



Dental Certificate of Coverage

**City of Marietta
Base Plan
Group Number GA6195**

**Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Georgia
Classic Dental
Complete Dental Program**

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DENTAL CERTIFICATE OF COVERAGE

Welcome to Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Georgia ("BCBSGa")! This Dental Certificate of Coverage (hereinafter "Certificate") has been prepared by BCBSGa to help explain your dental care benefits. Please refer to this Certificate whenever you require Dental Services. It describes how to access dental care, what Dental Services are covered by Us, and what portion of the dental care costs you will be required to pay.

The coverage described in this Certificate is subject in every respect to the provisions of the Group Dental Contract issued to your Group. The Group Dental Contract and this Certificate and any amendments or riders attached to the same, shall constitute the Group Dental Contract under which Covered Services are provided by Us.

This Certificate should be read in its entirety. Since many of the provisions of this Certificate are interrelated, you should read the entire Certificate to get a full understanding of your coverage.

Many words used in the Certificate have special meanings. These words appear in capitals and are defined for you. Refer to these definitions in the Definitions section for the best understanding of what is being stated. The Certificate also contains exclusions.

This Certificate supersedes and replaces any Certificate previously issued to you under the provisions of the Group Dental Contract.

Read your Certificate Carefully. The Certificate sets forth many of the rights and obligations between you and the Plan. Payment of benefits is subject to the provisions, limitations and exclusions of your Certificate. It is therefore important that you read your Certificate.

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DEFINITIONS

This section defines terms which have special meanings. If a word or phrase has a special meaning or is a title, it will be capitalized. The word or phrase is defined in this section or at the place in the text where it is used.

Appeal - A formal request by you or your representative for reconsideration of an adverse decision on a grievance or claim.

Benefit Waiting Period - The period of continuous coverage under this Certificate that a Member must complete following his or her Effective Date before dental benefits are payable for Covered Services. No payment will be made for expenses incurred during the Benefit Waiting Period indicated in the Summary of Benefits.

Certificate - This summary of the terms of your benefits. It is attached to and is a part of the Group Dental Contract and it is subject to the terms of the Group Dental Contract.

Coinsurance - A percentage of the Maximum Allowed Amount for which you are responsible to pay. Your Coinsurance will not be reduced by refunds, rebates, or any other form of negotiated post-payment adjustments.

Coverage Year - The period of time that We pay benefits for Covered Services. The Coverage Year is listed in the Summary of Benefits. If your coverage ends earlier, the Coverage Year ends at the same time.

Coverage Year Maximum - The maximum dollar amount payable for Covered Services for each Member during each Coverage Year. If your benefit plan covers orthodontics, benefits for orthodontic services are not included in the Coverage Year Maximum, but are subject to a separate lifetime maximum. Refer to the **Summary of Benefits** for any Coverage Year Maximum or lifetime maximum amounts.

Covered Services - Services or treatment as described in the Certificate which are performed, prescribed, directed or authorized by a Dentist. To be considered Covered Services, services must be:

- Within the scope of the license of the Provider performing the service;
- Rendered while coverage under this Certificate is in force;
- Not specifically excluded or limited by the Certificate; and
- Specifically included as a benefit within the Certificate.

Deductible - The dollar amount of Covered Services listed in the Summary of Benefits for which you are responsible before We start to pay for Covered Services each Coverage Year.

Dental Service, Dental Services, Dental Procedure and Dental Procedures - The providing of dental care or treatment by a Dentist to a Member under this Certificate, provided that such care or treatment is recognized by BCBSGa as a generally accepted form of care or treatment according to prevailing standards of dental practice.

Dentist - A person who is licensed to practice dentistry by the governmental authority having jurisdiction over the licensing and practice of dentistry.

Dependent - A person of the Subscriber's family who is eligible for coverage under the Certificate as described in the Eligibility and Enrollment section.

Effective Date - The date that a Subscriber's coverage begins under this Certificate. A Dependent's coverage also begins on the Subscriber's Effective Date.

Eligible Person - A person who meets the Group's requirements and is entitled to apply to be a Subscriber.

Group Dental Contract (or Contract) - The Contract between the Plan and the Group. It includes this Certificate, your application, any supplemental application or change form, and any additional legal terms added by Us to the original Contract. The final interpretation of any specific provision contained in this Certificate is governed by the Group Dental Contract.

Group or Group Subscriber - The employer, or other organization, that has entered into a Group Dental Contract with the Plan.

Identification Card / ID Card - A card issued by the Plan, showing the Member's name, membership number, and occasionally coverage information.

Maximum Allowed Amount - The maximum amount of reimbursement BCBSGa will pay for services provided by a Provider to a Member. 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 Coinsurance. There may be different levels of reimbursement for the Maximum Allowed Amount depending upon whether you elect to receive services from a Participating Dentist or a Non-Participating Dentist. The Maximum Allowed Amount will always be the lesser of the maximum amount of reimbursement established by BCBSGa or the Provider's billed charges.

Member - A Subscriber or Dependent who has satisfied the eligibility conditions, applied for coverage, been approved by the Plan and for whom Premium payment has been made. Members are sometimes called "you" and "your".

Non-Participating Dentist - A Dentist who has NOT signed a written provider service agreement agreeing to service the program identified in this Certificate. BCBSGa will reimburse Non-Participating Dentists according to the Maximum Allowed Amount for Non-Participating Dentists, also referred to in this Certificate as the Table of Allowances. The Table of Allowances may be different from the Maximum Allowed Amount reimbursed to Participating Dentists.

Open Enrollment - An enrollment period when any eligible Subscriber or Dependent of the Group may apply for this coverage.

Participating Dentist - A Dentist who has signed a written provider service agreement agreeing to service the program identified in this Certificate. The Dentist has agreed to accept BCBSGa's Schedule of Maximum Allowable Charges as payment in full for dental care covered under this Certificate.

Plan (or We, Us, Our) - Blue Cross Blue Shield of Georgia. Also referred to as "BCBSGa".

Premium - The periodic charges due which the Member or the Group must pay the Plan to maintain coverage.

Pretreatment Estimate - A request by a Member or Dentist to BCBSGa in advance of a Dental Service being provided to determine the Member's benefits, estimate the Maximum Allowed Amount, and estimate the amount of the Member's financial liability. A Pretreatment Estimate is not a guaranty of benefits or a guaranty of payment of benefits.

Prior Plan - The plan sponsored by the Group which was replaced by the benefits under this Certificate within 60 days. You are considered covered under the Prior Plan if you: (1) were covered under the Prior Plan on the date that plan terminated; (2) properly enrolled for coverage within 31 days of this Certificate's Effective Date; and (3) had coverage terminate solely due to the Prior Plan's termination.

Provider - A duly licensed person or facility that provides services within the scope of an applicable license and is a person or facility that the Plan approves. This includes any Provider rendering services that are required by applicable state law to be covered when rendered by such Provider.

Schedule of Maximum Allowable Charges - A schedule of Maximum Allowed Amounts established by BCBSGa for services rendered by Participating Dentists servicing this program.

Subscriber - An employee or Member of the Group who is eligible to receive benefits under the Group Dental Contract.

Table of Allowances - A schedule of fixed dollar Maximum Allowed Amounts established by BCBSGa for services rendered by Non-Participating Dentists.

SUMMARY OF BENEFITS

The Summary of Benefits is a summary of the Deductibles, Coinsurance and other limits when you receive Covered Services from a Provider. Please refer to the Covered Services section of this Certificate for a more complete explanation of the specific services covered by the Plan. All Covered Services are subject to the conditions, exclusions, limitations, terms and provisions of this Certificate including any attachments or riders.

Coverage Year	Calendar Year
Dependent Age Limit	To the end of the month in which the child attains age 26
Benefit Waiting Period	There are no benefit waiting periods.

Dental Covered Services

After you have satisfied the Deductible, We will pay benefits for Covered Services at the percentage or applicable amount up to the Maximum Allowed Amount for each completed Dental Service. The Maximum Allowed Amount payable for each Dental Procedure is determined by BCBSGa, and there may be different levels of reimbursement for the Maximum Allowed Amount depending upon whether you elect to receive services from a Participating or a Non-Participating Dentist.

	Participating Dentist	Non-Participating Dentist
Diagnostic and Preventive Services*	100%	100%
Basic Restorative Services	80%	80%
Endodontic Services	80%	80%
Periodontal Services	80%	80%
Oral Surgery Services	80%	80%
Major Restorative Services	50%	50%
Prosthodontic Services	50%	50%

*Not subject to the Deductible

DENTAL BENEFIT MAXIMUMS

Dental Benefit Maximums (combined for Participating and Non-Participating Dentists)

Coverage Year Maximum \$1,000.00 per Member

Coverage Year Maximum. Your combined benefits are subject to the Coverage Year Maximum. We will not pay any benefit in excess of that amount during a Coverage Year.

DEDUCTIBLES

Deductible (combined for Participating and Non-Participating Dentist)

Per Member \$25.00

Per Family \$75.00

Exception: The Deductible does not apply to Diagnostic and Preventive Services.

Deductible[s]. You are responsible for satisfying the Deductible[s] before We pay for benefits. If 3 family Members satisfy their individual Deductible, the family Deductible will be met. Only charges that are considered a Maximum Allowed Amount will apply toward satisfaction of the Deductibles.

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 of the Group, and;
- Be entitled to participate in the benefit Plan arranged by the Group;
- Have satisfied any probationary or waiting period established by the Group and perform the duties of your principal occupation for the Group.

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 Group, and be one of the following:

- The Subscriber's spouse. For information on spousal eligibility please contact the Group.
- The Subscriber's or the Subscriber's spouse's children, including natural children, stepchildren, newborn and legally adopted children and children who the Group has determined are covered under a Qualified Medical Child Support Order as defined by 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) 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 Contract 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 BCBSGa 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.

We 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, we may require you to give us a copy of any legal documents awarding guardianship of such child(ren) to you.

When You Can Enroll

Initial Enrollment

The Group 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 the waiting period chosen by the Group, 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 below.

Open Enrollment

The Open Enrollment under this Contract shall be held annually.

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 stopped receiving group contributions toward the cost of the prior health plan.
- 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 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 Group's Prior Plan

Members who were previously enrolled under another plan offered by the Group 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. If additional Premium is required for the newborn Dependent, you must notify us of the birth and pay the required Premium within 31 days or the newborn's coverage will terminate. If you have Family Coverage, no additional premium is required and coverage automatically continues.

Even if no additional Premium is required, you should still 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 us 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 us of the adoption and pay any required additional Premium within 31 days 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 and/or applicable state or federal law, to enroll your child in this Plan, we 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 Group of any changes that affect your eligibility or the eligibility of your Dependents for this Plan. When any of the following occurs, contact the Group 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 us of individuals no longer eligible for services will not obligate us 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 we 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. We 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

Except as otherwise provided, your coverage may terminate in the following situations. The information provided below is general and the actual effective date of termination may vary based on your Group's agreement with Us and your specific circumstances, such as whether Premium has been paid in full.

Termination of Coverage

Your coverage and that of your eligible Dependents ceases on the earliest of the following dates:

- a) The end of the month in which (1) you cease to be eligible; (2) your Dependent is no longer eligible as a Dependent under the Certificate.
- b) On the date the Certificate is terminated.
- c) On the date the Group terminates the Certificate by failure to pay the Premiums, except as a result of inadvertent error.
- d) The date contribution for coverage under the Certificate is not made when due.

For extended eligibility, see Continuation of Coverage.

Continuation of Coverage (COBRA)

Dental benefits may be continued should any of the following events occur, provided that at the time of occurrence this Certificate remains in effect and you or your spouse or your Dependent child is a Member under this Certificate:

QUALIFYING EVENT	WHO MAY CONTINUE	MAXIMUM CONTINUATION PERIOD
Employment ends, retirement, leave of absence, lay-off, or employee becomes ineligible (except gross misconduct dismissal)	Subscriber and Dependents	Earliest of: 1. 18 months, or 2. Enrollment in other group coverage or Medicare, or 3. Date coverage would otherwise end.
Divorce, marriage or civil union dissolution, or legal separation	Former spouse and any Dependent children who lose coverage	Earliest of: 1. 36 months, or 2. Enrollment date in other group coverage or Medicare, or 3. Date coverage would otherwise end.
Death of Subscriber	Surviving spouse and Dependent children	Earliest of: 1. 36 months, or 2. Enrollment date in other group coverage or Medicare, or 3. Date coverage would otherwise end.
Dependent child loses eligibility	Dependent child	Earliest of: 1. 36 months, or 2. Enrollment date in other group coverage or Medicare, or 3. Date coverage would otherwise end.

Dependents lose eligibility due to Subscriber's entitlement to Medicare	Spouse and Dependents	Earliest of: 1. 36 months, or 2. Enrollment date in other group coverage or Medicare, or 3. Date coverage would otherwise end.
Subscriber's total disability	Subscriber and Dependents	Earliest of: 1. 29 months, or 2. Date total disability ends, or 3. Enrollment date in other group coverage or Medicare.
Retirees of employer filing Chapter 11 bankruptcy (includes substantial reduction in coverage within 1 year of filing)	Retiree and Dependents	Earliest of: 1. Enrollment date in other group coverage, or 2. Death of retiree or Dependent electing COBRA.
Surviving Dependents of retiree on lifetime continuation due to the bankruptcy of the employer	Surviving spouse and Dependents	Earliest of: 1. 36 months following retiree's death, or 2. Enrollment date in other group coverage.

You or your eligible Dependents have 60 days from the date you lose coverage, due to one of the events described above, to inform the Group that you wish to continue coverage.

1. Choosing Continuation

If you lose coverage, your employer must notify you of the option to continue coverage within 14 days after employment ends. If coverage for your Dependent ends because of divorce, legal separation, or any other change in Dependent status, you or your covered Dependents must notify your employer within 60 days.

You or your covered Dependents must choose to continue coverage by notifying the employer in writing. You or your covered Dependents have 60 days to choose to continue, starting with the date of the notice of continuation or the date coverage ended, whichever is later. Failure to choose continuation within the required time period will make you or your covered Dependents ineligible to choose continuation at a later date. You or your covered Dependents have 45 days from the date of choosing continuation to pay the first continuation charges. After this initial grace period, you or your covered Dependents must pay charges monthly in advance to the employer to maintain coverage in force.

Charges for continuation are the group rate plus a two percent administration fee. All charges are paid directly to your employer. If you or your covered Dependents are totally disabled, charges for continuation are the group rate plus a two percent administration fee for the first 18 months. For months 19 through 29, the employer may charge the group rate plus a 50 percent administration fee.

2. Second qualifying event

If a second qualifying event occurs during continuation, a Dependent qualified beneficiary may be entitled to election rights of their own and an extended continuation period. This rule only applies when the initial qualifying event for continuation is the employee's termination of employment, retirement, leave of absence, layoff, or reduction of hours.

When a second qualifying event occurs such as the death of the former covered employee, the Dependent must notify the employer of the second event within 60 days after it occurs in order to continue coverage. In no event will the first and second period of continuation extend beyond the earlier of the date coverage would otherwise terminate or 36 months.

A qualified beneficiary is any individual covered under the health plan the day before the qualified event as well as a child who is born or placed for adoption with the covered employee during the period of continuation coverage.

3. Terminating Continuation of Coverage - COBRA

Continuation of Coverage - COBRA for you and your eligible Dependents, if selected, shall terminate on the last day of the month in which any of the following events first occur:

- a) The expiration of the specified period of time for which Continuation of Coverage - COBRA can be maintained; as mandated by applicable State or Federal law;
- b) This Certificate is terminated by the Group Subscriber;
- c) The Group Subscriber's or Member's failure to make the payment for the Member's Continuation of Coverage

Questions regarding Continuation of Coverage - COBRA should be directed to your employer. Your employer will explain the regulations, qualifications and procedures required when you continue coverage.

DENTAL PROVIDERS AND CLAIMS PAYMENT

You do not have to select a particular Dentist to receive dental benefits. You have the freedom to choose the Dentist you want for your dental care. However, your Dentist choice can make a difference in the benefits you receive and the amount you pay. You may have additional out-of-pocket costs if your Dentist is a Non-Participating Dentist. There may be differences in the payment amount compared with a Participating Dentist if your Dentist is a Non-Participating Dentist.

Payments are made by BCBSGa only when the covered dental procedures have been completed. The plan may require additional information from you or your provider before a claim can be considered complete and ready for processing. In order to properly process a claim, the plan may be required to add an administrative policy line to the claim. Duplicate claims previously processed will be denied.

This section describes how We determine the amount of reimbursement for Covered Services. Reimbursement for Dental Services rendered by Participating and Non-Participating Dentists is based on the Maximum Allowed Amount for the type of service performed. There may be different levels of reimbursement for the Maximum Allowed Amount depending upon whether you elect to receive services from a Participating or a Non-Participating Dentist.

The Maximum Allowed Amount is the maximum amount of reimbursement BCBSGa will pay for Dental Services provided by a Dentist to a Member and which meet Our definition of a Covered Service. For Participating Dentists, the Maximum Allowed Amount will be reimbursed according to the Schedule of Maximum Allowable Charges. For Non-Participating Dentists, the Maximum Allowed Amount will be reimbursed according to the Table of Allowances.

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 Coinsurance. In addition, when you receive Covered Services from a Non-Participating Dentist, you may be responsible for paying any difference between the Maximum Allowed Amount and the Dentist's actual charges. This amount may be significant.

When you receive Covered Services from a Dentist, We will apply 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 Dental Procedure. Applying these rules may affect Our determination of the Maximum Allowed Amount. For example, your Dentist may have submitted the claim using several procedure codes when there is a single procedure code that includes all or a combination of the procedures that were performed. When this occurs, Our payment will be based on a single Maximum Allowed Amount for the single procedure code rather than a separate Maximum Allowed Amount for each billed procedure amount.

Likewise, when multiple procedures are performed on the same day by the same dental Provider or other dental Providers, We may reduce the Maximum Allowed Amount for those additional procedures, because reimbursement at 100% of the Maximum Allowed Amount for those procedures would represent a duplicate payment for a Dental Procedure that may be considered incidental or inclusive.

PROVIDER NETWORK STATUS

The Maximum Allowed Amount may vary depending upon whether the Provider is a Participating Dentist or a Non-Participating Dentist. There may be different levels of reimbursement for the Maximum Allowed Amount depending upon whether you elect to receive services from a Participating Dentist or a Non-Participating Dentist.

Participating Dentists

A Participating Dentist is a Dentist who has signed a written provider service agreement agreeing to service the program identified in this Certificate. For Covered Services performed by a Participating Dentist, the Maximum Allowed Amount is based upon the lesser of the Dentist's actual charges or the Schedule of Maximum Allowable Charges. Because Participating Dentists have agreed to accept the Maximum Allowed Amount as payment in full for services, they should not send you a bill or collect for amounts above the agreed upon Maximum Allowed Amount. However, you may receive a bill or be asked to pay a portion of the Maximum Allowed Amount to the extent you have exhausted your coverage for the service, have not met your Deductible, have a Coinsurance, have received non-covered services, or have exceeded the dental benefit maximum as outlined in the Summary of Benefits. Please call Our Customer Service Department at (877) 604-2158 for help in finding a Participating Dentist or visit Our website at www.bcbsga.com/mydental. BCBSGa will update this listing of providers on at least an annual basis.

Non-Participating Dentists

Dentists who have NOT signed a written provider service agreement agreeing to service the program identified in this Certificate are considered Non-Participating Dentists. For Covered Services you receive from a Non-Participating Dentist, the Maximum Allowed Amount will be the lesser of the Dentist's actual charges or an amount based on Our Non-Participating Dentist fee schedule, referred to as the Table of Allowances, which We have established in Our discretion, and which We reserve the right to modify from time to time after considering one or more of the following: reimbursement amounts accepted by similar providers contracted with Us, and other industry cost, reimbursement and utilization data. The Table of Allowances may be different from the Maximum Allowed Amount reimbursed to Participating Dentists.

Unlike Participating Dentists, Non-Participating Dentists may send you a bill and collect for the amount of the Dentist's charge that exceeds Our Maximum Allowed Amount. You are responsible for paying the difference between the Maximum Allowed Amount and the amount the Non-Participating Dentist charges. This amount may be significant. Choosing a Participating Dentist will likely result in lower out of pocket costs to you. Please call Customer Service Department at (877) 604-2158 for help in finding a Participating Dentist or visit Our website at www.bcbsga.com/mydental.

Customer Service is also available to assist you in determining the Maximum Allowed Amount for a particular service from a Non-Participating Dentist. In order for Us to assist you, you will need to obtain the specific procedure code(s) from your Dentist for the services the Dentist will render. You will also need to know the Dentist's charges to calculate your out of pocket responsibility. Although Customer Service can assist you with this pre-service information, the Maximum Allowed Amount for your claim will be based on the actual claim submitted.

MEMBER COST SHARE

For certain Covered Services and depending on your dental program, you may be required to pay a part of the Maximum Allowed Amount (for example, Deductible and/or Coinsurance). Your Deductible and Coinsurance cost share amount and out-of-pocket limits may vary depending on whether you received services from a Participating or Non-Participating Dentist. Specifically, you may pay higher cost sharing amounts or incur benefit limits when using Non-Participating Dentists. Please see the Summary of Benefits in this Certificate for your cost share responsibilities and limitations, or call Customer Service to learn how this Certificate's benefits or cost share amounts may vary by the type of Dentist you use.

Payment of Benefits

You authorize Us to make payments directly to Participating Dentists for Covered Services. We also reserve 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 Us will discharge Our obligation to pay for Covered Services.

Once a Provider gives a Covered Service, We will not honor a request for Us to withhold payment of the claims submitted.

The Member is responsible for all treatment charges made by a Non-Participating Dentist. When services are obtained from a Non-Participating Dentist, any benefits payable under the group contract are paid directly to the Member unless you assign the payment directly to the provider of the dental service by indicating so on the claim form.

Notice of Claim

We are not liable under the Certificate, unless We receive written notice that Covered Services have been given to you. An expense is considered incurred on the date the service or supply was given.

The notice must be given to Us within 20 days of receiving the Covered Services, and must have the data We need to determine benefits. The failure to provide BCBSGa with such notice will neither invalidate or reduce any claim if it is shown that it was not reasonably possible to give such notice within 20 days, provided notice is given as soon as reasonably possible. No notice can be submitted later than one year after the usual 20 day filing period ends. If the notice submitted does not include sufficient data We need to process the claim, then the necessary data must be submitted to Us within the time frames specified in this provision or no benefits will be payable except as otherwise required by law.

Any benefits due under this Certificate shall be due once We have received proper, written proof of loss, together with such reasonably necessary additional information We may require to determine Our obligation. In the event We do not pay a claim within 30 days of receipt of proof of loss, We will pay interest at the rate required by law on the benefits due under the terms of the Certificate.

Claims should be submitted to:

Blue Cross Blue Shield of Georgia
PO Box 1115
Minneapolis, MN 55440-1115
(877) 604-2158

Proof of Claim

Written proof of claim satisfactory to Us must be submitted to Us within 12 months after the date of the event for which claim is made. If proof of claim is not sent within the time required, the claim will not be reduced or denied if it was not possible to send proof within this time. However, the proof must be sent as soon as reasonably possible. In any case, the proof required must be sent to Us no later than one year following the 12 month period specified, unless you were legally incapacitated.

Claims for Covered Services provided to a Member will be processed within thirty (30) days of the date the claim is received by Us. If a claim decision cannot be made within the 30 day period, an extension of up to fifteen (15) days may be requested. Before the end of the initial thirty (30) day period, We will send the Member written notice of the reason(s) for the delay.

If the time to process a claim is extended because the Member or dentist has not submitted requested information, the time period requirements for claim processing will be tolled from the date the notice of requested information is sent to the Member until the date We receive the Member's response. We will make a claim decision within fifteen (15) days after receipt of the requested information. Members should submit the requested information within forty-five (45) days of receipt of the request.

Claim Forms

Many Providers will file a claim form for you. If the forms are not available, either send a written request for claim forms to Us or contact customer service and ask for claim forms to be sent to you. The form will be sent to you within 10 days. If you do not receive the forms, written notice of services rendered may be submitted to Us 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

Each Member shall complete and submit to the Plan such authorizations, consents, releases, assignments and other documents as may be requested by the Plan in order to obtain or assure reimbursement under Medicare, Worker's Compensation or any other governmental program. Any Member who fails to cooperate will be responsible for any charge for services.

Explanation of Benefits

After you receive dental care, you will often receive an Explanation of Benefits (EOB). The EOB is a summary of the coverage you receive. The EOB is not a bill, but a statement from Us to help you understand the coverage you are receiving. The EOB shows:

- total amounts charged for services/supplies received;
- the amount of the charges satisfied by your coverage;
- the amount for which you are responsible (if any);
- general information about your Appeals rights and information regarding the right to bring an action after the Appeals process.

COVERED SERVICES

Pretreatment Estimate (Estimate of Benefits)

It is recommended, but not required, that a pretreatment estimate be submitted to BCBSGa prior to treatment if your dental treatment involves major restorative, periodontics, prosthetics or orthodontic care (see Description of Coverages), To estimate the Maximum Allowed Amount. The pretreatment estimate is a valuable tool for both The dentist and you. Submitting a pretreatment estimate allows the dentist and you to know what benefits are available to you before beginning treatment. The pretreatment estimate will outline your responsibility to the dentist with regard to coinsurance, deductibles and non-covered services. This will allow the dentist and YOU to make any necessary financial arrangements before treatment begins. This process does not prior authorize the treatment nor determine its dental or medical necessity. The estimated Maximum Allowed Amount is based on your current eligibility and contract benefits in effect at the time of the completed service. Submission of other claims or changes in eligibility or the contract may alter final payment. This is not a guarantee of benefits.

After the examination, your Dentist will establish the dental treatment to be performed. If the dental treatment necessary involves major restorative, periodontics, prosthetics or orthodontic care, you should submit a claim form to BCBSGa outlining the proposed treatment. BCBSGa will determine if the proposed treatment is covered and estimate the Maximum Allowed Amount, including your responsibility for Coinsurance, Deductibles and non-covered services.

A statement will be sent to you and your Dentist estimating the amount of the Maximum Allowed Amount, including the amount that you will owe. These estimates will be subject to your continuing eligibility and the Group Contract remaining in effect. If claims for other completed Dental Services are received and processed prior to the completion date of the proposed treatment, this may reduce BCBSGa's estimated Maximum Allowed Amount for the proposed treatment and increase your obligation to the Dentist.

To avoid any misunderstanding of the Maximum Allowed Amount of the amount that you will owe, ask your Dentist about his or her participation status and if he or she has agreed to service this dental program prior to receiving dental care.

You will be responsible for payment of any Deductibles and Coinsurance amounts and any dental treatment that is not considered a Covered Service under your Certificate.

The Plan covers the following Dental Procedures when they are performed by a licensed Dentist and when necessary and customary as determined by the standards of generally accepted dental practice. The benefits under this Certificate shall be provided whether the Dental Procedures are performed by a duly licensed physician or a duly licensed Dentist, if otherwise covered under this Certificate, provided that such Dental Procedures can be lawfully performed within the scope of a duly licensed Dentist.

As a condition precedent to the approval of claim payments, the Plan shall be entitled to request and receive, to such extent as may be lawful, from any attending or examining Dentist, or from hospitals in which a Dentist's care is provided, such information and records relating to a Member as may be required to pay claims. Also, the Plan may require that a Member be examined by a dental consultant retained by BCBSGa in or near the Member's place of residence. BCBSGa and the Plan shall hold such information and records confidential.

BCBSGa does not determine whether a service submitted for payment or benefit under this Certificate is a Dental Procedure that is dentally necessary to treat a specific condition or restore dentition for an individual. The Plan evaluates Dental Procedures submitted to determine if the procedure is a covered benefit. Your coverage includes a preset schedule of Dental Services that are eligible for benefit by BCBSGa. Other Dental Services may be recommended or prescribed by your Dentist which are dentally necessary, offer you an enhanced cosmetic appearance, or are more

frequent than covered by BCBSGa. While these services may be prescribed by your Dentist and are dentally necessary for you, they may not be a Dental Service that is benefited by BCBSGa or they may be a service where BCBSGa provides a payment allowance for a service that is considered to be optional treatment. If BCBSGa gives you a payment allowance for optional treatment that is covered, you may apply this BCBSGa payment to the service prescribed by your Dentist which you elected to receive. Services that are not covered by BCBSGa or exceed the frequency of plan benefits do not imply that the service is or is not dentally necessary to treat your specific dental condition. You are responsible for Dental Services that are not covered or benefited by BCBSGa. Determination of services necessary to meet your individual dental needs is between you and your Dentist.

ONLY those services listed below are covered. Deductibles and Dental Benefit Maximums are listed under the Summary of Benefits. Covered Services are subject to the limitations within the Benefits, Exclusions and Limitations sections described below. For estimates of Covered Services, please see the "Pretreatment Estimate" section of this Certificate.

PREVENTIVE CARE (Diagnostic & Preventive Services)

Oral Evaluations - Any type of evaluation (checkup or exam) is covered 2 times per calendar year.

NOTE: Comprehensive oral evaluations will be benefited 1 time per dental office, subject to the 2 times per calendar year limitation. Any additional comprehensive oral evaluations performed by the same dental office will be benefited as a periodic oral evaluation and will be subject to the 2 times per calendar year limitation.

Radiographs (X-rays)

- **Bitewings** - Covered at 2 series of bitewings per 12-month period.
- **Full Mouth (Complete Series) or Panoramic** - Covered 1 time per 36-month period.
- **Periapical(s)** - 4 single x-rays are covered per 12-month period.
- **Occlusal** - Covered at 2 series per 24-month period.

Dental Cleaning

- **Prophylaxis** - Any combination of this procedure and Periodontal Maintenance (See Periodontal Services) are covered 2 times per calendar year.

Prophylaxis is a procedure to remove plaque, tartar (calculus), and stain from teeth.

NOTE: A prophylaxis performed on a Member under the age of 14 will be benefited as a child prophylaxis. A prophylaxis performed on a Member age 14 or older will be benefited as an adult prophylaxis.

Fluoride Treatment (Topical application of fluoride) - Covered 1 time per 12-month period for Dependent children through the age of 18.

Sealants or Preventive Resin Restorations - Any combination of these procedures is covered 1 time per 24-month period for permanent first and second molars of eligible Dependent children through the age of 15.

EXCLUSIONS - Coverage is NOT provided for:

1. Oral hygiene instructions.
2. Amalgam or composite restorations placed for preventive or cosmetic purposes.

Basic Restorative Services

Emergency Treatment - Emergency (palliative) treatment for the temporary relief of pain or infection.

Amalgam (silver) Restorations - Treatment to restore decayed or fractured permanent or primary teeth.

Composite (white) Resin Restorations

- **Anterior (front) Teeth** - Treatment to restore decayed or fractured permanent or primary anterior (front) teeth.
- **Posterior (back) Teeth** - Treatment to restore decayed or fractured permanent or primary posterior (back) teeth.

LIMITATION: Coverage for amalgam or composite restorations shall be limited to only 1 service per tooth surface per 24-month period.

Space Maintainers - Covered 1 time per lifetime on eligible Dependent children through the age of 16 for extracted primary posterior (back) teeth.

LIMITATION: Repair or replacement of lost/broken appliances are not a covered benefit.

Basic Extractions

- Removal of coronal remnants (retained pieces of the crown portion of the tooth) on primary teeth
- Extraction of erupted tooth or exposed root

EXCLUSIONS - Coverage is NOT provided for:

1. Case presentation and office visits.
2. Brush biopsy.
2. Athletic mouthguard, enamel microabrasion, and odontoplasty.
3. Services or supplies that have the primary purpose of improving the appearance of the teeth. This includes but is not limited to whitening agents, tooth bonding and veneers.
4. Placement or removal of sedative filling, base or liner used under a restoration.
5. Pulp vitality tests.
6. Diagnostic casts.
7. Adjunctive diagnostic tests.
8. Restorations placed for preventive or cosmetic purposes.
9. Analgesia, analgesia agents, anxiolysis nitrous oxide, therapeutic drug injections, medicines, or drugs for non-surgical or surgical dental care.

Endodontic Services (Nerve or Pulp Treatment)

Endodontic Therapy on Primary Teeth

- **Pulpal Therapy**
- **Therapeutic Pulpotomy**

Endodontic Therapy on Permanent Teeth

- **Root Canal Therapy**
- **Root Canal Retreatment**

LIMITATION: All of the above procedures are covered 1 time per tooth per lifetime.

EXCLUSIONS - Coverage is NOT provided for:

1. Retreatment of endodontic services that have been previously benefited under the Certificate.
2. Removal of pulpal debridement, pulp cap, post, pin(s), resorbable or non-resorbable filling material(s) and the procedures used to prepare and place material(s) in the canals (root).
3. Root canal obstruction, internal root repair of perforation defects, incomplete endodontic treatment and bleaching of discolored teeth.
4. Intentional reimplantation.
5. Apicoectomy.
6. Root Amputation.
7. Apexification.
8. Retrograde filling.
9. Hemisection.
10. Pulp vitality tests.
11. Incomplete root canals.

Periodontal Services (Gum & Bone Treatment)

Periodontal Maintenance - A procedure that includes removal of bacteria from the gum pocket areas, scaling and polishing of the teeth, periodontal evaluation and gum pocket measurements for patients who have completed previous surgical or nonsurgical periodontal treatment.

LIMITATION: Any combination of this procedure and dental cleanings (see Diagnostic and Preventive section) is covered 2 times per calendar year.

Basic Non Surgical Periodontal Care - Treatment of diseases of the gingival (gums) and bone supporting the teeth.

- **Periodontal scaling & root planing** - Covered 1 time per 36 months if the tooth has a pocket depth of 4 millimeters or greater.
- **Full mouth debridement** - Covered 1 time per lifetime.

Complex Surgical Periodontal Care - Surgical treatment of diseases of the gingival (gums) and bone supporting the teeth. The following services are considered complex surgical periodontal services under this Certificate.

- **Gingivectomy/gingivoplasty;**
- **Gingival flap;**
- **Apically positioned flap;**
- **Osseous surgery;**
- **Bone replacement graft;**
- **Pedicle soft tissue graft;**
- **Free soft tissue graft;**
- **Subepithelial connective tissue graft;**
- **Soft tissue allograft;**
- **Combined connective tissue and double pedicle graft;**
- **Distal/proximal wedge - LIMITATION: Covered on natural teeth only**

LIMITATION: Only 1 complex surgical periodontal service is a benefit covered 36-month period per single tooth or multiple teeth in the same quadrant and only if the pocket depth of the tooth is 5 millimeters or greater.

EXCLUSIONS - Coverage is NOT provided for:

1. Procedures designed to enable prosthetic or restorative services to be performed such as crown lengthening.
2. Bacteriologic tests for determination of periodontal disease or pathologic agents.
3. The controlled release of therapeutic agents or biologic modifiers used to aid in soft tissue and osseous tissue regeneration.
4. Provisional splinting, temporary procedures or interim stabilization of teeth.
5. Analgesia, analgesic agents, anxiolysis, inhalation of nitrous oxide or therapeutic drug injections, drugs, or medicaments for non-surgical and surgical periodontal care, regardless of the method of administration.

Oral Surgery Services (Tooth, Tissue, or Bone Removal)

Complex Surgical Extractions

- Surgical removal of erupted tooth
- Surgical removal of impacted tooth
- Surgical removal of residual tooth roots

LIMITATION: Surgical removal of 3rd molars are only covered if the removal is associated with symptoms or oral pathology.

Other Complex Surgical Procedures

- Alveoloplasty
- Vestibuloplasty
- Removal of exostosis-per site
- Surgical reduction of osseous tuberosity

LIMITATION: The Other Complex Surgical Procedures are covered only when required to prepare for dentures and is a benefit covered once in a 60-month period.

Surgical Reduction of Fibrous Tuberosity - Covered 1 time per 6-months.

Adjunctive General Services

Intravenous Conscious Sedation, IV Sedation and General Anesthesia - Covered when performed in conjunction with complex surgical service.

LIMITATION: Intravenous conscious sedation, IV sedation and general anesthesia will not be covered when performed with non-surgical dental care.

Temporomandibular Joint Disorder (TMJ)

Dental treatment that is considered surgical and nonsurgical treatment of temporomandibular joint disorder (TMJ) and craniomandibular disorder, including splints, is subject to the coordination of benefits. A Pre-treatment Estimate of Benefits is recommended. NOTE: If you or your Dependents currently have medical insurance coverage, the claim must be first submitted to that medical insurance program. Any remaining costs after consideration under your medical insurance may be submitted to the Plan for further benefit (see Coordination of Benefits). You must submit a copy of the medical Explanation of Benefits (EOB) along with your claim to the Plan.

If you or your Dependents are not eligible for TMJ benefits under another insurance program, either medical or dental, Dental Services for TMJ will be covered under this Certificate within the noted Certificate limitations, maximums, Deductibles and payment percentages of treatment costs.

LIMITATIONS

1. Reconstructive Surgery benefits shall be provided for reconstructive surgery when such Dental Procedures are incidental to or follows surgery resulting from injury, illness or other diseases of the involved part, or when such Dental Procedure is performed on a covered Dependent child because of congenital disease or anomaly which has resulted in a functional defect as determined by the attending physician, however that such procedures are dental reconstructive surgical procedures.
2. Inpatient or outpatient dental expenses arising from dental treatment up to age 18, including orthodontic and oral surgery treatment, involved in the management of birth defects known as cleft lip and cleft palate.

For programs without orthodontic coverage: Dental orthodontic treatment not related to the management of the congenital condition of cleft lip and cleft palate is not covered under this Certificate.

For programs with orthodontic coverage: If coverage for the treatment of cleft lip or cleft palate is available under any other policy or contract of insurance, this Certificate shall be primary and the other policy or contract shall be secondary.

EXCLUSIONS - Coverage is NOT provided for:

1. Intravenous conscious sedation, IV sedation and general anesthesia when performed with non-surgical dental care.
2. Analgesia, analgesic agents, anxiolysis nitrous oxide, therapeutic drug injections, medicines, or drugs for non-surgical or surgical dental care, regardless of the method of administration.
3. Services or supplies that are medical in nature, including dental oral surgery services performed in a hospital.

4. Any artificial material implanted or grafted into or onto bone or soft tissue, including implant procedures and associated fixtures, or surgical removal of implants.
5. Implant maintenance or repair to an implant or implant abutment.
6. Surgical exposure of impacted or unerupted tooth for orthodontic reasons.
7. Any oral surgery except for simple and surgical extractions.
8. Surgical repositioning of teeth.
9. Inpatient or outpatient hospital expenses.
10. Cytology sample collection - Collection of oral cytology sample via scraping of the oral mucosa.

Major Restorative Services (Crowns, Inlays and Onlays)

Services performed to restore lost tooth structure as a result of decay or fracture

Gold foil restorations - Receive an amalgam (silver filling) benefit equal to the same number of surfaces and allowances.

LIMITATION: The patient must pay the difference in cost between the Maximum Allowed Amount for the Covered Services and optional treatment, plus any Deductible and/or Coinsurance for the covered benefit. Covered 1 time per 24-month period.

Inlays - Benefit shall equal an amalgam (silver) restoration for the same number of surfaces.

LIMITATION: If an inlay is performed to restore a posterior (back) tooth with a metal, porcelain, or any composite (white) based resin material, the patient must pay the difference in cost between the Maximum Allowed Amount for the Covered Service and optional treatment, plus any Deductible and/or Coinsurance for the Covered Service.

Pre-fabricated or Stainless Steel Crown - Covered 1 time per 60-month period for eligible Dependent children through the age of 18.

Onlays and/or Permanent Crowns - Covered 1 time per 7 year period per tooth for Members age 12 and older if the tooth has extensive loss of natural tooth structure due to decay or tooth fracture such that a restoration cannot be used to restore the tooth.

LIMITATION: Porcelain/ceramic substrate onlays/crowns – Benefits will be limited to the Maximum Allowed Amount for a porcelain to noble metal crown. The patient must pay the difference in cost between the allowed fee for the Covered Service and optional treatment, plus any Deductible and/or Coinsurance for the covered benefit.

Implant Crowns - See Prosthodontic Services.

Recent Inlay, Onlay and Crowns - Covered 6 months after initial placement.

Crown Repair - Covered 1 time per 12-month period per tooth when the submitted narrative from the treating Dentist supports the procedure.

Restorative cast post and core build-up, including 1 post per tooth and 1 pin per surface - Covered 1 time per 7 year period when necessary to retain an indirectly fabricated restoration due to extensive loss of actual tooth structure due to caries or fracture.

EXCLUSIONS - Coverage is NOT provided for:

1. Procedures designed to enable prosthetic or restorative services to be performed such as a crown lengthening.
2. Procedures designed to alter, restore or maintain occlusion, including but not limited to: increasing vertical dimension, replacing or stabilizing tooth structure lost by attrition, realignment of teeth, periodontal splinting and gnathologic recordings.
3. Services or supplies that have the primary purpose of improving the appearance of your teeth. This includes but is not limited to tooth whitening agents or tooth bonding and veneer covering of the teeth.
4. Placement or removal of sedative filling, base or liner used under a restoration.
5. Canal prep & fitting of preformed dowel & post.
6. Temporary, provisional or interim crown.
7. Occlusal procedures.
8. Onlays or permanent crowns when the tooth does not have decay, fracture or has been endodontically treated.

Prosthodontic Services- (Dentures, Partials, and Bridges)

Tissue Conditioning - Covered 1 time per 24-month period.

Recent Fixed Prosthetic - Covered 1 time per 12 months.

Reline and Rebase - Covered 1 per 24-month period:

- when the prosthetic appliance (denture, partial or bridge) is the permanent prosthetic appliance; and
- only after 6 months following initial placement of the prosthetic appliance (denture, partial or bridge).

Repairs, Replacement of Broken Artificial Teeth, Replacement of Broken Clasp(s) - Covered 1 per 6-month period:

- when the prosthetic appliance (denture, partial or bridge) is the permanent prosthetic appliance;
- only after 6 months following initial placement of the prosthetic appliance (denture, partial or bridge); and
- when the submitted narrative from the treating Dentist supports the procedure.

Denture Adjustments - Covered 2 times per 12-month period:

- when the denture is the permanent prosthetic appliance; and
- only after 6 months following initial placement of the denture.

Partial and Bridge Adjustments - Covered 2 times per 24-month period:

- when the partial or bridge is the permanent prosthetic appliance; and
- only after 6 months following initial placement of the partial or bridge.

Removable Prosthetic Services (Dentures and Partials) - Covered 1 time per 7 year period:

- for Members age 16 or older;
- for the replacement of extracted (removed) permanent teeth;

- if 7 years have elapsed since the last benefited removable prosthetic appliance (denture or partial) and the existing denture or partial needs replacement because it cannot be repaired or adjusted.

Fixed Prosthetic Services (Bridge) - Covered 1 time per 7 year period:

- for Members age 16 or older;
- for the replacement of extracted (removed) permanent teeth;
- if no more than 3 teeth are missing in the same arch;
- a natural, healthy, sound tooth is present to serve as the anterior and posterior retainer;
- no other missing teeth in the same arch that have not been replaced with a removable partial denture;
- if none of the individual units of the bridge has been benefited previously as a crown or cast restoration in the last 7 years;
- if 7 years have elapsed since the last benefited removable prosthetic appliance (bridge) and the existing bridge needs replacement because it cannot be repaired or adjusted.

LIMITATION: If there are multiple missing teeth, a removable partial denture may be the benefit since it would be the least costly, commonly performed course of treatment. Please refer to the Optional Treatment Plans section. The optional benefit is subject to all contract limitations on the Covered Service.

Implant Supported Fixed and Removable Prosthetic (Crowns, Bridges, Partials and Dentures) - A restoration that is retained, supported and stabilized by an implant. Implants and related services are NOT covered.

LIMITATION: This procedure receives an optional treatment benefit equal to the least expensive professionally acceptable treatment. The additional fee is the patient's responsibility. For example: A single crown to restore one open space will be given the benefit of a Fixed Partial Denture Pontic (one unit). The optional benefit is subject to all contract limitations on the Covered Service.

EXCLUSIONS - Coverage is NOT provided for:

1. The replacement of an existing partial denture with a bridge.
2. Initial installation of an implant(s), full or partial dentures or fixed bridgework to replace a tooth (teeth) which was extracted prior to becoming a Member under this Certificate. **EXCEPTION:** This exclusion shall not apply for any person who has been continuously covered under this Certificate for more than 24 months.
3. Coverage for congenitally missing teeth. **EXCEPTION:** This exclusion shall not apply for any person who has been continuously covered under this Certificate for more than 24 months.
4. Interim removable or fixed prosthetic appliances (dentures, partials or bridges).
5. Pediatric removable or fixed prosthetic appliances (dentures, partials or bridges).
6. Additional, elective or enhanced prosthodontic procedures including but not limited to connector bar(s), stress breakers, and precision attachments.
7. Procedures designed to enable prosthetic or restorative services to be performed such as a crown lengthening.
8. Procedures designed to alter, restore or maintain occlusion, including but not limited to: increasing vertical dimension, replacing or stabilizing tooth structure lost by attrition, realignment of teeth, periodontal splinting and gnathologic recordings.
9. Services or supplies that have the primary purpose of improving the appearance of your teeth.
10. Placement or removal of sedative filling, base or liner used under a restoration.

11. Any artificial material implanted or grafted into or onto bone or soft tissue, including implant procedures and associated fixtures, or surgical removal of implants.
12. Implant maintenance or repair to an implant or implant abutment.

Coverage shall be limited to the least expensive professionally acceptable treatment.

Enhanced benefit for Members who are enrolled in the BCBSGa Care Management program

Enhanced dental benefits are available for any member enrolled in the BCBSGa Care Management program who is in active management with a BCBSGa Care Manager for the following conditions cancer with chemotherapy, head and neck cancer with chemotherapy and/or radiation, solid organ transplant, bone marrow transplant, cardiac conditions (e.g. valve conditions). The enhanced benefits include a maximum of three of the following procedures:

- Prophylaxis; or
- Periodontal Maintenance

Please note enrollment alone does not qualify you for the benefit. You must be in active management of your case with a BCBSGa Care Manager.

EXCLUSIONS

This section indicates items which are excluded and are not considered Covered Services. This information is provided as an aid to identify certain common items which may be misconstrued as Covered Services. This list of exclusions is in no way a limitation upon, or a complete listing of, such items considered to be Non-Covered Services. We are the final authority for determining if services or treatments are Covered Services.

Coverage is NOT provided for:

- a) Dental services which a Covered Person would be entitled to receive for a nominal charge or without charge if this Plan were not in force under any Worker's Compensation Law, Federal Medicaid program, or Federal Veteran's Administration program. However, if a Covered Person receives a bill or direct charge for dental services under any governmental program, then this exclusion shall not apply. Benefits under this Plan will not be reduced or denied because dental services are rendered to a subscriber or dependent who is eligible for or receiving Medical Assistance.
- b) Dental Services or health care services not specifically covered under the Group Contract (including any hospital charges, prescription drug charges and Dental Services or supplies that are medical in nature).
- c) New or unproven dental techniques or services may be denied until there is an established scientific basis for recommendation.
- d) Dental Services performed for cosmetic purposes.
- e) Dental Services completed prior to the date the Member became eligible for coverage.
- f) Services of anesthesiologists.
- g) Anesthesia Services, except by a Dentist or by an employee of the Dentist when the service is performed in his or her office and by a Dentist or an employee of the Dentist who is certified in their profession to provide anesthesia services.
- h) Analgesia, analgesic agents, anxiolysis nitrous oxide, therapeutic drug injections, medicines, or drugs for non-surgical or surgical dental care. NOTE: Intravenous conscious sedation is eligible as a separate benefit when performed in conjunction with complex surgical services.
- i) Dental Services performed other than by a licensed Dentist, licensed physician, his or her employees.
- j) Dental Services, appliances or restorations that are necessary to alter, restore or maintain occlusion, including but not limited to: increasing vertical dimension, replacing or stabilizing tooth structure lost by attrition, realignment of teeth, periodontal splinting and gnathologic recordings.
- k) Any artificial material implanted or grafted into or onto bone or soft tissue, including implant procedures and associated fixtures, or surgical removal of implants.
- l) Implant maintenance or repair to an implant or implant abutment.
- m) Services or supplies that have the primary purpose of improving the appearance of your teeth. This includes but is not limited to tooth whitening agents or tooth bonding and veneer covering of the teeth.
- n) Orthodontic treatment services, unless specified in this Certificate as a covered Dental Service benefit.
- o) Case presentations, office visits and consultations.
- p) Incomplete, interim or temporary services.
- q) Initial installation of an implant(s), full or partial dentures or fixed bridgework to replace a tooth (teeth) which was extracted prior to becoming a Member under this Certificate. EXCEPTION: This exclusion shall not apply for any person who has been continuously covered under this Certificate for more than 24 months.

- r) Corrections of congenital conditions during the first 24 months of continuous coverage under this Certificate.
- s) Athletic mouth guards, enamel microabrasion and odontoplasty.
- t) Retreatment or additional treatment necessary to correct or relieve the results of treatment previously benefited under the Certificate.
- u) Procedures designed to enable prosthetic or restorative services to be performed such as a crown lengthening.
- v) Bacteriologic tests.
- w) Cytology sample collection.
- x) Separate services billed when they are an inherent component of a Dental Service.
- y) Pediatric removable or fixed prosthetic appliances (dentures, partials or bridges).
- z) Interim or temporary removable or fixed prosthetic appliances (dentures, partials or bridges).
- aa) Services for the replacement of an existing partial denture with a bridge.
- bb) Additional, elective or enhanced prosthodontic procedures including but not limited to, connector bar(s), stress breakers and precision attachments.
- cc) Provisional splinting, temporary procedures or interim stabilization.
- dd) Placement or removal of sedative filling, base or liner used under a restoration.
- ee) Services or supplies that are medical in nature, including dental oral surgery services performed in a hospital.
- ff) Oral hygiene instruction.
- gg) Occlusal procedures.
- hh) Any charges which exceed the Maximum Allowed Amount.
- ii) Pulp vitality tests.
- jj) Adjunctive diagnostic tests.
- kk) Diagnostic casts.
- ll) Amalgam or composite restorations placed for preventive or cosmetic purposes.
- mm) Incomplete root canals.
- nn) Cone beam images.
- oo) Anatomical crown exposure.
- pp) Temporary anchorage devices.
- qq) Sinus augmentation.
- rr) Restorations placed for preventive or cosmetic purposes.
- ss) Inlays, onlays and crowns placed for preventive or cosmetic purposes.
- tt) Crowns and indirectly fabricated restorations (inlays and onlays) are not covered unless the tooth is damaged by decay or fracture with loss of tooth structure to the point it cannot be restored with an amalgam or resin restoration.
- uu) Recement Space Maintainers.
- vv) Consultations.
- ww) Brush biopsy.

xx) Orthodontic Services.

Limitations

- a) Optional Treatment Plans: in all cases in which there are alternative treatment plans carrying different costs, the decision as to which course of treatment to be followed shall be solely that of the Member and the Dentist; however, the benefits payable hereunder will be made only for the applicable percentage of the least costly, commonly performed course of treatment, with the balance of the treatment cost remaining the payment responsibility of the Member.
- b) Reconstructive Surgery: benefits shall be provided for reconstructive surgery when such Dental Procedure is incidental to or follows surgery resulting from injury, sickness or other diseases of the involved part, or when such Dental Procedure is performed on a covered Dependent child because of congenital disease or anomaly which has resulted in a functional defect as determined by the attending physician, however that such services are dental reconstructive surgical services.
- c) Benefits for inpatient or outpatient expenses arising from Dental Services up to age 18, including orthodontic and oral surgery services, involved in the management of birth defects known as cleft lip and cleft palate. For programs without orthodontic coverage: Dental orthodontic services not related to the management of the congenital condition of cleft lip and cleft palate is not covered under this dental benefit program. For programs with orthodontic coverage: If coverage for the treatment of cleft lip or cleft palate is available under any other policy or contract of insurance, this Certificate shall be primary and the other policy or contract shall be secondary.
- d) Some procedures are an integral part of another completed service covered by the Certificate. If the Dentist bills these procedures separately from the covered service, the Plan will disallow coverage for the separately billed procedures. You will then be responsible for any charge for the separately billed procedures and must pay your Dentist directly.

Optional Treatment Plans

In all cases in which there are alternative treatment plans carrying different costs, the decision as to which course of treatment to be followed shall be solely that of the Member and the Dentist; however, the benefits payable hereunder will be made only for the applicable percentage of the least costly, commonly performed course of treatment, with the balance of the treatment cost remaining the payment responsibility of the Member.

GENERAL PROVISIONS

Entire Contract

This Certificate, the Group Dental Contract, the Group application, any riders, endorsements or attachments, and the individual applications of the Subscriber and Dependents, if any, constitute the entire Contract between the Plan and the Group and as of the Effective Date, supersede all other agreements between the parties. Any and all statements made to the Plan by the Group and any and all statements made to the Group by the Plan are representations and not warranties, and no such statement, unless it is contained in a written application for coverage under this Certificate, shall be used in defense to a claim under this Certificate.

Form or Content of Certificate

No agent or employee of the Plan is authorized to change the form or content of this Certificate. Such changes can be made only through an endorsement authorized and signed by an officer of the Plan.

Relationship of Parties (Plan - Participating Dentists)

The relationship between the Plan and Participating Dentists is an independent contractor relationship. Participating Dentists are not agents or employees of the Plan, nor is the Plan, or any employee of the Plan, an employee or agent of Participating Dentists.

The Plan shall not be responsible for any claim or demand on account of damages arising out of, or in any manner connected with, any injuries suffered by a Member while receiving care from any Participating Dentist or in any Participating Dentist's facilities.

Your Participating Dentist's agreement for providing Covered Services may include financial incentives or risk sharing relationships related to provision of services or referrals to other Providers, including Participating Dentists and Non-Participating Dentists. If you have questions regarding such incentives or risk sharing relationships, please contact your Provider or the Plan.

Not Liable for Provider Acts or Omissions

The Plan is not responsible for the actual care you receive from any person. This Certificate does not give anyone any claim, right, or cause of action against the Plan based on what a Provider of dental care, services or supplies, does or does not do.

Identification Card

Your Identification Card identifies the dental program in which you are enrolled. When you receive care from a Participating or Non-Participating Dentist, you must show your Identification Card. Possession of an Identification Card confers no right to services or other benefits under this Certificate. To be entitled to such services or benefits you must be a Member on whose behalf all applicable Premiums under this Certificate have been paid. If you receive services or other benefits to which you are not then entitled under the provisions of this Certificate you will be responsible for the actual cost of such services or benefits.

Circumstances Beyond the Control of the Plan

In the event of circumstances not within the control of the Plan, 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 Plan, disability of a significant part of a Participating Dentist's personnel or similar causes, or the rendering of dental care services provided under this Certificate is delayed or rendered impractical, the Plan shall make a good-faith effort to arrange for an alternative method of providing coverage. In such event, the Plan and Participating Dentists shall render dental care services provided under this Certificate

insofar as practical, and according to their best judgment; but the Plan and Participating Dentists shall incur no liability or obligation for delay, or failure to provide or arrange for services if such failure or delay is caused by such an event.

Employer Premiums

Your employer is responsible for paying a monthly claims incurred and a monthly administrative fee for this Plan. Your employer is allowed a 31 day grace period to pay these costs. During this grace period, coverage will continue unless We receive a written notice of termination from your employer. We will notify your employer at least 15 days prior to terminating the Group Contract for non-payment of a monthly Premium. BCBSGa is not responsible for costs you incur during any period (other than the grace period discussed above) when your employer fails to pay the claims and administrative costs in full.

Coordination of Benefits

Special COB rules apply when you or members of your family have additional dental care coverage through other group dental plans, including:

- group insurance plans, including other BCBSGa plans;
- labor management trustee plans, union welfare plans, employer welfare plans, employer organization plans, or employee benefit organization plans; and
- coverage under any tax-supported or government program to the extent permitted by law.

All benefits provided under this agreement are subject to this provision. However, benefits will not be increased by this COB provision. This provision applies if the total payment under this agreement absent this provision and under any other contract is greater than the value of covered services.

Primary coverage and secondary coverage. When a member is also enrolled in another group dental plan, one coverage will pay benefits first (be primary) and the other will pay second (be secondary). The primary coverage will pay benefits first. The decision of which coverage will be primary or secondary is made using benefit determination rules.

When we provide secondary coverage, we first calculate the amount that would have been payable had we been primary. Then we coordinate benefits so that the combination of the primary plan's payment and our payment does not exceed the amount we would have paid had it been primary.

Definition of "other contract". Other contract means any arrangement providing dental care benefits or services through:

- group or blanket insurance coverage;
- group BCBSGa, health maintenance organization, and other prepayment coverage;
- coverage under labor management trustee plans, union welfare plans, employer organization plans, or employee benefit organization plans; and
- coverage under any tax supported or government program to the extent permitted by law.

If there is more than one other contract, this provision will apply separately to each. If another contract has a coordination of benefits provision that applies to only part of its services, the terms of this paragraph will be applied separately to that part and to any other part.

BCBSGa will not determine the existence of any other contract, or the amount of benefits payable under any other contract except this agreement. The payment of benefits under this agreement shall be affected by the benefits payable under other contracts only when BCBSGa is given information about other contracts.

If the rules of this agreement and the other contract both provide that this agreement is primary, then this agreement is primary. When BCBSGa determines that this agreement is secondary under the rules described below, benefits will be coordinated so that our payment plus the other contract's payment will not exceed BCBSGa *maximum allowed amount* for *covered services*.

Order of Benefit Determination Rules

1. Pediatric Dental Coordination of Benefits (COB). If pediatric dental Essential Health Benefits are included as part of the medical plan, the medical plan will be the primary coverage and any standalone dental plan will be secondary.
2. If you have two dental plans, the plan which includes pediatric dental Essential Health Benefits will be the primary coverage.
3. If neither of the above applies, the Order of Benefit Determination Rules below will determine coordination of benefits.
4. If you are covered under one plan as a primary insured and another plan as a dependent, the plan under which you are the primary insured will be the primary coverage.
5. As required by law, if you or a dependent also has coverage under Medicare, this plan will always be primary.
6. For children who are covered under both parents' contracts, the following will apply:
 - a. The contract of the parent whose birthday occurs earlier in the calendar year will be primary.
 - b. When parents are separated or divorced, the following special rules will apply:
 - i. If the parent with custody has not remarried, that parent's contract will be primary.
 - ii. If the parent with custody has remarried, that parent's contract will be primary and the stepparent's contract will be secondary. The benefits of the contract of the parent without custody will be determined last.
 - iii. The rules listed above may be changed by a court decree:
 - A court decree that orders one of the parents to be responsible for health care expenses will cause that parent's contract to be primary, but only if the entity providing the benefits in this case is notified of the court decree before applying benefits.
 - If the court decree does not state that one of the parents is responsible for health care expenses and both parents have joint custody, the contract of the parent whose birthday occurs earlier in the calendar year will be primary.
7. If the other contract includes the gender rule, then that rule will be used instead of the rules listed above. The gender rule states that the father's contract will be primary for the children.
8. If there are situations not covered above, then the contract that has been in effect the longest period of time (without interruption) will be primary. There is an exception to this rule. The contract that covers a working employee (or his dependent) will be primary. The contract of a laid-off employee, a retired employee, or a person on continuation of coverage options under federal or state law will be secondary.
9. If another contract has different rules from those listed above other than the gender rule, that contract will be primary.

If payments should have been made under this agreement under the rules of this provision, but they have been made under any other contract, BCBSGa may pay an entity (provider, other carrier, etc.) that has paid any amounts it determines will meet the intent of this provision. These amounts shall be deemed to be benefits paid under this agreement. Upon this payment, BCBSGa will no longer be liable under this agreement.

Relationship of Parties (Group-Member-Plan)

Neither the Group nor any Member is the agent or representative of the Plan.

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

Conformity with Law

Any provision of this Certificate which is in conflict with the laws of the state in which the Group Dental Contract is issued, or with federal law, is hereby automatically amended to conform with the minimum requirements of such laws.

Modifications

This Certificate allows the Group to make the Plan coverage available to eligible Members. However, this Certificate shall be subject to amendment, modification, and termination in accordance with any of its provisions, the Group Dental Contract, or by mutual agreement between the Plan and the Group without the permission or involvement of any Member. Changes will not be effective until 30 days after We provide written notice to the Group about the change. By accepting the Plan benefits, all Members who are legally capable of entering into a contract, and the legal representatives of all Members that are incapable of entering into a contract, agree to all terms, conditions, and provisions in this Certificate. Upon cancellation of the Plan, Covered Members of the Group will have to find alternative coverage as the Plan no longer exists.

Legal Action

You may not take legal action against Us to receive benefits:

- Earlier than 60 days after We receive the claim; or
- Later than three years after the date the claim is required to be furnished to Us or the date of service.

You must exhaust the Plan's Grievance and Appeal Procedures before filing a lawsuit or other legal action of any kind against Us.

Reservation of Discretionary Authority

The Plan, or anyone acting on Our behalf, shall determine the administration of benefits and eligibility for participation in such a manner that has a rational relationship to the terms set forth herein. However, We, or anyone acting on Our behalf, has complete discretion to determine the administration of your benefits. Our determination shall be final and conclusive and may include, without limitation, determination of whether the services, care, treatment, or supplies are covered. However, a Member may utilize all applicable Grievance and Appeals Procedures.

The Plan, or anyone acting on Our behalf, shall have all the powers necessary or appropriate to enable it to carry out its duties in connection with the operation and administration of the Certificate. This includes, without limitation, the power to construe the Group Dental Contract, to determine all questions arising under the Certificate, to resolve Member Grievances and Appeals and to make, establish and amend the rules, regulations and procedures with regard to the interpretation and administration of the provisions of this Certificate. However, these powers shall be exercised in such a manner that has reasonable relationship to the provisions of the Group Dental Contract, the Certificate, Provider agreements, and applicable state or federal laws. A specific limitation or exclusion will override more general benefit language.

Acknowledgement of Understand

By accepting this Certificate, you expressly acknowledge your understanding that this Certificate constitutes a benefit plan provided by BCBSGa, which is an independent corporation operating under a license from the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association, an association of independent Blue Cross and Blue Shield Plans. BCBSGa is not contracting as the agent of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association. You also acknowledge that you have not accepted this Certificate based upon representations by any person other than BCBSGa, and that no person, entity or organization other than BCBSGa will be held accountable or liable to you for any of BCBSGa's obligations created under this Certificate. These acknowledgements in no way create any additional obligations whatsoever on the part of BCBSGa other than those set forth in this Certificate.

CLAIM AND APPEAL PROCEDURES

All claims should be submitted within 12 months of the date of service. An initial benefit determination on your claim will be made immediately or within 15 business days after receipt of your claim. You will receive written notification of this benefit determination which will either include payment of the claim or a notice which states the reasons the claim was not paid. You will also be provided with a written itemization of any documents or information needed to process the claims or any portion thereof that are not being paid. When all of the necessary information is received We will have an additional 15 business days within which to process and either mail payment for the claims or in a notice deny it, in whole or in part. If the claim, in whole or in part is denied, you or your authorized representative will be provided with the reasons of such denial. In that case, We will notify you prior to the expiration of the initial 15-day period of the circumstances requiring an extension and the date by which We expect to render a decision. If the extension is necessary to obtain additional information from you, the notice will describe the specific information We need, and you will have 45 days from the receipt of the notice to provide the information. Without complete information, your claim will be denied. In addition, We shall be responsible to pay interest in the amount of 18% per annum on the benefits due if We fail to respond within the time frames stated above.

Appeals

In the event that We deny a claim in whole or in part, you have a right to a full and fair review. Your request to review a claim must be in writing and submitted within 180 days from the claim denial. We will make a benefit determination within 60 days following receipt of your appeal.

Your appeal must include your name, your identification number, group number, claim number, and dentist's name as shown on the Explanation of Benefits. Send your appeal to:

Blue Cross Blue Shield of Georgia
Attention: Appeals Unit
PO Box 1122
Minneapolis, MN 55440-1122

You may submit written comments, documents, or other information in support of your appeal. You will also be provided, upon request and free of charge, reasonable access to and copies of all relevant records used in making the decision. The review will take into account all information regarding the denied or reduced claim (whether or not presented or available at the initial determination) and the initial determination will not be given any weight.

The review will be conducted by someone different from the original decision-makers and without deference to any prior decision. Because all benefit determinations are based on a preset schedule of Dental Services eligible under your plan, claims are not reviewed to determine dental necessity or appropriateness. In all cases where professional judgment is required to determine if a procedure is covered under your plan's schedule of benefits, We will consult with a dental professional who has appropriate training and experience. In such a case, this professional will not be the same individual whose advice was obtained in connection with the initial adverse benefit determination (nor a subordinate of any such individual). In addition, We will identify any dental professional whose advice was obtained on Our behalf, without regard to whether the advice was relied upon in making the benefit determination. If, after review, We continue to deny the claim, you will be notified in writing.

Right of Examination

BCBSGa may, at its own expense, have the opportunity to examine you when and as often as it may reasonably require during the pendency of a claim under this plan. It may also have the right to make an autopsy in case of death, if an autopsy is not prohibited by law.

Authorized Representative

You may authorize another person to represent you and with whom you want Us to communicate regarding specific claims or an appeal. However, no authorization is required for your treating dentist to make a claim or appeal on your behalf. The authorization form must be in writing, signed by you, and include all the information required in Our Authorized Representative form. This form is available at Our web site or by calling Customer Service Department at (877) 604-2158. You can revoke the authorized representative at any time, and you can authorize only one person as your representative at a time.

BLUE CROSS AND BLUE SHIELD OF GEORGIA

FOR CLAIMS AND ELIGIBILITY

P.O. Box 1115
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55440-1115
(877) 604-2158

FOR APPEALS

P.O. Box 1122
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55440-1122

Approved 7/2017 (PDF only)