mattresses, or waterbeds; or
  - f) Residential, auto, or place of business structural changes (ramps, lifts, elevator chairs, escalators, elevators, stair glides, emergency alert equipment, handrails).
51. **Prescription Drugs** Outpatient Prescription Drugs or Home Delivery / Mail Service drugs.
52. **Private Duty Nursing** Private Duty Nursing Services.
53. **Prosthetics** Prosthetics for sports or cosmetic purposes.
54. **Residential Accommodations** Residential Accommodations to treat medical or behavioral health conditions, except when provided in a Hospital, Hospice, Skilled Nursing Facility, or Residential Treatment Center.
55. **Routine Physical Exams** Physical exams required for enrollment in any insurance program, as a condition of employment, for licensing, or for school activities.
56. **Services Received Outside of the United States** Services rendered by Providers located outside of the United States, unless the services are for Emergency Care, Urgent Care and Emergency Ambulance.
57. **Sex Change** Services and supplies for a sex change and/or the reversal of a sex change.
58. **Sexual Dysfunction** Services or supplies for male or female sexual problems.
59. **Smoking Cessation Programs** Programs to help you stop smoking if the program is not affiliated with BCBSGA.
60. **Stand-By Charges** Stand-by charges of a Doctor or other Provider.
61. **Sterilization** Reversals of elective sterilizations are not covered. This does not apply to sterilizations for women, which will be covered under the "Preventive Care" benefit. Please see that section for further details.
62. **Sterilization** For sterilization or reversal of sterilization. This does not apply to sterilizations for women, which will be covered under the "Preventive Care" benefit. Please see that section for further details.
63. **Surrogate Mother Services** Services or supplies for a person not covered under this Plan for a surrogate pregnancy (including, but not limited to, the bearing of a child by another woman for an infertile couple).

64. **Temporomandibular Joint Treatment** Fixed or removable appliances which move or reposition the teeth, fillings, or prosthetics (crowns, bridges, dentures).
65. **Travel Costs** Mileage, lodging, meals, and other Member-related travel costs except as described in this Plan.
66. **Vein Treatment** Treatment of varicose veins or telangiectatic dermal veins (spider veins) by any method (including sclerotherapy or other surgeries) for cosmetic purposes.
67. **Vision Services** Vision services not described as Covered Services in this Benefit Booklet.
68. **Waived Cost-shares Out-of-Network** For any service for which you are responsible under the terms of this Plan to pay a Copayment, Coinsurance or Deductible, and the Copayment, Coinsurance or Deductible is waived by an Out-of-Network Provider.
69. **Weight Loss Programs** Programs, whether or not under medical supervision, unless listed as covered in this Benefit Booklet.

This Exclusion includes, but is not limited to, commercial weight loss programs (Weight Watchers, Jenny Craig, LA Weight Loss) and fasting programs.
70. **Weight Loss Surgery** Bariatric surgery. This includes but is not limited to Roux-en-Y (RNY), laparoscopic gastric bypass surgery or other gastric bypass surgery (surgeries to lower stomach capacity and divert partially digested food from the duodenum to the jejunum, the section of the small intestine extending from the duodenum), or gastroplasty, (surgeries that reduce stomach size), or gastric banding procedures.

## Claims Payment

This section describes how the Claims Administrator reimburses claims and what information is needed when you submit a claim. When you receive care from an In-Network Provider, you do not need to file a claim because the In-Network Provider will do this for you. If you receive care from an Out-of-Network Provider, you will need to make sure a claim is filed. Many Out-of-Network Hospitals, Doctors and other Providers will still submit your claim for you, although they are not required to do so. If you file the claim, use a claim form as described later in this section.

In order to assist you in understanding the Maximum Allowed Amount language as described below, please refer to the definition of In-Network Provider, Out-of-Network Provider and Non-Preferred Provider contained in the Definitions section of this Benefit Booklet.

### Maximum Allowed Amount

#### General

This section describes how the Claims Administrator determines the amount of reimbursement for Covered Services. Reimbursement for services rendered by In-Network and Out-of-network Providers is based on this/your Plan's Maximum Allowed Amount for the Covered Service that you receive. Please see "Inter-Plan Arrangements" later in this section for additional information.

The Maximum Allowed Amount is the maximum amount of reimbursement this Plan will allow for services and supplies:

- That meet the definition of Covered Services, to the extent such services and supplies are covered under your Plan and are not excluded;
- That are Medically Necessary; and
- That are provided in accordance with all applicable preauthorization, utilization management or other requirements set forth in your plan.

You will be required to pay a portion of the Maximum Allowed Amount to the extent you have not met your Deductible or have a Copayment or Coinsurance. In addition, when you receive Covered Services from an Out-of-network Provider, you may be responsible for paying any difference between the Maximum Allowed Amount and the Provider's actual charges. This amount can be significant.

When you receive Covered Services from an eligible Provider, the Claims Administrator will, to the extent applicable, apply claim processing rules to the claim submitted for those Covered Services. These rules evaluate the claim information and, among other things, determine the accuracy and appropriateness of the procedure and diagnosis codes included in the claim. Applying these rules may affect the determination of the Maximum Allowed Amount. The application of these rules does not mean that the Covered Services you received were not Medically Necessary. It means the Claims Administrator has determined that the claim was submitted inconsistent with procedure coding rules and/or reimbursement policies. For example, your Provider may have submitted the claim using several procedure codes when there is a single procedure code that includes all of the procedures that were performed. When this occurs, the Maximum Allowed Amount will be based on the single procedure code rather than a separate Maximum Allowed Amount for each billed code.

Likewise, when multiple procedures are performed on the same day by the same Doctor or other healthcare professional, the Maximum Allowed Amounts may be reduced for those secondary and subsequent procedures because reimbursement at 100% of the Maximum Allowed Amount for those procedures would represent duplicative payment for components of the primary procedure that may be considered incidental or inclusive.

## Provider Network Status

The Maximum Allowed Amount may vary depending upon whether the Provider is an In-Network or an Out-of-network Provider.

An In-Network Provider is a Provider who is in the managed network for this specific Plan or in a special Center of Excellence/or other closely managed specialty network, or who has a participation contract with the Claims Administrator. For Covered Services performed by an In-Network Provider, the Maximum Allowed Amount for this/your Plan is the rate the Provider has agreed to accept as reimbursement for the Covered Services. Because In-Network Providers have agreed to accept the Maximum Allowed Amount as payment in full for those Covered Services, they should not send you a bill or collect for amounts above the Maximum Allowed Amount. However, you may receive a bill or be asked to pay all or a portion of the Maximum Allowed Amount to the extent you have not met your Deductible or have a Copayment or Coinsurance. Please call Member Services for help in finding an In-Network Provider or visit [www.bcbsga.com](http://www.bcbsga.com)

Providers who have not signed any contract with the Claims Administrator and are not in any of the Claims Administrator's networks are Out-of-network Providers, subject to Blue Cross Blue Shield Association rules governing claims filed by certain ancillary providers.

For Covered Services you receive from an Out-of-network Provider, the Maximum Allowed Amount for this Plan will be one of the following as determined by the Claims Administrator:

1. An amount based on the Claims Administrator Out-of-network fee schedule/rate, which the Claims Administrator has established in its' discretion, and which the Claims Administrator reserves the right to modify from time to time, after considering one or more of the following: reimbursement amounts accepted by like/similar providers contracted with the Claims Administrator, reimbursement amounts paid by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services for the same services or supplies, and other industry cost, reimbursement and utilization data; or
2. An amount based on reimbursement or cost information from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services ("CMS"). When basing the Maximum Allowed Amount upon the level or method of reimbursement used by CMS, the Claims Administrator will update such information, which is unadjusted for geographic locality, no less than annually; or
3. An amount based on information provided by a third party vendor, which may reflect one or more of the following factors: (1) the complexity or severity of treatment; (2) level of skill and experience required for the treatment; or (3) comparable Providers' fees and costs to deliver care; or
4. An amount negotiated by the Claims Administrator or a third party vendor which has been agreed to by the Provider. This may include rates for services coordinated through case management; or
5. An amount equal to the total charges billed by the Provider, but only if such charges are less than the Maximum Allowed Amount calculated by using one of the methods described above.

**Providers who are not contracted for this product, but are contracted for the Claims Administrator's indemnity product are considered Non-Preferred. For this/your plan, the Maximum Allowed Amount for services from these Providers will be one of the five methods shown above unless the contract between the Claims Administrator and that Provider specifies a different amount. In this case Non-Preferred Providers may not send you a bill and collect for the amount of the Non-Preferred Provider's charge that exceeds the Maximum Allowed Amount for Covered Services.**

For Covered Services rendered outside [BCBSGA's] [Anthem's] Service Area by Out-of-Network Providers, claims may be priced using the local Blue Cross Blue Shield plan's non-participating provider fee schedule / rate or the pricing arrangements required by applicable state or federal law. In certain situations, the Maximum Allowed Amount for out of area claims may be based on billed charges, the pricing the

Claims Administrator would use if the healthcare services had been obtained within the [BCBSGA][Anthem] Service Area, or a special negotiated price.

Unlike In-Network Providers, Out-of-Network Providers may send you a bill and collect for the amount of the Provider's charge that exceeds the Maximum Allowed Amount. You are responsible for paying the difference between the Maximum Allowed Amount and the amount the Provider charges. This amount can be significant. Choosing an In-Network provider will likely result in lower out of pocket costs to you. Please call Member Services for help in finding an In-Network Provider or visit [www.BCBSGA.com](http://www.BCBSGA.com) [[www.Anthem.com](http://www.Anthem.com)].

Member Services is also available to assist you in determining this/your Plan's Maximum Allowed Amount for a particular service from an Out-of-Network Provider. In order to assist you, you will need to obtain from your Provider the specific procedure code(s) and diagnosis code(s) for the services the Provider will render. You will also need to know the Provider's charges to calculate your out of pocket responsibility. Although Member Services can assist you with this pre-service information, the final Maximum Allowed Amount for your claim will be based on the actual claim submitted by the Provider.

For Prescription Drugs, the Maximum Allowed Amount is the amount determined by the Claims Administrator using Prescription Drug cost information provided by the Pharmacy Benefits Manager.

### **Member Cost Share**

For certain Covered Services, you may be required to pay a part of the Maximum Allowed Amount as your cost share amount (for example, Deductible, Copayment, and/or Coinsurance).

Your cost share amount and Out-of-Pocket Limits may vary depending on whether you received services from an In-Network or Out-of-network Provider. Specifically, you may be required to pay higher cost sharing amounts or may have limits on your benefits when using Out-of-Network or Non-Preferred Providers. Please see the "Schedule of Benefits" section in this Benefit Booklet for your cost share responsibilities and limitations, or call Member Services to learn how this Plan's benefits or cost share amounts may vary by the type of Provider you use.

The Plan will not provide any reimbursement for non-covered services. You may be responsible for the total amount billed by your Provider for non-covered services, regardless of whether such services are performed by an In-Network or Out-of-Network Provider. Non-covered services include services specifically excluded from coverage by the terms of your Plan and services received after benefits have been exhausted. Benefits may be exhausted by exceeding, for example, your Lifetime Maximum, benefit caps or day/visit limits.

In some instances you may only be asked to pay the lower In-Network cost sharing amount when you use an Out-of-Network Provider. For example, if you go to an In-Network Hospital or Provider Facility and receive Covered Services from an Out-of-Network Provider such as a radiologist, anesthesiologist or pathologist who is employed by or contracted with an In-Network Hospital or Facility, you will pay the In-Network cost share amounts for those Covered Services. However, you also may be liable for the difference between the Maximum Allowed Amount and the Out-of-Network Provider's charge.

### **Authorized Services**

In some circumstances, such as where there is no In-Network Provider available for the Covered Service, the Plan may authorize the In-Network cost share amounts (Deductible, Copayment, and/or Coinsurance) to apply to a claim for a Covered Service you receive from an Out-of-Network Provider. In such circumstance, you must contact the Claims Administrator in advance of obtaining the Covered Service. The Plan also may authorize the In-Network cost share amounts to apply to a claim for Covered Services if you receive Emergency services from an Out-of-Network Provider and are not able to contact the Claims Administrator until after the Covered Service is rendered. If the Plan authorizes an In-Network cost share amount to apply to a Covered Service received from an, Out-of-Network Provider, you also may still be



liable for the difference between the Maximum Allowed Amount and the Out-of-Network Provider's charge. Please contact Member Services for Authorized Services information or to request authorization.

## Claims Review

The Claims Administrator has processes to review claims before and after payment to detect fraud, waste, abuse and other inappropriate activity. Members seeking services from Out-of-Network Providers could be balanced billed by the Out-of-Network Provider for those services that are determined to be not payable as a result of these review processes. A claim may also be determined to be not payable due to a Provider's failure to submit medical records with the claims that are under review in these processes.

## Notice of Claim & Proof of Loss

After you get Covered Services, the Claims Administrator must receive written notice of your claim within 12 months in order for benefits to be paid. The claim must have the information needed to determine benefits. If the claim does not include enough information, the Claims Administrator will ask for more details and it must be sent in order for benefits to be paid, except as required by law. Payment of claims will be made as soon as possible following receipt of the claim, unless more time is required because of incomplete or missing information.

In certain cases, you may have some extra time to file a claim. If the Claims Administrator did not get your claim within 90 days, but it is sent in as soon as reasonably possible and within one year after the 90-day period ends (i.e., within 15 months), you may still be able to get benefits. **However, any claims, or additional information on claims, sent in more than 15 months after you get Covered Services will be denied.**

## Claim Forms

Claim forms will usually be available from most Providers. If forms are not available, contact your local Human Resources Department or Member Services and ask for a claim form to be sent to you. If you do not receive the claim form, written notice of services rendered may be submitted without the claim form. The same information that would be given on the claim form must be included in the written notice of claim. This includes:

- Name of patient.
- Patient's relationship with the Subscriber.
- Identification number.
- Date, type, and place of service.
- Your signature and the Provider's signature.

## Member's Cooperation

You will be expected to complete and submit to the Plan all such authorizations, consents, releases, assignments and other documents that may be needed in order to obtain or assure reimbursement under Medicare, Workers' Compensation or any other governmental program. If you fail to cooperate (including if you fail to enroll under Part B of the Medicare program where Medicare is the responsible payer), you will be responsible for any charge for services.

## Payment of Benefits

The Claims Administrator may make benefit payments directly to In-Network Providers for Covered Services. If you use an Out-of-Network Provider, however, the Claims Administrator may make benefit payments to you.] Payments may also be made to, and notice regarding the receipt and/or adjudication of

claims sent to, an Alternate Recipient (any child of a Subscriber who is recognized, under a Qualified Medical Child Support Order (QMSCO), as having a right to enrollment under the Plan), or that person's custodial parent or designated representative. Any benefit payments made will discharge the Plan's obligation to pay for Covered Services. You cannot assign your right to benefits to anyone else, except as required by a Qualified Medical Child Support Order as defined by ERISA or any applicable state law.

Once a Provider performs a Covered Service, the Claims Administrator will not honor a request to withhold payment of the claims submitted.

## **Inter-Plan Arrangements**

### **Out-of-Area Services**

#### **Overview**

BCBSGA has a variety of relationships with other Blue Cross and/or Blue Shield Licensees. Generally, these relationships are called "Inter-Plan Arrangements." These Inter-Plan Arrangements work based on rules and procedures issued by the Blue Cross Blue Shield Association ("Association"). Whenever you access healthcare services outside the geographic area the Claims Administrator serves (the "BCBSGA Service Area"), the claim for those services may be processed through one of these Inter-Plan Arrangements. The Inter-Plan Arrangements are described below.

When you receive care outside of the BCBSGA Service Area, you will receive it from one of two kinds of Providers. Most Providers ("participating providers") contract with the local Blue Cross and/or Blue Shield Plan in that geographic area ("Host Blue"). Some Providers ("nonparticipating providers") don't contract with the Host Blue. Explained below is how both kinds of Providers are paid.

BCBSGA covers only limited healthcare services received outside of the BCBSGA Service Area. For example, Emergency Care obtained outside the BCBSGA Service Area is always covered. Any other services will not be covered when processed through any Inter-Plan Arrangements, unless authorized by BCBSGA.

## **Inter-Plan Arrangements Eligibility – Claim Types**

Most claim types are eligible to be processed through Inter-Plan Arrangements, as described above. Examples of claims that are not included are Prescription Drugs that you obtain from a Pharmacy and most dental or vision benefits.

### **A. BlueCard® Program**

Under the BlueCard® Program, when you receive Covered Services within the geographic area served by a Host Blue, the Claims Administrator will still fulfill our contractual obligations. But, the Host Blue is responsible for: (a) contracting with its Providers; and (b) handling its interactions with those Providers.

When you receive Covered Services outside the [BCBSGA] [Anthem] Service Area and the claim is processed through the BlueCard Program, the amount you pay is calculated based on the lower of:

- The billed charges for Covered Services; or
- The negotiated price that the Host Blue makes available to the Claims Administrator.

Often, this “negotiated price” will be a simple discount that reflects an actual price that the Host Blue pays to the Provider. Sometimes, it is an estimated price that takes into account special arrangements with that Provider. Sometimes, such an arrangement may be an average price, based on a discount that results in expected average savings for services provided by similar types of Providers. Estimated and average pricing arrangements may also involve types of settlements, incentive payments and/or other credits or charges.

Estimated pricing and average pricing also take into account adjustments to correct for over- or underestimation of past pricing of claims, as noted above. However, such adjustments will not affect the price the Plan used for your claim because they will not be applied after a claim has already been paid.

### **B. Special Cases: Value-Based Programs**

#### *BlueCard® Program*

If you receive Covered Services under a Value-Based Program inside a Host Blue's Service Area, you will not be responsible for paying any of the Provider Incentives, risk-sharing, and/or Care Coordinator Fees that are a part of such an arrangement, except when a Host Blue passes these fees to [BCBSGA] [Anthem] through average pricing or fee schedule adjustments. Additional information is available upon request.

### **C. Inter-Plan Programs: Federal/State Taxes/Surcharges/Fees**

Federal or state laws or regulations may require a surcharge, tax or other fee. If applicable, the Plan will include any such surcharge, tax or other fee as part of the claim charge passed on to you.

### **D. Nonparticipating Providers Outside Our Service Area**

#### **1. Allowed Amounts and Member Liability Calculation**

When Covered Services are provided outside of [BCBSGA] [Anthem] Service Area by non-participating providers, the Plan may determine benefits and make payment based on pricing from either the Host Blue or the pricing arrangements required by applicable state or federal law. In these situations, the amount you pay for such services as Deductible, Copayment or Coinsurance will be based on that allowed amount. Also, you may be responsible for the difference between the amount that the non-participating provider bills and the payment the Plan will make for the Covered Services as set forth in this paragraph. Federal or state law, as applicable, will govern payments for out-of-network Emergency services.

## 2. Exceptions

In certain situations, the Plan may use other pricing methods, such as billed charges or the pricing we would use if the healthcare services had been obtained within the [BCBSGA] [Anthem] Service Area, or a special negotiated price to determine the amount the Plan will pay for services provided by nonparticipating providers. In these situations, you may be liable for the difference between the amount that the nonparticipating provider bills and the payment the Plan makes for the Covered Services as set forth in this paragraph.

### E. BlueCard Worldwide® Program

If you plan to travel outside the United States, call Member Services to find out your BlueCard Worldwide benefits. Benefits for services received outside of the United States may be different from services received in the United States.

When you are traveling abroad and need medical care, you can call the BlueCard Worldwide Service Center any time. They are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The toll free number is 800-810-2583. Or you can call them collect at 804-673-1177.

Keep in mind, if you need Emergency medical care, go to the nearest hospital. There is no need to call before you receive care.

Please refer to the “Getting Approval for Benefits” section in this Booklet for further information.

#### How Claims are Paid with BlueCard Worldwide

In most cases, when you arrange inpatient hospital care with BlueCard Worldwide, claims will be filed for you. The only amounts that you may need to pay up front are any Copayment, Coinsurance or Deductible amounts that may apply.

You will typically need to pay for the following services up front:

- Doctors services;
- Inpatient hospital care not arranged through BlueCard Worldwide; and
- Outpatient services.

You will need to file a claim form for any payments made up front.

When you need BlueCard Worldwide claim forms you can get international claims forms in the following ways:

- Call the BlueCard Worldwide Service Center at the numbers above; or
- Online at [www.bluecardworldwide.com](http://www.bluecardworldwide.com).

You will find the address for mailing the claim on the form.

#### Assignment

You authorize the Claims Administrator, on behalf of the Employer, to make payments directly to Providers for Covered Services. The Claims Administrator also reserves the right to make payments directly to you. Payments may also be made to, and notice regarding the receipt and/or adjudication of claims, an alternate recipient, or that person’s custodial parent or designated representative. Any payments made by the Claims Administrator will discharge the Employer’s obligation to pay for Covered Services. You cannot assign your right to receive payment to anyone else, except as required by a “Qualified Medical Child Support Order” as defined by ERISA or any applicable Federal law.



## Coordination of Benefits When Members Are Insured Under More Than One Plan

If you, your spouse, or your Dependents have duplicate coverage under another program, any other group medical expense coverage, or any local, state or governmental program (except school accident insurance coverage and Medicaid), then benefits payable under This Plan will be coordinated with the benefits payable under the other program. This Plan's liability in coordinating will not be more than 100% of the Allowable Expense or the contracted amount.

Allowable Expense means any necessary, reasonable and customary expense at least a portion of which is covered under at least one of the programs covering the person for whom the claim is made. The claim determination period is the Benefit Period.

Please note that several terms specific to this section are listed below. Some of these terms have different meanings in other parts of the Benefit Booklet, e.g., Plan. For this provision only, your plan is referred to as "This Plan" and any other insurance plan as "Plan". In the rest of the Benefit Booklet, Plan has the meaning listed in the "Definitions" section.

**Claim Determination Period** means a Benefit Period Year. However, it does not include any part of a year during which you have no coverage under This Plan or any part of a year before the date this COB provision or a similar provision takes effect.

**Plan** means any of the following that provides benefits or services for, or because of, medical or dental care or treatment:

- Group insurance or group-type coverage, whether insured or uninsured, that includes continuous twenty-four (24) hour coverage. This includes prepayment, group practice, or individual practice coverage. It also includes coverage other than school accident-type coverage.
- Coverage under a governmental Plan or coverage that is required or provided by law. This does not include a state Plan under Medicaid (Title XIX, Grants to States for Medical Assistance Programs, of the United States Social Security Act as amended from time to time). It also does not include any Plan whose benefits, by law, are excess to those of any private insurance program or other non-governmental program.
- "No-fault" and group or group-type "fault" automobile insurance policies or contracts.

Each contract or other arrangement for coverage under 1 or 2 above is a separate Plan. If an arrangement has two parts and these rules apply only to one of the two, each of the parts is a separate Plan.

**Primary Plan/Secondary Plan** means the "Order of Benefit Determination Rules" section states whether This Plan is a Primary Plan or Secondary Plan in relationship to another Plan covering you. When This Plan is a Secondary Plan, its benefits are determined after those of the other Plan and may be reduced because of the other Plan's benefits.

When This Plan is a Primary Plan, its benefits are determined before those of the other Plan and without considering the other Plan's benefits.

When there are more than two Plans covering you, This Plan may be a Primary Plan in relationship to one or more other Plans and may be a Secondary Plan in relationship to a different Plan or Plans.

**This Plan** means the part of this Plan that provides benefits for health care expenses.

## Order of Benefit Determination Rules

When you have duplicate coverage, claims will be paid as follows:

- Automobile Insurance  
Medical benefits available through automobile insurance coverage will be determined before this Plan.
- Non-Dependent/Dependent  
The benefits of the program which covers the person as an Employee (other than as a Dependent) are determined before those of the program which covers the person as a Dependent.
- Dependent Child/Parents Not Separated or Divorced  
Except as stated below, when this program and another program cover the same child as a Dependent of different persons, called "parents":
  - The benefits of the program of the parent whose birthday falls earlier in a year are determined before those of the program of the parent whose birthday falls later in that year.
  - If both parents have the same birthday, the benefits of the program which covered the parent longer are determined before those of the program which covered the other parent for a shorter period of time.

However, if the other program does not have the rule described above, but instead has a rule based on the gender of the parent, and if, as a result, the programs do not agree on the order of benefits, the rule in the other program will determine the order of benefits.

- Dependent Child/Parents Separated or Divorced  
If two or more programs cover a person as a Dependent child of divorced or separated parents, benefits for the child are determined in this order:
  - first, the program of the parent with custody of the child;
  - then, the program of the spouse of the parent with custody of the child; and
  - finally, the program of the parent not having custody of the child.

However, if the specific terms of a court decree state that one of the parents is responsible for the child's health care expenses, and the company obligated to pay or provide the benefits of the program of that parent has actual knowledge of those terms, the benefits of that program are determined first. This paragraph does not apply with respect to any claim determination period or program year during which any benefits are actually paid or provided before the company has that actual knowledge.

- Joint Custody  
If the specific terms of a court decree state that the parents shall have joint custody, without stating that one of the parents is responsible for the health care expenses of the child, the programs covering the child shall follow the order of benefit determination rules outlined above for "Dependent Child/Parents not Separated or Divorced."
- Active/Inactive Employee  
The benefits of a program that covers a person as an Employee who is neither laid off nor retired (or as that Employee's Dependent) are determined before those of a program that covers that person as a laid-off or retired Employee (or as that Employee's Dependent). If the other program does not have this rule, and if, as a result, the programs do not agree on the order of benefits, this rule is ignored.
- Longer/Shorter Length of Coverage  
If none of the above rules determine the order of benefits, the benefits of the program which covered an Employee or Member longer are determined before those of the program that covered that person for the shorter time.

## **Effect on the Benefits of This Plan**

This section applies when, in accordance with the Order of Benefit Determination Rules, this program is a secondary program to one or more other programs. In that event the benefits of this program may be reduced under this section. Such other program or programs are referred to as “the other programs” below.

### Reduction in this program's benefits

The benefits of this program will be reduced when the sum of:

- the benefits that would be payable for the Allowable Expenses under this program in the absence of this provision; and
- the benefits that would be payable for the Allowable Expenses under the other programs, in the absence of provisions with a purpose like that of this provision, whether or not claim is made, exceed those Allowable Expenses in a claim determination period. In that case, the benefits of this program will be reduced so that they and the benefits payable under the other programs do not total more than those Allowable Expenses.

When the benefits of this program are reduced as described above, each benefit is reduced in proportion. It is then charged against any applicable benefit limit of this program.

## **Right to Receive and Release Needed Information**

Certain facts are needed to apply these rules. The Claims Administrator has the right to decide which facts it needs. The Claims Administrator may get needed facts from or give them to any other organization or person as necessary to coordinate benefits. The Claims Administrator need not tell, or get the consent of, any person to do this. Each person claiming benefits under This Plan must provide any facts needed to pay the claim.

## **Facility of Payment**

A payment made under another program may include an amount which should have been paid under This Plan. If it does, the Claims Administrator may pay that amount to the organization which made that payment. That amount will then be treated as though it were a benefit paid under this program. This Plan will not have to pay that amount again.

## **Right of Reimbursement**

If the amount of the payment made by This Plan is more than it should have paid under this provision, the Claims Administrator may recover the excess from one or more of:

- the persons it has paid or for whom it has paid,
- insurance companies, or
- other organizations.



## Subrogation and Reimbursement

These provisions apply when the Plan pays benefits as a result of injuries or illnesses you sustained and you have a right to a Recovery or have received a Recovery from any source.

### Recovery

A "Recovery" includes, but is not limited to, monies received from any person or party, any person's or party's liability insurance, uninsured/underinsured motorist proceeds, worker's compensation insurance or fund, "no-fault" insurance and/or automobile medical payments coverage, whether by lawsuit, settlement or otherwise. Regardless of how you or your representative or any agreements characterize the money you receive as a Recovery, it shall be subject to these provisions.

### Subrogation

The Plan has the right to recover payments it makes on your behalf from any party responsible for compensating you for your illnesses or injuries. The following apply:

- The Plan has first priority from any Recovery for the full amount of benefits it has paid regardless of whether you are fully compensated, and regardless of whether the payments you receive make you whole for your losses, illnesses and/or injuries.
- You and your legal representative must do whatever is necessary to enable the Plan to exercise the Plan's rights and do nothing to prejudice those rights.
- In the event that you or your legal representative fail to do whatever is necessary to enable the Plan to exercise its subrogation rights, the Plan shall be entitled to deduct the amount the Plan paid from any future benefits under the Plan.
- The Plan has the right to take whatever legal action it sees fit against any person, party or entity to recover the benefits paid under the Plan.
- To the extent that the total assets from which a Recovery is available are insufficient to satisfy in full the Plan's subrogation claim and any claim held by you, the Plan's subrogation claim shall be first satisfied before any part of a Recovery is applied to your claim, your attorney fees, other expenses or costs.
- The Plan is not responsible for any attorney fees, attorney liens, other expenses or costs you incur without the Plan's prior written consent. The "common fund" doctrine does not apply to any funds recovered by any attorney you hire regardless of whether funds recovered are used to repay benefits paid by the Plan.

### Reimbursement

If you obtain a Recovery and the Plan has not been repaid for the benefits the Plan paid on your behalf, the Plan shall have a right to be repaid from the Recovery in the amount of the benefits paid on your behalf and the following provisions will apply:

- You must reimburse the Plan from any Recovery to the extent of benefits the Plan paid on your behalf regardless of whether the payments you receive make you whole for your losses, illnesses and/or injuries.
- Notwithstanding any allocation or designation of your Recovery (e.g., pain and suffering) made in a settlement agreement or court order, the Plan shall have a right of full recovery, in first priority, against any Recovery. Further, the Plan's rights will not be reduced due to your negligence.
- You and your legal representative must hold in trust for the Plan the proceeds of the gross Recovery (*i.e.*, the total amount of your Recovery before attorney fees, other expenses or costs) to be paid to the Plan immediately upon your receipt of the Recovery. You must reimburse the Plan, in first priority and without any set-off or reduction for attorney fees, other expenses or costs. The "common fund" doctrine does not apply to any funds recovered by any attorney you hire regardless of whether funds recovered are used to repay benefits paid by the Plan.
- If You fail to repay the Plan, the Plan shall be entitled to deduct any of the unsatisfied portion of the amount of benefits the Plan has paid or the amount of your Recovery whichever is less, from any future benefit under the Plan if:
  1. the amount the Plan paid on your behalf is not repaid or otherwise recovered by the Plan; or
  2. you fail to cooperate.

- In the event that you fail to disclose the amount of your settlement to the Plan, the Plan shall be entitled to deduct the amount of the Plan's lien from any future benefit under the Plan.
- The Plan shall also be entitled to recover any of the unsatisfied portions of the amount the Plan has paid or the amount of your Recovery, whichever is less, directly from the Providers to whom the Plan has made payments on your behalf. In such a circumstance, it may then be your obligation to pay the Provider the full billed amount, and the Plan will not have any obligation to pay the Provider or reimburse you.
- The Plan is entitled to reimbursement from any Recovery, in first priority, even if the Recovery does not fully satisfy the judgment, settlement or underlying claim for damages or fully compensate you or make you whole.

#### **Your Duties**

- You must notify the Plan promptly of how, when and where an accident or incident resulting in personal injury or illness to you occurred and all information regarding the parties involved.
- You must cooperate with the Plan in the investigation, settlement and protection of the Plan's rights. In the event that you or your legal representative fail to do whatever is necessary to enable the Plan to exercise its subrogation or reimbursement rights, the Plan shall be entitled to deduct the amount the Plan paid from any future benefits under the Plan.
- You must not do anything to prejudice the Plan's rights.
- You must send the Plan copies of all police reports, notices or other papers received in connection with the accident or incident resulting in personal injury or illness to you.
- You must promptly notify the Plan if you retain an attorney or if a lawsuit is filed on your behalf.

The Plan Sponsor has sole discretion to interpret the terms of the Subrogation and Reimbursement provision of this Plan in its entirety and reserves the right to make changes as it deems necessary.

If the covered person is a minor, any amount recovered by the minor, the minor's trustee, guardian, parent, or other representative, shall be subject to this provision. Likewise, if the covered person's relatives, heirs, and/or assignees make any Recovery because of injuries sustained by the covered person, that Recovery shall be subject to this provision.

The Plan shall be secondary in coverage to any medical payments provision, no-fault automobile insurance policy or personal injury protection policy regardless of any election made by you to the contrary. The Plan shall also be secondary to any excess insurance policy, including, but not limited to, school and/or athletic policies.

The Plan is entitled to recover its attorney's fees and costs incurred in enforcing this provision.

## Member Rights and Responsibilities

As a Member you have rights and responsibilities when receiving health care. As your health care partner, the Claims Administrator wants to make sure your rights are respected while providing your health benefits. That means giving you access to the Claims Administrator's Network health care Providers and the information you need to make the best decisions. As a Member, you should also take an active role in your care.

### These are your rights and responsibilities:

#### You have the right to:

- Speak freely and privately with your health care Providers about all health care options and treatment needed for your condition no matter what the cost or whether it is covered under your Plan.
- Work with your doctors to make choices about your health care.
- Be treated with respect and dignity.
- Expect us to keep your personal health information private by following our privacy policies and Federal laws.
- Get the information you need to help make sure you get the most from your Health Plan, and share your feedback. This includes information on:
  - The Claims Administrator's company and services.
  - The Claims Administrator's network of health care providers.
  - Your rights and responsibilities.
  - The rules of your health Plan.
  - The way your Health Plan works.
- Make a complaint or file an appeal about:
  - Your health Plan and
  - any care you get.
  - Any Covered Service or benefit decision that your health Plan makes.
- Say no to care, for any condition, sickness or disease, without having an effect on any care you may get in the future. This includes asking your Doctor to tell you how that may affect your health now and in the future.
- Get the most up-to-date information from a health care provider about the cause of your illness, your treatment and what may result from it. You can ask for help if you do not understand this information.

#### You have the responsibility to:

- Read all information about your health benefits and ask for help if you have questions.
- Follow all health Plan rules and policies.
- Choose a Network Primary Care Physician, also called a PCP, if your health plan requires it.
- Treat all doctors, health care Providers and staff with respect.
- Keep all scheduled appointments. Call your health care Provider's office if you may be late or need to cancel.
- Understand your health problems as well as you can and work with your health care Providers to make a treatment plan that you all agree on.
- Inform your health care Providers if you don't understand any type of care you're getting or what they want you to do as part of your care plan.
- Follow the health care plan that you have agreed on with your health care Providers.
- Give the Claims Administrator, your doctors and other health care Providers the information needed to help you get the best possible care and all the benefits you are eligible for under your health Plan. This may include information about other health insurance benefits you have along with your coverage with the Plan.

- Inform Member Services if you have any changes to your name, address or family members covered under your Plan.

**The Claims Administrator is committed to providing quality benefits and customer service to its Members. Benefits and coverage for services provided under the benefit program are governed by the Plan and not by this Member Rights and Responsibilities statement.**

**If you need more information or would like to contact the Claims Administrator, please go to [anthem.com](http://anthem.com) and select Customer Support > Contact us. Or call the Member Services number on your ID card.**

## Your Right To Appeal

The Plan wants your experience to be as positive as possible. There may be times, however, when you have a complaint, problem, or question about your Plan or a service you have received. In those cases, please contact Member Services by calling the number on the back of your Identification Card. The Claims Administrator will try to resolve your complaint informally by talking to your Provider or reviewing your claim. If you are not satisfied with the resolution of your complaint, you have the right to file an appeal, which is defined as follows:

For purposes of these Appeal provisions, "claim for benefits" means a request for benefits under the plan. The term includes both pre-service and post-service claims.

- A pre-service claim is a claim for benefits under the plan for which you have not received the benefit or for which you may need to obtain approval in advance.
- A post-service claim is any other claim for benefits under the plan for which you have received the service.

If your claim is denied or if your coverage is rescinded:

- You will be provided with a written notice of the denial or rescission; and
- You are entitled to a full and fair review of the denial or rescission.

The procedure the Claims Administrator will follow will satisfy the requirements for a full and fair review under applicable federal regulations.

### Notice of Adverse Benefit Determination

If your claim is denied, the Claims Administrator's notice of the adverse benefit determination (denial) will include:

- information sufficient to identify the claim involved;
- the specific reason(s) for the denial;
- a reference to the specific plan provision(s) on which the Claims Administrator's determination is based;
- a description of any additional material or information needed to perfect your claim;
- an explanation of why the additional material or information is needed;
- a description of the plan's review procedures and the time limits that apply to them, including a statement of your right to bring a civil action under ERISA if you appeal and the claim denial is upheld;
- information about any internal rule, guideline, protocol, or other similar criterion relied upon in making the claim determination and about your right to request a copy of it free of charge, along with a discussion of the claims denial decision; and
- information about the scientific or clinical judgment for any determination based on medical necessity or experimental treatment, or about your right to request this explanation free of charge, along with a discussion of the claims denial decision.
- the availability of, and contact information for, any applicable office of health insurance consumer assistance or ombudsman who may assist you

For claims involving urgent/concurrent care:

- the Claims Administrator's notice will also include a description of the applicable urgent/concurrent review process; and
- the Claims Administrator may notify you or your authorized representative within 72 hours orally and then furnish a written notification.

### Appeals (Grievances)

You have the right to appeal an adverse benefit determination (claim denial or rescission of coverage). You or your authorized representative must file your appeal within 180 calendar days after you are notified of the denial or rescission. You will have the opportunity to submit written comments, documents, records, and other information supporting your claim. The Claims Administrator's review of your claim will take into account all information you submit, regardless of whether it was submitted or considered in the initial benefit

determination.

- The Claims Administrator shall offer a single mandatory level of appeal and an additional voluntary second level of appeal which may be a panel review, independent review, or other process consistent with the entity reviewing the appeal. The time frame allowed for the Claims Administrator to complete its review is dependent upon the type of review involved (e.g., pre-service, concurrent, post-service, urgent, etc.).

**For pre-service claims involving urgent/concurrent care**, you may obtain an expedited appeal. You or your authorized representative may request it orally or in writing. All necessary information, including the Claims Administrator's decision, can be sent between the Claims Administrator and you by telephone, facsimile or other similar method. To file an appeal for a claim involving urgent/concurrent care, you or your authorized representative must contact the Claims Administrator at [the number shown on your identification card] and provide at least the following information:

- the identity of the claimant;
- the date(s) of the medical service;
- the specific medical condition or symptom;
- the provider's name;
- the service or supply for which approval of benefits was sought; and
- any reasons why the appeal should be processed on a more expedited basis.

**All other requests for Appeals (Grievances)** should be submitted in writing by the *Member* or the *Member's authorized representative*, except where the acceptance of oral *Appeals (Grievances)* is otherwise required by the nature of the *appeal* (e.g., urgent care). You or your authorized representative must submit a request for review to:

BCBSGA, ATTN: Appeals, P.O. Box 105568, Atlanta, Georgia 30348

**You must include your Member Identification Number when submitting an appeal.**

Upon request, the Claims Administrator will provide, without charge, reasonable access to, and copies of, all documents, records, and other information relevant to your claim. "Relevant" means that the document, record, or other information:

- was relied on in making the benefit determination; or
- was submitted, considered, or produced in the course of making the benefit determination; or
- demonstrates compliance with processes and safeguards to ensure that claim determinations are made in accordance with the terms of the plan, applied consistently for similarly-situated claimants; or
- is a statement of the plan's policy or guidance about the treatment or benefit relative to your diagnosis.

The Claims Administrator will also provide you, free of charge, with any new or additional evidence considered, relied upon, or generated in connection with your claim. In addition, before you receive an adverse benefit determination on review based on a new or additional rationale, the Claims Administrator will provide you, free of charge, with the rationale.

**For Out of State Appeals (Grievances)** You have to file Provider Appeals with the Host Plan. This means Providers must file Appeals with the same plan to which the claim was filed.

### **How Your Appeal will be Decided**

When the Claims Administrator considers your appeal, the Claims Administrator will not rely upon the initial benefit determination or, for voluntary second-level Appeals, to the earlier appeal determination. The review will be conducted by an appropriate reviewer who did not make the initial determination and who does not work for the person who made the initial determination. A voluntary second-level review will be conducted by an appropriate reviewer who did not make the initial determination or the first-level appeal determination and who does not work for the person who made the initial determination or first-level appeal determination.

If the denial was based in whole or in part on a medical judgment, including whether the treatment is experimental, investigational, or not medically necessary, the reviewer will consult with a health care professional who has the appropriate training and experience in the medical field involved in making the judgment. This health care professional will not be one who was consulted in making an earlier determination or who works for one who was consulted in making an earlier determination.

#### **Notification of the Outcome of the Appeal**

**If you appeal a claim involving urgent/concurrent care**, the Claims Administrator will notify you of the outcome of the appeal as soon as possible, but not later than 72 hours after receipt of your request for appeal.

**If you appeal any other pre-service claim**, the Claims Administrator will notify you of the outcome of the appeal within 30 days after receipt of your request for appeal.

**If you appeal a post-service claim**, the Claims Administrator will notify you of the outcome of the appeal within 60 days after receipt of your request for appeal.

#### **Appeal Denial**

If your appeal is denied, that denial will be considered an adverse benefit determination. The notification from the Claims Administrator will include all of the information set forth in the above section entitled "Notice of Adverse Benefit Determination."

If, after the Plan's denial, the Claims Administrator considers, relies on or generates any new or additional evidence in connection with your claim, the Claims Administrator will provide you with that new or additional evidence, free of charge. The Claims Administrator will not base its appeal decision on a new or additional rationale without first providing you (free of charge) with, and a reasonable opportunity to respond to, any such new or additional rationale. If the Claims Administrator fails to follow the Appeal procedures outlined under this section the Appeals process may be deemed exhausted. However, the Appeals process will not be deemed exhausted due to minor violations that do not cause, and are not likely to cause, prejudice or harm so long as the error was for good cause or due to matters beyond the Claims Administrator's control.

#### **Voluntary Second Level Appeals (Grievances)**

If you are dissatisfied with the Plan's mandatory first level appeal decision, a voluntary second level appeal may be available. If you would like to initiate a second level appeal, please write to the address listed above. Voluntary Appeals (Grievances) must be submitted within 60 calendar days of the denial of the first level appeal. You are not required to complete a voluntary second level appeal prior to submitting a request for an independent External Review.

#### **External Review**

If the outcome of the mandatory first level appeal is adverse to you and it was based on medical judgment, you may be eligible for an independent External Review pursuant to federal law.

You must submit your request for External Review to the Claims Administrator within four (4) months of the notice of your final internal adverse determination.

A request for an External Review must be in writing unless the Claims Administrator determines that it is not reasonable to require a written statement. You do not have to re-send the information that you submitted for internal appeal. However, you are encouraged to submit any additional information that you think is important for review.

For pre-service claims involving urgent/concurrent care, you may proceed with an Expedited External Review without filing an internal appeal or while simultaneously pursuing an expedited appeal through the Claims Administrator's internal appeal process. You or your authorized representative may request it orally or in writing. All necessary information, including the Claims Administrator's decision, can be sent between the Claims Administrator and you by telephone, facsimile or other similar method. To proceed with an Expedited External Review, you or your authorized representative must contact the

Claims Administrator at [the number shown on your identification card] and provide at least the following information:

- the identity of the claimant;
- the date(s) of the medical service;
- the specific medical condition or symptom;
- the provider's name;
- the service or supply for which approval of benefits was sought; and
- any reasons why the appeal should be processed on a more expedited basis.

All other requests for External Review should be submitted in writing unless the Claims Administrator determines that it is not reasonable to require a written statement. Such requests should be submitted by you or your authorized representative to:

BCBSGA, ATTN: Appeals, P.O. Box 105568, Atlanta, Georgia 30348]

**You must include your Member Identification Number when submitting an appeal.**

This is not an additional step that you must take in order to fulfill your appeal procedure obligations described above. Your decision to seek External Review will not affect your rights to any other benefits under this health care plan. There is no charge for you to initiate an independent External Review. The External Review decision is final and binding on all parties except for any relief available through applicable state laws or ERISA

**Requirement to file an Appeal before filing a lawsuit**

No lawsuit or legal action of any kind related to a benefit decision may be filed by you in a court of law or in any other forum, unless it is commenced within three years of the Plan's final decision on the claim or other request for benefits. If the Plan decides an appeal is untimely, the Plan's latest decision on the merits of the underlying claim or benefit request is the final decision date. You must exhaust the Plan's internal Appeals Procedure but not including any voluntary level of appeal, before filing a lawsuit or taking other legal action of any kind against the Plan. If your health benefit plan is sponsored by your Employer and subject to the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA) and your appeal as described above results in an adverse benefit determination, you have a right to bring a civil action under Section 502(a) of ERISA.

**The Claims Administrator reserves the right to modify the policies, procedures and timeframes in this section upon further clarification from Department of Health and Human Services and Department of Labor.**



## Eligibility and Enrollment – Adding Members

In this section you will find information on who is eligible for coverage under this Plan and when Members can be added to your coverage. Eligibility requirements are described in general terms below. For more specific information, please see your Human Resources or Benefits Department.

### Who is Eligible for Coverage

#### The Subscriber

To be eligible to enroll as a Subscriber, the individual must be an Employee entitled to participate in the benefit Plan.

#### Dependents

To be eligible to enroll as a Dependent, you must be listed on the enrollment form completed by the Subscriber, meet all Dependent eligibility criteria established by the Plan, and be one of the following:

- The Subscriber's spouse as recognized under state or federal law.
- The Subscriber's or the Subscriber's spouse's children, including natural children, stepchildren, newborn and legally adopted children and children who the Plan has determined are covered under a Qualified Medical Child Support Order as defined by ERISA or any applicable state law.
- Children for whom the Subscriber or the Subscriber's spouse is a legal guardian or as otherwise required by law.

All enrolled eligible children will continue to be covered until the age limit listed in the Schedule of Benefits. Coverage may be continued past the age limit in the following circumstances:

- Your Dependent children through the end of the month in which they attain age 26, legally adopted children from the date you assume legal responsibility, children for whom you assume legal guardianship and stepchildren. Also included are your children (or children of your spouse [or Domestic Partner]) for whom you have legal responsibility resulting from a valid court decree.
- Children who are mentally or physically handicapped and totally dependent on you for support, regardless of age, with the exception of incapacitated children age 26 or older. To be eligible for coverage as an incapacitated Dependent, the Dependent must have been covered under this Plan or prior creditable coverage prior to reaching age 26. Certification of the handicap is required within 31 days of attainment of age 26. A certification form is available from your Employer or from the Claims Administrator and may be required periodically but not more frequently than annually after the two year period following the child's attainment of the limiting age.

The Plan may require you to give proof of continued eligibility for any enrolled child. Your failure to give this information could result in termination of a child's coverage.

To obtain coverage for children, the Plan may require you to give the Claims Administrator a copy of any legal documents awarding guardianship of such child(ren) to you.

#### Types of Coverage

The types of coverage available to the Employee are indicated at the time of enrollment through the Employer.

## When You Can Enroll

### Initial Enrollment

Your Employer will offer an initial enrollment period to new Subscribers and their Dependents when the Subscriber is first eligible for coverage. Coverage will be effective based on any applicable waiting period, and will not exceed 90 days.

If you did not enroll yourself and/or your Dependents during the initial enrollment period you will only be able to enroll during an Open Enrollment period or during a Special Enrollment period, as described in this section.

### Open Enrollment

Open Enrollment refers to a period of time, usually 60 days, during which eligible Subscribers and Dependents can apply for or change coverage. Open Enrollment occurs only once per year. Your Employer will notify you when Open Enrollment is available.

### Special Enrollment Periods

If a Subscriber or Dependent does not apply for coverage when they were first eligible, they may be able to join the Plan prior to Open Enrollment if they qualify for Special Enrollment. Except as noted otherwise below, the Subscriber or Dependent must request Special Enrollment within 60 days of a qualifying event.

Special Enrollment is available for eligible individuals who:

- Lost eligibility under a prior health plan for reasons other than non-payment of premium or due to fraud or intentional misrepresentation of a material fact.
- Exhausted COBRA benefits or Employer contributions toward coverage were terminated.
- Lost employer contributions towards the cost of the other coverage.
- Are now eligible for coverage due to marriage, birth, adoption, or placement for adoption.

#### Important Notes about Special Enrollment:

- Members who enroll during Special Enrollment are **not** considered Late Enrollees.
- Individuals must request coverage within 31 60 days of a qualifying event (i.e., marriage, exhaustion of COBRA, etc.).

### Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program Special Enrollment

Eligible Subscribers and Dependents may also enroll under two additional circumstances:

- The Subscriber's or Dependent's Medicaid or Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) coverage is terminated as a result of loss of eligibility; or
- The Subscriber or Dependent becomes eligible for a subsidy (state premium assistance program)

The Subscriber or Dependent must request Special Enrollment within 60 days of the above events.

### Late Enrollees

If the Subscriber does not enroll themselves and/or their Dependents when first eligible or during a Special Enrollment period, they will not be eligible to enroll until the next Open Enrollment Period.

## **Members Covered Under the Employer's Prior Plan**

Members who were previously enrolled under another plan offered by the Employer that is being replaced by this Plan are eligible for coverage on the Effective Date of this coverage.

## **Enrolling Dependent Children**

### **Newborn Children**

Newborn children are covered automatically for 31 days from the moment of birth. You must notify us of the birth within 60 days or the newborn's coverage will terminate. If you have Family Coverage, no additional premium is required.

You should submit an application / change form to the Group to add the newborn to your Plan to make sure we have accurate records and are able to cover your claims.

### **Adopted Children**

A child will be considered adopted from the earlier of: (1) the moment of placement in your home; or (2) the date of an entry of an order granting custody of the child to you. The child will continue to be considered adopted unless the child is removed from your home prior to issuance of a legal decree of adoption.

Your Dependent's Effective Date will be the date of the adoption or placement for adoption if you send the Plan the completed application / change form within 31 days of the event. If, however, additional premium is required for the adopted Dependent, your Dependent's Effective Date will be the date of the adoption or placement for adoption, only if you notify the Plan of the adoption and pay any required additional premium within 31 of the adoption.

### **Adding a Child due to Award of Legal Custody or Guardianship**

If you or your spouse is awarded legal custody or guardianship for a child, an application must be submitted within 31 days of the date legal custody or guardianship is awarded by the court. Coverage will be effective on the date the court granted legal custody or guardianship.

### **Qualified Medical Child Support Order**

If you are required by a qualified medical child support order or court order, as defined by ERISA and/or applicable state or federal law, to enroll your child in this Plan, the Claims Administrator will permit the child to enroll at any time without regard to any Open Enrollment limits and will provide the benefits of this Plan in accordance to the applicable requirements of such order. However, a child's coverage will not extend beyond any Dependent Age Limit listed in the "Schedule of Benefits".

## **Updating Coverage and/or Removing Dependents**

You are required to notify the Plan Administrator of any changes that affect your eligibility or the eligibility of your Dependents for this Plan. When any of the following occurs, contact the Plan Administrator and complete the appropriate forms:

- Changes in address;
- Marriage or divorce;
- Death of an enrolled family member (a different type of coverage may be necessary);
- Enrollment in another health plan or in Medicare;
- Eligibility for Medicare;
- Dependent child reaching the Dependent Age Limit (see "Termination and Continuation of Coverage");
- Enrolled Dependent child either becomes totally or permanently disabled, or is no longer disabled.

Failure to notify the Plan Administrator of individuals no longer eligible for services will not obligate the Plan to cover such services, even if premium is received for those individuals. All notifications must be in writing and on approved forms.

## **Nondiscrimination**

No person who is eligible to enroll will be refused enrollment based on health status, health care needs, genetic information, previous medical information, disability, sexual orientation or identity, gender, or age.

## **Statements and Forms**

All Members must complete and submit applications or other forms or statements that the Plan may reasonably request.

Any rights to benefits under this Plan are subject to the condition that all such information is true, correct, and complete. Any material misrepresentation by you may result in termination of coverage as provided in the "Termination and Continuation of Coverage" section. The Plan will not use a statement made by you to void your coverage after that coverage has been in effect for two years. This does not apply, however, to fraudulent misstatements.

# Termination and Continuation of Coverage

## Termination of Coverage (Individual)

Membership for you and your enrolled family members may be continued as long as you are employed by the Employer and meet eligibility requirements. It ceases if your employment ends, if you no longer meet eligibility requirements, if the Plan ceases, or if you fail to make any required contribution toward the cost of your coverage. In any case, your coverage would end at the expiration of the period covered by your last contribution.

Coverage of an enrolled child ceases automatically at the end of the month when the child attains the age limit shown in the Eligibility section. Coverage of a disabled child over age 26 ceases if the child is found to be no longer totally or permanently disabled.

Should you or any family Members be receiving covered care in the Hospital at the time your membership terminates for reasons other than your Employer's cancellation of this Plan, or failure to pay the required premiums, benefits for Hospital Inpatient care will be provided until the date you are discharged from the Hospital.

## Continuation of Coverage Under Federal Law (COBRA)

If your coverage ends under the Plan, you may be entitled to elect continuation coverage in accordance with federal law. If your Employer normally employs 20 or more people, and your employment is terminated for any reason other than gross misconduct you may elect from 18-36 months of continuation benefits. you should contact your Employer if you have any questions about your COBRA rights.

### Qualifying events for Continuation Coverage under Federal Law (COBRA)

COBRA continuation coverage is available when your group coverage would otherwise end because of certain "qualifying events". 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 covered on the day before the qualifying event and group coverage would be lost because of the qualifying event. Qualified beneficiaries who elect COBRA must pay for this COBRA continuation coverage.

This benefit entitles each member of your family who is enrolled in the company's Employee welfare benefit plan to elect continuation independently. Each qualified beneficiary has the right to make independent benefit elections at the time of annual enrollment. Covered Subscribers may elect COBRA continuation coverage on behalf of their Spouses, and parents or legal guardians may elect COBRA continuation coverage on behalf of their children. A child born to, or placed for adoption with, a covered Subscriber during the period of continuation coverage is also eligible for election of continuation coverage.

Qualifying Event	Length of Availability of Coverage
<b><u>For Employees:</u></b> Voluntary or Involuntary Termination (other than gross misconduct) or Loss of Coverage Under an Employer's Health Plan Due to Reduction In Hours Worked	18 months
<b><u>For Spouses/ Dependents:</u></b> A Covered Employee's Voluntary or Involuntary Termination (other than gross misconduct) or Loss of	18 months

<b>Qualifying Event</b>	<b>Length of Availability of Coverage</b>
Coverage Under an Employer's Health Plan Due to Reduction In Hours Worked	36 months
Covered Employee's Entitlement to Medicare	36 months
Divorce or Legal Separation	36 months
Death of a Covered Employee	36 months
<b><u>For Dependents:</u></b> Loss of Dependent Child Status	36 months

Continuation coverage stops before the end of the maximum continuation period if the Member becomes entitled to Medicare benefits. If a continuing beneficiary becomes entitled to Medicare benefits, then a qualified beneficiary – other than the Medicare beneficiary – is entitled to continuation coverage for no more than a total of 36 months. (For example, if you become entitled to Medicare prior to termination of employment or reduction in hours, COBRA continuation coverage for your Spouse and children can last up to 36 months after the date of Medicare entitlement.)

If you are a retiree under this Plan, filing a proceeding in bankruptcy under Title 11 of the United States Code may 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, you will become a qualified beneficiary with respect to the bankruptcy. Your surviving Spouse and Dependent children will also become qualified beneficiaries if bankruptcy results in the loss of their coverage under this Plan. If COBRA coverage becomes available to a retiree and his or her covered family members as a result of a bankruptcy filing, the retiree may continue coverage for life. His or her Spouse and Dependents may continue coverage for a maximum period of up to 36 months following the date of the retiree's death.

**Second qualifying event**

If your family has another qualifying event (such as a legal separation, divorce, etc.) during the initial 18 months of COBRA continuation coverage, your Dependents can receive up to 18 additional months of COBRA continuation coverage, for a maximum of 36 months from the original qualifying event. Such additional coverage is only available if the second qualifying event would have caused your Dependents to lose coverage under the Plan had the first qualifying event not occurred. A qualified beneficiary must give timely notice to the Plan Administrator in such a situation.

**Notification Requirements**

In the event of your termination, lay-off, reduction in work hours or Medicare entitlement, your Employer must notify the company's benefit Plan Administrator within 30 days. You must notify the company's benefit Plan Administrator within 60 days of your divorce, legal separation or the failure of your enrolled Dependents to meet the program's definition of Dependent. This notice must be provided in writing to the Plan Administrator. Thereafter, the Plan Administrator will notify qualified beneficiaries of their rights within 14 days.

**Electing COBRA Continuation Coverage**

To continue enrollment, you or an eligible family member must make an election within 60 days of the date your coverage would otherwise end, or the date the company's benefit Plan Administrator notifies you or your family member of this right, whichever is later. You must pay the total premium appropriate for the type of benefit coverage you choose to continue. If the premium rate changes for active associates, your monthly premium will also change. The premium you must pay cannot be more than 102% of the premium

charged for Employees with similar coverage, and it must be paid to the company's benefit Plan Administrator within 30 days of the date due, except that the initial premium payment must be made before 45 days after the initial election for continuation coverage, or your continuation rights will be forfeited.

### **Disability extension of 18-month period of continuation coverage**

For Employees who are determined, at the time of the qualifying event, to be disabled under Title II (OASDI) or Title XVI (SSI) of the Social Security Act, and Employees who become disabled during the first 60 days of COBRA continuation coverage, coverage may continue from 18 to 29 months. These Employees' Dependents are also eligible for the 18 to 29-month disability extension. (This provision also applies if any covered family member is found to be disabled.) This provision would only apply if the qualified beneficiary provides notice of disability status within 60 days of the disabling determination. In these cases, the Employer can charge 150% of premium for months 19 through 29. This would allow health coverage to be provided in the period between the end of 18 months and the time that Medicare begins coverage for the disabled at 29 months. (If a qualified beneficiary is determined by the Social Security Administration to no longer be disabled, such qualified beneficiary must notify the Plan Administrator of that fact in writing within 30 days after the Social Security Administration's determination.)

### **Trade Adjustment Act Eligible Individual**

If you don't initially elect COBRA coverage and later become eligible for trade adjustment assistance under the U.S. Trade Act of 1974 due to the same event which caused you to be eligible initially for COBRA coverage under this Plan, you will be entitled to another 60-day period in which to elect COBRA coverage. This second 60-day period will commence on the first day of the month on which you become eligible for trade adjustment assistance. COBRA coverage elected during this second election period will be effective on the first day of the election period.

### **When COBRA Coverage Ends**

COBRA benefits are available without proof of insurability and coverage will end on the earliest of the following:

- A covered individual reaches the end of the maximum coverage period;
- A covered individual fails to pay a required premium on time;
- A covered individual becomes covered under any other group health plan after electing COBRA;
- A covered individual becomes entitled to Medicare after electing COBRA; or
- The Group terminates all of its group welfare benefit plans.

### **Other Coverage Options Besides COBRA Continuation Coverage**

Instead of enrolling in COBRA continuation coverage, there may be other coverage options for you and your family through the Health Insurance Marketplace, Medicaid, or other group health plan coverage options (such as a spouse's plan) through what is called a "special enrollment period. Some of these options may cost less than COBRA continuation coverage. You can learn more about many of these options at [www.healthcare.gov](http://www.healthcare.gov).

### **Continuation of Coverage Due To Military Service**

Under the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act of 1994 (USERRA), the Member may have a right to continuation of benefits subject to the conditions described below.

Under USERRA, if the Employee (or his or her Dependents) is covered under this Plan, and if the Employee becomes absent from employment by reason of military leave, the Employee (or his or her Dependents) may have the right to elect to continue health coverage under the plan. In order to be eligible for coverage during the period that the Employee is gone on military leave, the Employee must give reasonable notice to the Employer of his or her military leave and the Employee will be entitled to COBRA-like rights with

respect to his or her medical benefits in that the Employee and his or her Dependents can elect to continue coverage under the plan for a period of 24 months from the date the military leave commences or, if sooner, the period ending on the day after the deadline for the Employee to apply for or return to work with the Employer. During military leave the Employee is required to pay the Employer for the entire cost of such coverage, including any elected Dependents' coverage. However, if the Employee's absence is less than 31 days, the Employer must continue to pay its portion of the premiums and the Employee is only required to pay his or her share of the premiums without the COBRA-type 2% administrative surcharge.

Also, when the Employee returns to work, if the Employee meets the requirements specified below, USERRA states that the Employer must waive any exclusions and waiting periods, even if the Employee did not elect COBRA continuation. These requirements are (i) the Employee gave reasonable notice to his or her Employer of military leave, (ii) the military leave cannot exceed a prescribed period (which is generally five (5) years, except in unusual or extraordinary circumstances) and the Employee must have received no less than an honorable discharge (or, in the case of an officer, not been sentenced to a correctional institution), and (iii) the Employee must apply for reemployment or return to work in a timely manner upon expiration of the military leave (ranging from a single day up to 90 days, depending upon the period that he or she was gone). The Employee may also have to provide documentation to the Employer upon reemployment that would confirm eligibility. This protection applies to the Employee upon reemployment, as well as to any Dependent who has become covered under the Plan by reason of the Employee's reinstatement of coverage.

## **Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993**

An Employee may continue membership in the Plan as provided by the Family and Medical Leave Act. An Employee who has been employed at least one year, within the previous 12 months is eligible to choose to continue coverage for up to 12 weeks of unpaid leave for the following reasons:

- The birth of the Employee's child.
- The placement of a child with the Employee for the purpose of adoption or foster care.
- To care for a seriously ill Spouse, child or parent.
- A serious health condition rendering the Employee unable to perform his or her job.

If the Employee chooses to continue coverage during the leave, the Employee will be given the same health care benefits that would have been provided if the Employee were working, with the same premium contribution ratio. If the Employee's premium for continued membership in the Plan is more than 30 days late, the *Employer* will send written notice to the Employee. It will tell the Employee that his or her membership will be terminated and what the date of the termination will be if payment is not received by that date. This notice will be mailed at least 15 days before the termination date.

If membership in the Plan is discontinued for non-payment of premium, the Employee's coverage will be restored to the same level of benefits as those the Employee would have had if the leave had not been taken and the premium payment(s) had not been missed. This includes coverage for eligible dependents. The Employee will not be required to meet any qualification requirements imposed by the Plan when he or she returns to work. This includes: new or additional waiting periods; waiting for an open enrollment period; or passing a medical exam to reinstate coverage.

Please contact your Human Resources Department for state specific Family and Medical Leave Act information.

### **For More Information**

This notice does not fully describe the continuation coverage or other rights under the Plan. More information about continuation coverage and your rights under this Plan is available from the Plan Administrator.



If you have any questions concerning the information in this notice or your rights to coverage, you should contact your Employer.

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 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).

# General Provisions

## Verification of Benefits

Verification of Benefits is available for Members or authorized healthcare Providers on behalf of Members. You may call Member Services with a benefits inquiry or Verification of Benefits during normal business hours (7:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. eastern time). Please remember that a benefits inquiry or Verification of Benefits is NOT a Verification of Coverage of a specific medical procedure.

- Verification of Benefits is NOT a guarantee of payment.
- If the verified service requires Precertification, please call the Member Services number listed on your Identification Card.

## Care Coordination

The Plan will pay In-Network Providers in various ways to provide Covered Services to you. For example, sometimes the Plan may pay In-Network Providers a separate amount for each Covered Service they provide. The Plan may also pay them one amount for all Covered Services related to treatment of a medical condition. Other times, the Plan may pay a periodic, fixed pre-determined amount to cover the costs of Covered Services. In addition, the Plan may pay In-Network Providers financial incentives or other amounts to help improve quality of care and/or promote the delivery of health care services in a cost-efficient manner, or compensate In-Network Providers for coordination of Member care. In some instances, In-Network Providers may be required to make payment to the Plan because they did not meet certain standards. You do not share in any payments made by In-Network Providers to the Plan under these programs.

## Clerical Error

A clerical error will never disturb or affect your coverage, as long as your coverage is valid under the rules of the Plan. This rule applies to any clerical error, regardless of whether it was the fault of the Plan or the Claims Administrator.

## Confidentiality and Release of Information

The Claims Administrator will use reasonable efforts, and take the same care to preserve the confidentiality of your medical information. Data collected in the course of providing services hereunder may be used for statistical evaluation and research. If such data is ever released to a third party, it shall be released only in aggregate statistical form without identifying you. Medical information may be released only with your written consent or as required by law. It must be signed, dated and must specify the nature of the information and to which persons and organizations it may be disclosed. You may access your own medical records.

Your medical information may be released to professional peer review organizations and for purposes of reporting claims experience or conducting an audit of the Claims Administrator operations, provided the information disclosed is reasonably necessary to conduct the review or audit.

A statement describing the Plan's policies and procedures for preserving the confidentiality of medical records is available and will be furnished to you upon request.

## Conformity with Law

Any term of the Plan which is in conflict with federal laws, will hereby be automatically amended to conform with the minimum requirements of such laws.

## **Continuity of Care**

If an In-Network Provider who has provided Covered Services to you terminates his or her agreement with the Claims Administrator, please call the Member Services number listed on your Identification Card. The Claims Administrator has procedures in place that will allow you to continue to see that Provider for a limited time. The Claims Administrator can also assist you in selecting another In-Network Provider to provide your care.

If your In-Network Provider leaves the Claims Administrator's network because the Claims Administrator has terminated their contract without cause, and you are in active treatment, you may be able to continue seeing that Provider for a limited period of time and still get In-Network benefits. "Active treatment" includes:

- 1) An ongoing course of treatment for a life-threatening condition,
- 2) An ongoing course of treatment for a serious acute condition,
- 3) The second or third trimester of pregnancy; or
- 4) An ongoing course of treatment for a health condition for which the Physician or health care Provider attests that discontinuing care would worsen your condition or interfere with anticipated outcomes.

An "ongoing course of treatment" includes treatments for mental health and substance use disorders.

In these cases, you may be able to continue seeing that Provider until treatment is complete, or for 90 days, whichever is shorter. If you wish to continue seeing the same Provider, you or your Doctor should contact Member Services for details.

## **Entire Agreement**

This Benefit Booklet, the Administrative Services Agreement, the Employer's application, any Riders, Endorsements or attachments, and the individual applications of the Subscribers and Members, if any, constitute the entire agreement between the Claims Administrator and the Employer and as of the Effective Date, supersede all other agreements between the parties. Any and all statements made to the Claims Administrator by the Employer, and any and all statements made to the Employer by the Claims Administrator, are representations and not warranties, and no such statement unless it is contained in a written application for coverage under the Plan, shall be used in defense to a claim under the Plan.

## **Form or Content of Benefit Booklet**

No agent or employee of the Claims Administrator is authorized to change the form or content of this Benefit Booklet. Such changes can be made only through an endorsement authorized and signed by an officer of the Employer.

## **Circumstances Beyond the Control of the Plan**

The Claims Administrator shall make a good-faith effort to arrange for an alternative method of administering benefits. In the event of circumstances not within the control of the Claims Administrator or Employer, including but not limited to: a major disaster, epidemic, the complete or partial destruction of facilities, riot, civil insurrection, labor disputes not within the control of the Claims Administrator, disability of a significant part of a Network Provider's personnel or similar causes, or the rendering of health care services provided by the Plan is delayed or rendered impractical the Claims Administrator shall make a good-faith effort to arrange for an alternative method of administering benefits. In such event, the Claims Administrator and Network Providers shall administer and render services under the Plan insofar as practical, and according to their best judgment; but the Claims Administrator and Network Providers shall incur no liability or obligation for delay, or failure to administer or arrange for services if such failure or delay is caused by such an event.

## Government Programs

The benefits under this Plan shall not duplicate any benefits that you are entitled to, or eligible for, under any other governmental program. This does not apply if any particular laws require the Plan to be the primary payer. If duplication of such benefits occurs, all money paid by such programs to you for services you have or are receiving, shall be returned by or on your behalf to the Plan.

## Medical Policy and Technology Assessment

The Claims Administrator reviews and evaluates new technology according to its technology evaluation criteria developed by its medical directors. Technology assessment criteria are used to determine the Experimental / Investigational status or Medical Necessity of new technology. Guidance and external validation of the Claims Administrator's medical policy is provided by the Medical Policy and Technology Assessment Committee (MPTAC) which consists of approximately 20 Doctors from various medical specialties including the Claims Administrator's medical directors, Doctors in academic medicine and Doctors in private practice.

Conclusions made are incorporated into medical policy used to establish decision protocols for particular diseases or treatments and applied to Medical Necessity criteria used to determine whether a procedure, service, supply or equipment is covered.

## Medicare

Any benefits covered under both this Plan and Medicare will be covered according to Medicare Secondary Payer legislation, regulations, and Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services guidelines, subject to federal court decisions. Federal law controls whenever there is a conflict among state law, Benefit Booklet terms, and federal law.

Except when federal law requires the Plan to be the primary payer, the benefits under this Plan for Members age 65 and older, or Members otherwise eligible for Medicare, do not duplicate any benefit for which Members are entitled under Medicare, including Part B. Where Medicare is the responsible payer, all sums payable by Medicare for services provided to you shall be reimbursed by or on your behalf to the Plan, to the extent that payment was made for such services. For the purposes of the calculation of benefits, if you have not enrolled in Medicare Part B the Claims Administrator will calculate benefits as if you had enrolled. **You should enroll in Medicare Part B as soon as possible to avoid potential liability.** If you are covered under an active group policy this may not apply to you.

## Governmental Health Care Programs

Under federal law, for groups with 20 or more Employees, all active Employees (regardless of age) can remain on the Group's Health Plan and receive group benefits as primary coverage. Also, spouses (regardless of age) of active Employees can remain on the Group's Health Plan and receive group benefits as primary coverage. Direct any questions about Medicare eligibility and enrollment to your local Social Security Administration office.

## Modifications

The Plan Sponsor may change the benefits described in this Benefit Booklet and the Member will be informed of such changes as required by law. This Benefit Booklet shall be subject to amendment, modification, and termination in accordance with any of its provisions by the Employer, or by mutual agreement between the Claims Administrator and the Employer without the consent or concurrence of any Member. By electing [medical and Hospital] benefits under the Plan or accepting the Plan benefits, all

Members legally capable of contracting, and the legal representatives of all Members incapable of contracting, agree to all terms, conditions, and provisions hereof.

## **Not Liable for Provider Acts or Omissions**

The Claims Administrator is not responsible for the actual care you receive from any person. This Benefit Booklet does not give anyone any claim, right, or cause of action against the Claims Administrator based on the actions of a Provider of health care, services, or supplies.

## **Payment Innovation Programs**

The Claims Administrator contracts with In-Network Providers through various types of contractual arrangements. Some of these arrangements – Payment Innovation Programs (Program(s)) – may include financial incentives to help improve quality of care and promote the delivery of health care services in a cost-efficient manner.

These Programs may vary in methodology and subject area of focus and may be modified by the Claims Administrator from time to time, but they will be generally designed to tie a certain portion of an In-Network Provider's total compensation to pre-defined quality, cost, efficiency or service standards or metrics. In some instances, In-Network Providers may be required to make payment to the Claims Administrator under the Program as a consequence of failing to meet these pre-defined standards.

The Programs are not intended to affect your access to health care. The Program payments are not made as payment for specific Covered Services provided to you, but instead, are based on the In-Network Provider's achievement of these pre-defined standards. You are not responsible for any Copayment or Coinsurance amounts related to payments made under the Program(s), and you do not share in any payments made by Network Providers to the Claims Administrator under the Program(s).

## **Policies and Procedures**

The Claims Administrator, on behalf of the Employer, may adopt reasonable policies, procedures, rules and interpretations to promote the orderly and efficient administration of the Plan with which a Member shall comply.

Under the terms of the Administrative Service Agreement with your Employer, the Claims Administrator has the authority, in its discretion, to institute from time to time, utilization management, care management, disease management or wellness pilot initiatives in certain designated geographic areas. These pilot initiatives are part of the Claims Administrator's ongoing effort to find innovative ways to make available high quality and more affordable healthcare. A pilot initiative may affect some, but not all Members under the Plan. These programs will not result in the payment of benefits which are not provided in the Employer's Group Health Plan, unless otherwise agreed to by the Employer. The Claim's Administrator reserves the right to discontinue a pilot initiative at any time without advance notice to Employer.

## **Program Incentives**

The Claims Administrator may offer incentives from time to time, at its discretion, in order to introduce you to covered programs and services available under this Plan. The purpose of these incentives include, but is not limited to, making you aware of cost effective benefit options or services, helping you achieve your best health, and encouraging you to update member-related information. These incentives may be offered in various forms such as retailer coupons, gift cards, health related merchandise, and discounts on fees or Member cost shares. Acceptance of these incentives is voluntary as long as BCBSGA offers the incentives program. The Claims Administrator may discontinue an incentive for a particular covered program or service at any time. If you have any questions about whether receipt of an incentive or retailer coupon results in taxable income to you, we recommend that you consult your tax advisor.

## **Relationship of Parties (Employer-Member Claims Administrator)**

Neither the Employer nor any Member is the agent or representative of the Claims Administrator.

The Employer is fiduciary agent of the Member. The Claims Administrator's notice to the Employer will constitute effective notice to the Member. It is the Employer's duty to notify the Claims Administrator of eligibility data in a timely manner. The Claims Administrator is not responsible for payment of Covered Services of Members if the Employer fails to provide the Claims Administrator with timely notification of Member enrollments or terminations.

## **Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Georgia, Inc Note**

The Employer, on behalf of itself and its Members, hereby expressly acknowledges its understanding that the Administrative Services Agreement (which includes this Benefit Booklet) constitutes a contract solely between the Employer and Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Georgia, Inc. (BCBSGA, and that BCBSGA is an independent corporation licensed to use the Blue Cross and Blue Shield names and marks in the State of Georgia. The Blue Cross and Blue Shield marks are registered by the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association, an association of independently licensed Blue Cross and Blue Shield plans, with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office in Washington, D.C. and in other countries. Further, BCBSGA is not contracting as the agent of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association or any other Blue Cross and/or Blue Shield Plan or licensee. This paragraph shall not create any additional obligations whatsoever on the part of BCBSGA other than those obligations created under other provisions of the Administrative Services Agreement or this Benefit Booklet.

## **Employer's Sole Discretion**

The Employer may, in its sole discretion, cover services and supplies not specifically covered by the Plan. This applies if the Employer, with advice from the Claims Administrator, determines such services and supplies are in lieu of more expensive services and supplies which would otherwise be required for the care and treatment of a Member.

## **Reservation of Discretionary Authority**

The Claims Administrator shall have all the powers necessary or appropriate to enable it to carry out its duties in connection with the operation of the Plan and interpretation of the Benefit Booklet. This includes, without limitation, the power to construe the Administrative Services Agreement, to determine all questions arising under the Plan, to resolve Member Appeals and to make, establish and amend the rules, regulations and procedures with regard to the interpretation of the Benefit Booklet of the Plan. A specific limitation or exclusion will override more general benefit language. [Anthem] [BCBSGA] has complete discretion to interpret the Benefit Booklet. The Claims Administrator's determination shall be final and conclusive and may include, without limitation, determination of whether the services, treatment, or supplies are Medically Necessary, Experimental/Investigative, whether surgery is cosmetic, and whether charges are consistent with the Plan's Maximum Allowed Amount. A Member may utilize all applicable Appeals procedures.

## **Right of Recovery and Adjustment**

Whenever payment has been made in error, the Plan will have the right to recover such payment from you or, if applicable, the Provider or otherwise make appropriate adjustment to claims. In most instances such recovery or adjustment activity shall be limited to the calendar year in which the error is discovered. The Claims Administrator has oversight responsibility for compliance with Provider and vendor contracts. The Contract Administrator may enter into a settlement or compromise regarding enforcement of these contracts and may retain any recoveries made from a Provider or vendor resulting from these audits if the return of the overpayment is not feasible. Additionally, the Contract Administrator has established recovery

and adjustment policies to determine which recoveries and adjustments are to be pursued, when to incur costs and expenses and settle or compromise recovery or adjustment amounts. The Claims Administrator will not pursue recoveries for overpayments or adjustments for underpayments if the cost of the activity exceeds the overpayment or underpayment amount.

## **Unauthorized Use of Identification Card**

If you permit your Identification Card to be used by someone else or if you use the card before coverage is in effect or after coverage has ended, you will be liable for payment of any expenses incurred resulting from the unauthorized use. Fraudulent misuse could also result in termination of the coverage.

## **Fraud**

Fraudulent statements on Plan enrollment forms or on electronic submissions will invalidate any payment or claims for services and be grounds for voiding the Member's coverage.

## **Value-Added Programs**

The Claims Administrator may offer health or fitness related programs to Members, through which you may access discounted rates from certain vendors for products and services available to the general public. Products and services available under this program are not Covered Services under your Plan but are in addition to Plan benefits. As such, program features are not guaranteed under your health Plan Contract and could be discontinued at any time. The Claims Administrator does not endorse any vendor, product or service associated with this program. Program vendors are solely responsible for the products and services you receive.

## **Value of Covered Services**

For purposes of subrogation, reimbursement of excess benefits, or reimbursement under any Workers Compensation or Employer Liability Law, the value of Covered Services shall be the amount paid for the Covered Services.

## **Voluntary Clinical Quality Programs**

The Claims Administrator may offer additional opportunities to assist you in obtaining certain covered preventive or other care (e.g., well child check-ups or certain laboratory screening tests) that you have not received in the recommended timeframe. These opportunities are called voluntary clinical quality programs. They are designed to encourage you to get certain care when you need it and are separate from Covered Services under your Plan. These programs are not guaranteed and could be discontinued at any time. The Claims Administrator will give you the choice and if you choose to participate in one of these programs, and obtain the recommended care within the program's timeframe, you may receive incentives such as gift cards or retailer coupons, which the Claims Administrator encourages you to use for health and wellness related activities or items. Under other clinical quality programs, you may receive a home test kit that allows you to collect the specimen for certain covered laboratory tests at home and mail it to the laboratory for processing. You may also be offered a home visit appointment to collect such specimens and complete biometric screenings. You may need to pay any cost shares that normally apply to such covered laboratory tests (e.g., those applicable to the laboratory processing fee) but will not need to pay for the home test kit or the home visit. If you have any questions about whether receipt of a gift card or retailer coupon results in taxable income to you, please consult tax advisor.

## **Waiver**

No agent or other person, except an authorized officer of the Employer, is able to disregard any conditions

or restrictions contained in this Booklet, to extend the amount of time for making a payment to the Plan, or to bind the Plan by making any promise or representation or by giving or receiving any information.

## **Worker's Compensation**

The benefits under this Plan are not designed to duplicate benefits that you are eligible for under Worker's Compensation Law. All money paid or owed by Worker's Compensation for services provided to you shall be paid back by, or on your behalf to the Plan if it has made payment for the services received. It is understood that coverage under this Plan does not replace or affect any Worker's Compensation coverage requirements.

## **Acts Beyond Reasonable Control (Force Majeure)**

Should the performance of any act required by this coverage be prevented or delayed by reason of any act of God, strike, lock-out, labor troubles, restrictive government laws or regulations, or any other cause beyond a party's control, the time for the performance of the act will be extended for a period equivalent to the period of delay, and non-performance of the act during the period of delay will be excused. In such an event, however, all parties shall use reasonable efforts to perform their respective obligations.

The Claims Administrator will adhere to the Plan Sponsor's instructions and allow the Plan Sponsor to meet all of the Plan Sponsor's responsibilities under applicable state and federal law. It is the Plan Sponsor's responsibility to adhere to all applicable state and federal laws and the Claims Administrator does not assume any responsibility for compliance.



## Definitions

If a word or phrase in this Benefit Booklet has a special meaning, such as Medical Necessity or Experimental / Investigational, it will start with a capital letter, and be defined below. If you have questions on any of these definitions, please call Member Services at the number on the back of your Identification Card.

### **Accidental Injury**

An unexpected Injury for which you need Covered Services while enrolled in this Plan. It does not include injuries that you get benefits for under any Workers' Compensation, Employer's liability or similar law.

### **Administrative Services Agreement**

The agreement between the Claims Administrator and the Employer regarding the administration of certain elements of the health care benefits of the Employer's Group Health Plan.

### **Ambulatory Surgical Facility**

A Facility, with a staff of Doctors, that:

1. Is licensed where required;
2. Has permanent facilities and equipment to perform surgical procedures on an Outpatient basis;
3. Gives treatment by or under the supervision of Doctors and nursing services when the patient is in the Facility;
4. Does not have Inpatient accommodations; and
5. Is not, other than incidentally, used as an office or clinic for the private practice of a Doctor or other professional Provider.

### **Appeals (Grievance)**

Please see the "Your Right To Appeal" section).

### **Applied Behavior Analysis**

The design, implementation, and evaluation of environmental modifications, using behavioral stimuli and consequences to produce socially significant improvement in human behavior, including the use of direct observation, measurement, and functional analysis of the relationship between environment and behavior.

### **Authorized Service(s)**

A Covered Service you get from an Out-of-Network Provider that the Claims Administrator has agreed to cover at the In-Network level. You will have to pay any In-Network Deductible, Coinsurance, and/or Copayment(s) that apply, and may also have to pay the difference between the Maximum Allowed Amount and the Out-of-Network Provider's charge. Please see "Claims Payment" for more details.

### **Benefit Booklet**

This document. The Benefit Booklet provides you with a description of your benefits while you are enrolled under the Plan.

### **Benefit Period**

The length of time that the Plan will cover benefits for Covered Services. For Calendar Year plans, the Benefit Period starts on January 1<sup>st</sup> and ends on December 31<sup>st</sup>. For Plan Year plans, the Benefit Period begins on your Plan's effective or renewal date and lasts for 12 months. The "Schedule of Benefits" shows

if your Plan's Benefit Period is a Calendar Year or a Plan Year. If your coverage ends before the end of the year, then your Benefit Period also ends.

### **Benefit Period Maximum**

The maximum amount that the Plan will pay for specific Covered Services during a Benefit Period.

### **Centers of Excellence (COE) Network**

A network of health care facilities, which have been selected to give specific services to Members based on their experience, outcomes, efficiency, and effectiveness. An In-Network Provider under this Plan is not necessarily a COE. To be a COE, the Provider must have a Center of Excellence Agreement with the Claims Administrator.

### **Claims Administrator**

The company the Plan Sponsor chose to administer its health benefits. Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Georgia, Inc was chosen to administer this Plan. The Claims Administrator provides administrative claims payment services only and does not assume any financial risk or obligation with respect to claims.

### **Coinsurance**

Your share of the cost for Covered Services, which is a percent of the Maximum Allowed Amount. You normally pay Coinsurance after you meet your Deductible. For example, if your Plan lists 20% Coinsurance on office visits, and the Maximum Allowed Amount is \$100, your Coinsurance would be \$20 after you meet the Deductible. The Plan would then cover the rest of the Maximum Allowed Amount. See the "Schedule of Benefits" for details. Your Coinsurance will not be reduced by any refunds, rebates, or any other form of negotiated post-payment adjustments.

### **Complications of Pregnancy**

Complications of Pregnancy result from conditions requiring Hospital confinement when the pregnancy is not terminated. The diagnoses of the complications are distinct from pregnancy but adversely affected or caused by pregnancy.

Such conditions include acute nephritis, nephrosis, cardiac decompensation, missed or threatened abortion, preeclampsia, intrauterine fetal growth retardation and similar medical and surgical conditions of comparable severity. An ectopic pregnancy which is terminated is also considered a Complication of Pregnancy.

Complications of Pregnancy shall not include false labor, caesarean section, occasional spotting, Doctor prescribed rest during the period of pregnancy, morning sickness, hyperemesis gravidarum and similar conditions associated with the management of a difficult pregnancy which are not diagnosed distinctly as Complications of Pregnancy.

### **Copayment**

A fixed amount you pay toward a Covered Service. You normally have to pay the Copayment when you get health care. The amount can vary by the type of Covered Service you get. For example, you may have to pay a \$15 Copayment for an office visit, but a \$150 Copayment for Emergency Room Services. See the "Schedule of Benefits" for details. Your Copayment will be the lesser of the amount shown in the "Schedule of Benefits" or the amount the Provider charges.

### **Covered Services**

Health care services, supplies, or treatment described in this Benefit Booklet that are given to you by a Provider. To be a Covered Service the service, supply or treatment must be:

- Medically Necessary or specifically included as a benefit under this Benefit Booklet.
- Within the scope of the Provider's license.
- Given while you are covered under the Plan.
- Not Experimental / Investigative, excluded, or limited by this Benefit Booklet, or by any amendment or rider to this Benefit Booklet.
- Approved by the Claims Administrator before you get the service if prior authorization is needed.

A charge for a Covered Service will only apply on the date the service, supply, or treatment was given to you.

The date for applying Deductible and other cost shares for an Inpatient stay is the date you enter the Facility except as described in the "Termination and Continuation of Coverage" section.

Covered Services do not include services or supplies not described in the Provider records.

## **Covered Transplant Procedure**

Please see the "What's Covered" section for details.

## **Custodial Care**

Any type of care, including room and board, that (a) does not require the skills of professional or technical workers; (b) is not given to you or supervised by such workers or does not meet the rules for post-Hospital Skilled Nursing Facility care; (c) is given when you have already reached the greatest level of physical or mental health and are not likely to improve further.

Custodial Care includes any type of care meant to help you with activities of daily living that does not require the skill of trained medical or paramedical workers. Examples of Custodial Care include:

1. Help in walking, getting in and out of bed, bathing, dressing, eating, or using the toilet,
2. Changing dressings of non-infected wounds, after surgery or chronic conditions,
3. Preparing meals and/or special diets,
4. Feeding by utensil, tube, or gastrostomy,
5. Common skin and nail care,
6. Supervising medicine that you can take yourself,
7. Catheter care, general colostomy or ileostomy care,
8. Routine services which the Plan decides can be safely done by you or a non-medical person without the help of trained medical and paramedical workers,
9. Residential care and adult day care,
10. Protective and supportive care, including education,
11. Rest and convalescent care.

Care can be Custodial even if it is recommended by a professional or performed in a Facility, such as in a Hospital or Skilled Nursing Facility, or at home.

## **Deductible**

The amount you must pay for Covered Services before benefits begin under this Plan. For example, if your Deductible is \$1,000, your Plan won't cover anything until you meet the \$1,000 Deductible. The Deductible may not apply to all Covered Services. Please see the "Schedule of Benefits" for details.

## **Dependent**

A Member of the Subscriber's family who meets the rules listed in the "Eligibility and Enrollment – Adding Members" section of this Benefit Booklet and who has enrolled in the Plan. Eligible Dependents are also referred to as Members.

**Doctor**

See the definition of “Physician.”

**Effective Date**

The date your coverage begins under this Plan.

**Emergency (Emergency Medical Condition)**

Please see the “What’s Covered” section.

**Emergency Care**

Please see the “What’s Covered” section.

**Employee**

A person who is engaged in active employment with the Employer and is eligible for Plan coverage under the employment regulations of the Employer. The Employee is also called the Subscriber.

**Employer**

An Employer who has allowed its Employees to participate in the Plan by acting as the Plan Sponsor or adopting the Plan as a participating Employer by executing a formal document that so provides.

**Enrollment Date**

The first day you are covered under the Plan or, if the Plan imposes a waiting period, the first day of your waiting period.

**Excluded Services (Exclusion)**

Health care services your Plan doesn’t cover.

**Experimental or Investigational**

Services which are considered Experimental or Investigational include services which (1) have not been approved by the Federal Food and Drug Administration or (2) for which medical and scientific evidence does not demonstrate that the expected benefits of the proposed treatment would be greater than the benefits of any available standard treatment and that adverse risks of the proposed treatment will not be substantially increased over those standard treatments. Such determination must result from prudent professional practices and be supported by at least two documents of medical and scientific evidence. Medical and scientific evidence means:

- Peer-reviewed scientific studies published in or accepted for publication by medical journals that meet nationally recognized requirements for scientific manuscripts and that submit most of their published articles for review by experts who are not part of the editorial staff;
- Peer-reviewed literature, biomedical compendia, and other medical literature that meet the criteria of the National Institutes of Health’s National Library of Medicine for indexing in Index Medicus, Excerpta Medikcus (EMBASE), Medline, and MEDLARS data base or Health Services Technology Assessment Research (HSTAR);
- Medical journals recognized by the United States Secretary of Health and Human Services, under Section 18961 (t)(2) of the Social Security Act;
- The following standard reference compendia: the American Hospital Formulary Service-Drug Information, the American Medical Association Drug Evaluation, the American Dental Association Accepted Dental Therapeutics, and the United States Pharmacopoeia-Drug Information;
- Findings, studies, or research conducted by or under the auspices of federal government agencies and nationally recognized federal research institutes including the Federal Agency for Health Care Policy

and Research, National Institutes of Health, National Cancer Institute, National Academy of Sciences, Health Care Financing Administration, and any national board recognized by the National Institutes of Health for the purpose of evaluating the medical value of health services; or

- It meets the following five technology assessment criteria:
  - The technology must have final approval from the appropriate government regulatory bodies.
  - The scientific evidence must permit conclusions concerning the effect of the technology of health outcomes.
  - The technology must improve the net health outcome.
  - The technology must be as beneficial as any established alternative.
  - The technology must be beneficial in practice.

## **Facility**

A facility including but not limited to, a Hospital, freestanding Ambulatory Surgical Facility, Chemical Dependency Treatment Facility, Residential Treatment Center, Skilled Nursing Facility, Home Health Care Agency or mental health facility, as defined in this Benefit Booklet. The Facility must be licensed, accredited, registered or approved by the Joint Commission or the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF), as applicable or meet specific rules set by the Claims Administrator.

## **Health Plan or Plan**

An Employee welfare benefit plan (as defined in Section 3(1) of ERISA, established by the Employer, in effect as of the Effective Date.

## **Home Health Care Agency**

A Facility, licensed in the state in which it is located, that:

- 1) Gives skilled nursing and other services on a visiting basis in your home; and
- 2) Supervises the delivery of such services under a plan prescribed and approved in writing by the attending Doctor.

## **Hospice**

A Provider that gives care to terminally ill patients and their families, either directly or on a consulting basis with the patient's Doctor. It must be licensed by the appropriate agency.

## **Hospital**

A Provider licensed and operated as required by law which has:

1. Room, board and nursing care;
2. A staff with one or more Doctors on hand at all times;
3. 24 hour nursing service;
4. All the facilities on site are needed to diagnose, care, and treat an illness or injury; and
5. Is fully accredited by the Joint Commission.

The term Hospital does not include a Provider, or that part of a Provider, used mainly for:

1. Nursing care
2. Rest care
3. Convalescent care
4. Care of the aged
5. Custodial Care
6. Educational care
7. Subacute care
8. Treatment of alcohol abuse

## 9. Treatment of drug abuse

### **Identification Card**

The latest card given to you showing your identification and group numbers, the type of coverage you have and the date coverage became effective.

### **In-Network Provider**

A Provider that has a contract, either directly or indirectly, with the Claims Administrator, or another organization, to give Covered Services to Members through negotiated payment arrangements.

### **In-Network Transplant Provider**

Please see the “What’s Covered” section for details.

### **Inpatient**

A Member who is treated as a registered bed patient in a Hospital and for whom a room and board charge is made.

### **Intensive In-Home Behavioral Health Program**

A range of therapy services provided in the home to address symptoms and behaviors that, as the result of a mental disorder or substance use disorder, put the Members and others at risk of harm.

### **Intensive Outpatient Program**

Short-term behavioral health treatment that provides a combination of individual, group and family therapy.

### **Interchangeable Biologic Product**

A type of biological product that is licensed (approved) by FDA because it is highly similar to an already FDA-approved biological product, known as the biological reference product (reference product), and has been shown to have no clinically meaningful differences from the reference product. In addition to meeting the biosimilarity standard, it is expected to produce the same clinical result as the reference product in any given patient.

### **Late Enrollees**

Employees or Dependents who enroll in the Plan after the initial enrollment period. A person will not be considered a Late Enrollee if he or she enrolls during a Special Enrollment period. Please see the “Eligibility and Enrollment – Adding Members” section for further details.

### **Maximum Allowed Amount**

The maximum payment that the Claims Administrator will allow for Covered Services. For more information, see the “Claims Payment” section.

### **Medical Necessity (Medically Necessary)**

The Claims Administrator reserves the right to determine whether a service or supply is Medically Necessary. The fact that a Doctor has prescribed, ordered, recommended or approved a service or supply does not, in itself, make it Medically Necessary. The Claims Administrator considers a service Medically Necessary if it is:

- appropriate and consistent with the diagnosis and the omission of which could adversely affect or fail to improve the patient’s condition;
- compatible with the standards of acceptable medical practice in the United States;

- not provided solely for your convenience or the convenience of the Doctor, health care provider or Hospital;
- not primarily Custodial Care;
- provided in a safe and appropriate setting given the nature of the diagnosis and the severity of the symptoms. For example, a Hospital stay is necessary when treatment cannot be safely provided on an outpatient basis; and
- cost-effective compared to alternative interventions, including no intervention. Cost effective does not always mean lowest cost. It does mean that as to the diagnosis or treatment of the Member's illness, injury or disease, the service is: (1) not more costly than an alternative service or sequence of services that is medically appropriate, or (2) the service is performed in the least costly setting that is medically appropriate.

## **Member**

People, including the Subscriber and his or her Dependents, who have met the eligibility rules, applied for coverage, and enrolled in the Plan. Members are called "you" and "your" in this Benefit Booklet.

## **Mental Health and Substance Abuse**

A condition that is listed in the current edition of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM) as a mental health or substance abuse condition.

## **Non-Preferred Provider**

A Hospital, Freestanding Ambulatory Facility (Surgical Center), Doctor, Skilled Nursing Facility, Hospice, Home Health Care Agency, other medical practitioner or Provider of medical services or supplies, that does not have a Preferred Provider Organization (PPO) Contract with the Claims Administrator but is contracted with the Claims Administrator's indemnity network.

**Out-of-Network benefits apply when Covered Services are rendered by a Non-Preferred Provider.**

## **Open Enrollment**

A period of time in which eligible people or their dependents can enroll without penalty after the initial enrollment. See the "Eligibility and Enrollment – Adding Members" section for more details.

## **Out-of-Network Provider**

A Provider that does not have an agreement or contract with the Claims, or the Claims Administrator's subcontractor(s), to give services to Members under this Plan.

You will often get a lower level of benefits when you use Out-of-Network Providers residents, only POS providers are In-Network Providers. ]

## **Out-of-Pocket Limit**

The most you pay in Copayments, Deductibles, and Coinsurance during a Benefit Period for Covered Services. The Out-of-Pocket limit does not include your premium, amounts over the Maximum Allowed Amount, or charges for health care that your Plan doesn't cover. Please see the "Schedule of Benefits" for details.

## **Partial Hospitalization Program**

Structured, short-term behavioral health treatment that offers nursing care and active treatment in a program that operates no less than 6 hours per day, 5 days per week.

## **Physician (Doctor)**

Includes the following when licensed by law:

- Doctor of Medicine (M.D.) legally entitled to practice medicine and perform surgery,
- Doctor of Osteopathy (D.O.) legally licensed to perform the duties of a D.O.,
- Doctor of Chiropractic (D.C.), legally licensed to perform the duties of a chiropractor;
- Doctor of Podiatric Medicine (D.P.M.) legally entitled to practice podiatry, and
- Doctor of Dental Medicine (D.D.M.), Doctor of Dental Surgery (D.D.S.), legally entitled to provide dental services.

Optometrists, Clinical Psychologists (PhD), and surgical chiropodists are also Providers when legally licensed and giving Covered Services within the scope of their licenses.

## **Plan**

The arrangement chosen by the Plan Sponsor to fund and provide for delivery of the Employer's health benefits.

## **Plan Administrator**

The person or entity named by the Plan Sponsor to manage the Plan and answer questions about Plan details. ***The Plan Administrator is not the Claims Administrator.***

## **Plan Sponsor**

The legal entity that has adopted the Plan and has authority regarding its operation, amendment and termination. ***The Plan Sponsor is not the Claims Administrator.***

## **Precertification**

Please see the section "Getting Approval for Benefits" for details.

## **Predetermination**

Please see the section "Getting Approval for Benefits" for details.

## **Primary Care Physician ("PCP")**

A Physician who gives or directs health care services for you. The Physician may work in family practice, general practice, internal medicine, pediatrics, geriatrics or any other practice allowed by the Plan.

## **Primary Care Provider**

A Physician, nurse practitioner, clinical nurse specialist, physician assistant, or any other Provider licensed by law and allowed under the Plan, who gives, directs, or helps you get a range of health care services.

## **Prior Authorization**

Please see the "Getting Approval for Benefits" and "Prescription Drugs Administered by a Medical Provider" sections for details

## **Provider**

A professional or Facility licensed by law that gives health care services within the scope of that license and is approved by the Claims Administrator. Providers that deliver Covered Services are described throughout this Booklet. If you have a question about a Provider not described in this Benefit Booklet please call the number on the back of your Identification Card.



## **Recovery**

Please see the “Subrogation and Reimbursement” section for details.

## **Referral**

Please see the “How Your Plan Works” section for details.

## **Residential Treatment Center / Facility:**

A Provider licensed and operated as required by law, which includes:

1. Room, board and skilled nursing care (either an RN or LVN/LPN) available on-site at least eight hours daily with 24 hour availability;
2. A staff with one or more Doctors available at all times.
3. Residential treatment takes place in a structured facility-based setting.
4. The resources and programming to adequately diagnose, care and treat a psychiatric and/or substance use disorder.
5. Facilities are designated residential, subacute, or intermediate care and may occur in care systems that provide multiple levels of care.
6. Is fully accredited by The Joint Commission (TJC), the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF), the National Integrated Accreditation for Healthcare Organizations (NIAHO), or the Council on Accreditation (COA)

The term Residential Treatment Center/Facility does not include a Provider, or that part of a Provider, used mainly for:

1. Nursing care
2. Rest care
3. Convalescent care
4. Care of the aged
5. Custodial Care
6. Educational care

## **Retail Health Clinic**

A Facility that gives limited basic health care services to Members on a “walk-in” basis. These clinics are often found in major pharmacies or retail stores. Medical services are typically given by Physician Assistants and nurse practitioners.

## **Skilled Nursing Facility**

A Facility operated alone or with a Hospital that cares for you after a Hospital stay when you have a condition that needs more care than can get at home. It must be licensed by the appropriate agency and accredited by the Joint Commission or the Bureau of Hospitals of the American Osteopathic Association, or otherwise approved by the Claims Administrator. A Skilled Nursing Facility gives the following:

1. Inpatient care and treatment for people who are recovering from an illness or injury;
2. Care supervised by a Doctor;
3. 24 hour per day nursing care supervised by a full-time registered nurse.

A Skilled Nursing Facility is not a place mainly for care of the aged, Custodial Care or domiciliary care, treatment of alcohol or drug dependency; or a place for rest, educational, or similar services.

## **Special Enrollment**

A period of time in which eligible people or their dependents can enroll after the initial enrollment, typically due to an event such as marriage, birth, adoption, etc. See the “Eligibility and Enrollment – Adding Members” section for more details.

## **Specialist (Specialty Care Physician / Provider or SCP)**

A Specialist is a Doctor who focuses on a specific area of medicine or group of patients to diagnose, manage, prevent, or treat certain types of symptoms and conditions. A non-Physician Specialist is a Provider who has added training in a specific area of health care.

## **Specialty Drugs**

Drugs that typically need close supervision and checking of their effect on the patient by a medical professional. These drugs often need special handling, such as temperature-controlled packaging and overnight delivery, and are often not available at retail pharmacies. They may be administered in many forms including, but not limited to, injectable, infused, oral and inhaled.

## **Subscriber**

A person who is engaged in active employment with the Employer (the Employee) and is eligible for Plan coverage under the employment regulations of the Employer.

## **Telemedicine Medical Service**

A health care medical service initiated by a Doctor or provided by a health care professional, the diagnosis, treatment or consultation by a Doctor, or the transfer of medical data that requires the use of advanced communications technology [, other than by phone or fax including:]

- Compressed digital interactive video, audio, or data transmission.
- Clinical data transmission using computer imaging by way of still-image capture; and,
- Other technology that facilitates access to healthcare services or medical specialty expertise.

Neither a telephone conversation nor an electronic mail message between a healthcare practitioner and a patient is telemedicine.

## **Transplant Benefit Period**

Please see the “What’s Covered” section for details.

## **Transplant Providers**

**Network Transplant Provider** - A Provider that has been designated as a “Center of Excellence” for Transplants by the Claims Administrator and/or a Provider selected to participate as a Network Transplant Provider by the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association. Such Provider has entered into a transplant provider agreement to render Covered Transplant Procedures and certain administrative functions to you for the transplant network. A Provider may be a Network Transplant Provider with respect to:

- certain Covered Transplant Procedures; or
- all Covered Transplant Procedures.

**Out-of-Network Transplant Provider** - Any Provider that has NOT been designated as a “Center of Excellence” for Transplants by the Claims Administrator nor has not been selected to participate as a Network Transplant Provider by the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association.

**Blue Distinction Center (BDC) Facility:** Blue Distinction facilities have met or exceeded national quality standards for care delivery (quality only).

**Blue Distinction Center+ (BDC+) Facility:** Blue Distinction+ facilities have met or exceeded national quality standards for care delivery AND have demonstrated that they operate more efficiently (quality and cost).]

**Designated Transplant Provider:** A provider who has achieved designation as a Blue Distinction Center+ or Blue Distinction Center for Transplant Procedures.

**In-Network Transplant Provider:** Hospitals participating in the network but are NOT designated as either Blue Distinction Center+ or Blue Distinction Center).

**Out-of-Network Transplant Provider:** Any Provider that does not hold a contractual agreement with the Claims Administrator to provide Transplant services.

## **Urgent Care Center**

A licensed health care Facility that is separate from a Hospital and whose main purpose is giving immediate, short-term medical care, without an appointment, for urgent care.

## **Utilization Review**

Evaluation of the necessity, quality, effectiveness, or efficiency of medical or behavioral health services, Prescription Drugs (as set forth in the section Prescription Drugs Administered by a Medical Provider), procedures, and/or facilities.

## Plan Administration

**NOTE: This section is not a part of your Benefit Booklet. The Claims Administrator is not responsible for any statements contained herein that are not set forth in the Administrative Services Agreement or the Benefit Booklet.**

- **Plan Name:** Public Employees Group Health Plan
- **Plan Sponsor:** The City of Albany  
P.O. Box 1788  
Albany, GA 31702-1788  
(229)431-3214
- **Plan Number:** 501  
**Employer I.D. Number:** 58-6000504
- **Type of Plan:** The Plan is an Employee welfare benefit plan providing group medical benefits.
- **Plan Year Ends:** December 31
- **Type of Administration/Funding:** Medical benefits are furnished under a health care plan funded by the Plan Sponsor on a self-funded basis with claims being administered by Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield on behalf of **The City of Albany**.
- **Plan Administrator and Named Fiduciary:**  
The City of Albany  
Water, Gas, & Light Commission  
P.O. box 1788  
Albany, GA 31702-1788  
(229) 883-8330, Ext. 344
- **Agent for Service of Legal Process:**  
The City of Albany  
Water, Gas, & Light Commission  
P.O. Box 1788  
Albany, GA 31702-1788

# BlueChoice<sup>®</sup>

***PPO***

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