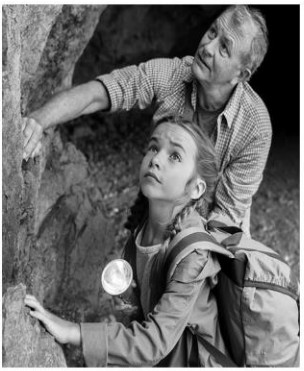
Administered by:

BlueCross BlueShield of Illinois

A Division of Health Care Service Corporation, a Mutual Legal Reserve Company








Your Health Care Benefits Program

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Illinois, a Division of Health Care Service Corporation, a Mutual Legal Reserve Company, an Independent Licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association

State of Illinois

269094

Local Government Health Plan LGHP

A message from

State of Illinois

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

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

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

Sincerely,

State of Illinois

NOTICE

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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BENEFIT HIGHLIGHTS

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

UTILIZATION MANGEMENT AND REVIEW PROGRAM	A special program designed to assist you in determining the course of treatment that will maximize your benefits described in this benefit booklet
Lifetime Maximum for all Benefits	Unlimited
Individual Deductible	
— Blue Choice Options Provider	None
— Participating Provider	$400 per benefit period
— Out-of-Network and Non-Administrator Provider	$600 per benefit period
Individual Out-of-Pocket Expense Limit **(does not apply to all services)**	
— Blue Choice Options Provider	$7,250 per benefit period
— Participating Provider	$7,250 per benefit period
— Out-of-Network	None
— Non-Administrator Provider	No limit
Family Out-of-Pocket Expense Limit	
— Blue Choice Options Provider	$13,750 per benefit period
— Participating Provider	$13,750 per benefit period
— Out-of-Network	None
— Non-Administrator Provider	No limit
Chiropractic and Osteopathic Manipulation	
Benefit Maximum	30 visits per benefit period
Naprapathic Service	
Benefit Maximum	20 visits per benefit period
Physical Therapy Services	
Benefit Maximum*	60 visits per benefit period
Occupational Therapy	
Benefit Maximum*	60 visits per benefit period

Speech Therapy Benefit Maximum*	60 visits per benefit period
Temporomandibular Joint Dysfunction and Related Disorders Benefit Maximum	No maximum
Craniomandibular Appliances Maximum	100% after Deductible

HOSPITAL BENEFITS

Payment level for Covered Services received from a **Blue Choice Options Provider:**	
— Inpatient Deductible	$350 per admission
— Inpatient Covered Services	100% of the Eligible Charge, no deductible
— Outpatient Covered Services	100% of the Eligible Charge, no deductible
— Outpatient Surgery	$300 Copayment, then 100% of the Eligible Charge, no deductible
— Urgent Care	$20 Copayment, then 100% of the Eligible Charge, no deductible
Payment level for Covered Services received from a **Participating Provider:**	
— Inpatient Deductible	$400 per admission
— Inpatient Covered Services	80% of the Eligible Charge
— Outpatient Covered Services	80% of the Eligible Charge
— Outpatient Surgery	$300 Copayment, then 80% of the Eligible Charge
— Urgent Care	80% of the Eligible Charge
Payment level for Covered Services received from an **Out-of-Network Provider:**	
— Inpatient Deductible	$500 per admission
— Inpatient Covered Services	50% of the Eligible Charge

— Outpatient Covered Services	50% of the Eligible Charge
— Outpatient Surgery	$300 Copayment, then 50% of the Eligible Charge
— Urgent Care	50% of the Eligible Charge
Payment level for Covered Services from a **Non-Administrator**	50% of the Eligible Charge
Hospital Emergency Care	
— Payment level for Emergency Accident Care received either Out-of-Network or from a Non-Administrator Provider	100% of the Eligible Charge, no Deductible
— Payment level for Emergency Medical Care received either Out-of-Network or from a Non-Administrator Provider	100% of the Eligible Charge, no Deductible
Emergency Room	$300 Copayment (waived if admitted to the Hospital as an Inpatient immediately following emergency treatment)
PHYSICIAN BENEFITS	
Payment level for Surgical/ Medical Covered Services	
— **Blue Choice Options Provider**	100% of the Maximum Allowance. no deductible
— **Participating Provider**	80% of the Maximum Allowance
— **Out-of-Network Provider**	50% of the Maximum Allowance
Payment level for Covered Services received in a Professional Provider's Office	
— **Blue Choice Options Provider** (other than a specialist)	$40 per visit, then 100% of the Maximum Allowance, no deductible

— **Blue Choice Options Provider** (Specialist)	$45 per visit, then 100% of the Maximum Allowance, no deductible
Payment level for Emergency Accident Care when rendered by a Physician	100% of the Maximum Allowance, no deductible
Payment level for Emergency Medical Care when rendered by a Physician	100% of the Maximum Allowance, no deductible

OTHER COVERED SERVICES

Payment level	80% of the Eligible Charge or Maximum Allowance
Hearing Aids	Benefits for one Hearing Aid will be covered for each ear every 36 months

TELEHEALTH AND TELEMEDICINE

Payment level for Telehealth Services

— Participating Provider (other than a specialist)	80% of the Maximum Allowance
— Participating Provider (Specialist)	80% of the Maximum Allowance
— Non-Participating Provider	50% of the Maximum Allowance

Payment level for Telehealth Services for the treatment of Mental Illness

— Participating Provider (other than a specialist)	80% of the Maximum Allowance
— Non-Participating Provider	50% of the Maximum Allowance

*BENEFITS FOR AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER(S) WILL NOT APPLY TOWARDS AND ARE NOT SUBJECT TO ANY PHYSICAL, SPEECH OR OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY VISITS MAXIMUM.

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

DEFINITIONS SECTION

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

A1C TESTING....means blood sugar level testing used to diagnose prediabetes, type I diabetes, and type II diabetes, and to monitor management of blood sugar levels.

ACUPUNCTURIST.....means a duly licensed acupuncturist operating within the scope of their license.

ACUTE TREATMENT SERVICES.....means a 24-hour medically supervised addiction treatment that provides evaluation and withdrawal management and may include biopsychosocial assessment, individual and group counseling, psychoeducational groups, and discharge planning.

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

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

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

ADVANCED PRACTICE NURSE.....means Certified Clinical Nurse Specialist, Certified Nurse-Midwife, Certified Nurse Practitioner or Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist operating within the scope of their certification.

AMBULANCE TRANSPORTATION.....means a Medically Necessary local transportation service in specially equipped certified ground and air transportation. Options from your home, scene of accident or medical emergency to a Hospital, between Hospital and Hospital, between Hospital and Skilled Nursing Facility or from a Skilled Nursing Facility or Hospital to your home. If there are no facilities in the local area equipped to provide the care needed, Ambulance Transportation then means the transportation service to the closest facility that can provide the necessary service. Ambulance Transportation provided primarily for the convenience of you, your family/caregivers or

Physician, or the transferring facility, is not considered Medically Necessary and is not covered under this health care plan.

AMBULANCE TRANSPORTATION ELIGIBLE CHARGE.....means i) for ambulance providers that bill for Ambulance Transportation services through a Participating Hospital the Ambulance Transportation Eligible Charge is the applicable ADP, and ii) for all other ambulance providers, the Ambulance Transportation Eligible Charge is such provider's Billed Charge.

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

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

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

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

APPROVED CLINICAL TRIAL.....means a phase I, phase II, phase III or phase IV clinical trial that is conducted in relation to the preventive, detection or treatment of cancer or other life-threatening disease or condition and is one of the following:

(i) A federally funded or approved trial,

(ii) A clinical trial conducted under an FDA experimental/investigational new drug application, or

(iii) A drug that is exempt from the requirement of an FDA experimental/investigational new drug application.

AUDIOLOGIST.....means a duly licensed Audiologist operating within the scope of their license.

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

A "Non-Participating Audiologist" means an Audiologist who does not have a written agreement with the Claim Administrator or another Blue Cross and/or

Blue Shield Plan to provide Covered Services to you at the time Covered Services are rendered.

AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER(S).....means pervasive developmental disorders as defined in the most recent edition of the *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders*, including autism, Asperger's disorder and pervasive developmental disorders not otherwise specified.

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

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PRACTITIONER.....means a Physician or Professional Provider who is duly licensed to render services for Mental Illness or Substance Use Disorders and is operating within the scope of such license.

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH UNIT.....means a unit established to assist in the administration of Mental Illness and Substance Use Disorder Treatment benefits, including Prior Authorization, Emergency Mental Illness or Substance Use Disorder Admission Review and length of stay/service review for Inpatient Hospital admissions and/or review of Outpatient services for the treatment of Mental Illness and Substance Use Disorder.

BILLED CHARGES.....means the total gross amounts billed by Providers to the Claim Administrator on a Claim, which constitutes the usual retail price that the Provider utilizes to bill patients or any other party that may be responsible for payment of the services rendered without regard to any payor, discount or reimbursement arrangement that may be applicable to any particular patient. This list of retail prices is also sometimes described in the health care industry as a "chargemaster."

BIOMARKER TESTING.....means the analysis of tissue, blood, or fluid biospecimen for the presence of a biomarker, including, but not limited to singly-analyte tests, multi-plex panel tests, and partial or whole genome sequencing.

BLUE CHOICE OPTIONS.....means a network of selected Providers established by the Claim Administrator.

CARE COORDINATION.....means organized, information-driven patient care activities intended to facilitate the appropriate responses to participant's health care needs cross the continuum of care.

CARE COORDINATION FEE.....means a fixed amount paid by a Blue Cross and/or Blue Shield plan to Providers.

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

(i) is a graduate of an approved school of nursing and holds a current license as a registered nurse and is operating within the scope of such license; and

(ii) is a graduate of an advanced practice nursing program.

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

(i) is a graduate of an approved school of nursing and holds a current license as a registered nurse and is operating within the scope of such license; and

(ii) is a graduate of a program of nurse-midwives accredited by the American College of Nurse Midwives or its predecessor.

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

(i) is a graduate of an approved school of nursing and holds a current license as a registered nurse and is operating within the scope of such license; and

(ii) is a graduate of an advanced practice nursing program.

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

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

CHIROPRACTOR.....means a duly licensed chiropractor and is operating within the scope of their license.

CIVIL UNION.....means a legal relationship between two persons of either the same or opposite sex, established pursuant to or as otherwise recognized by the Illinois Religious Freedom Protection and Civil Union Act.

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

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

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

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

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

CLINICAL PROFESSIONAL COUNSELOR.....means a duly licensed clinical professional counselor operating within the scope of their license.

CLINICAL SOCIAL WORKER.....means a duly licensed clinical social worker operating within the scope of their license.

CLINICAL STABILIZATION SERVICES.....means a 24-hour treatment, usually following acute treatment services for Substance Use Disorder, which may include intensive education and counseling regarding the nature of addiction and its consequences, relapse prevention, outreach to families and significant others, and aftercare planning for individuals beginning to engage in recovery from addiction.

CLINICIAN.....means a person operating within the scope of their license, registration or certification in the clinical practice or medicine, psychiatry, psychology, or behavior analysis.

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

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

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

CONGENITAL OR GENETIC DISORDER.....means a disorder that includes, but is not limited to, hereditary disorders. Congenital or Genetic Disorders may also include, but is not limited to, Autism or an Autism Spectrum Disorder, cerebral palsy, and other disorders resulting from early childhood illness, trauma, or injury.

CONTRACTED PROVIDER.....means a Participating Provider and a Participating Professional Provider, collectively.

COORDINATED HOME CARE PROGRAM.....means an organized skilled patient care program in which care is provided in the home. Care may be provided by a Hospital's licensed home health department or by other licensed home health agencies. You must be homebound (that is, unable to leave home without

assistance and requiring supportive devices or special transportation) and you must require Skilled Nursing Service on an intermittent basis under the direction of your Physician, a Physician Assistant who has been authorized by a Physician to prescribe those services, or an advanced practice nurse with a collaborating agreement with a Physician that delegates that authority. This program includes physical, occupational and speech therapists, and necessary medical supplies. The program does not include and is not intended to provide benefits for Private Duty Nursing Service or Custodial Care Service. It also does not cover services for activities of daily living (personal hygiene, cleaning, cooking, etc.).

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(i) A group health plan.

(ii) Health insurance coverage for medical care under any hospital or medical service policy plan, hospital or medical service plan contract, or HMO contract offered by a health insurance issuer.

(iii) Medicare (Parts A or B of Title XVIII of the Social Security Act).

(iv) Medicaid (Title XIX of the Social Security Act).

(v) Medical care for members and certain former members of the uniformed services and their dependents.

(vi) A medical care program of the Indian Health Service or of a tribal organization.

(vii) A State health benefits risk pool.

(viii) A health plan offered under the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program.

(ix) A public health plan established or maintained by a State or any political subdivision of a State, the U.S. government, or a foreign country.

(x) A health plan under Section 5(e) of the Peace Corps Act.

(xi) State Children's Health Insurance Program (Title XXI of the Social Security Act).

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

DEDUCTIBLE.....means the amount of expense that you must incur in Covered Services before benefits are provided.

DENTIST.....means a duly licensed dentist operating within the scope of their license.

DIAGNOSTIC MAMMOGRAM.....means a mammogram obtained using Diagnostic Mammography.

DIAGNOSTIC MAMMOGRAPHY.....means a method of screening that is designed to evaluate an abnormality in a breast, including an abnormality seen or suspected on a screening mammogram or a subjective or objective abnormality otherwise detected in the breast.

DIAGNOSTIC SERVICE.....means tests rendered for the diagnosis of your symptoms and which are directed toward evaluation or progress of a condition, disease, or injury. Such tests include, but are not limited to, x-rays, pathology services, clinical laboratory tests, pulmonary function studies, electrocardiograms, electroencephalograms, radioisotope tests, electromyograms, magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), computed tomography (CT) scans and positron emission tomography (PET) scans.

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

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

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

DOMESTIC PARTNER.....means a person with whom you have entered into a Domestic Partnership.

DOMESTIC PARTNERSHIP.....means long-term committed relationship of indefinite duration with a person of the same or opposite sex which meets the following criteria:

(i) you and your Domestic Partner have lived together for at least 6 months,

(ii) neither you nor your Domestic Partner is married to anyone else or has another Domestic Partner,

(iii) your Domestic Partner is at least 18 years of age and mentally competent to consent to contract,

(iv) your Domestic Partner resides with you and intends to do so indefinitely,

(v) you and your Domestic Partner have an exclusive mutual commitment similar to marriage, and

(vi) you and your Domestic Partner are not related by blood closer than would bar marriage in the state of your legal residence (i.e., the blood relationship is not one which would forbid marriage in the state of your residence, if you and the Domestic Partner were of the opposite sex).

You and your Domestic Partner must be jointly responsible for each other's common welfare and must share financial obligations. Joint responsibility may be demonstrated by the existence of at least 3 of the following: a signed Affidavit of Domestic Partnership, a joint mortgage or lease, designation of you or your Domestic Partner as a beneficiary in the other partner's life insurance and retirement contract, designation of you or your Domestic Partner as the primary beneficiary in your or your Domestic Partner's will, durable property and health care powers of attorney, or joint ownership of a motor vehicle, checking account or credit account.

DURABLE MEDICAL EQUIPMENT PROVIDER.....means a duly licensed durable medical equipment provider, when operating within the scope of such license.

EARLY ACQUIRED DISORDER.....means a disorder resulting from illness, trauma, injury, or some other event or condition suffered by a child prior to that child developing functional life skills such as, but not limited to, walking, talking or self-help skills. Early Acquired Disorder may include, but is not limited to, Autism or an Autism Spectrum Disorder and cerebral palsy.

ELIGIBLE CHARGE.....means (a) in the case of a Provider, other than a Professional Provider, which has a written agreement with the Claim Administrator or another Blue Cross and/or Blue Shield Plan to provide care to a covered person in the benefit program or is designated as a Participating Provider by any Blue Cross and/or Blue Shield Plan at the time Covered Services for medical benefits are rendered by a Participating Provider, such Participating Provider's Claim Charge for Covered Services and (b) in the case of a Provider, other than a Professional Provider, which does not have a written agreement with the Claim Administrator or another Blue Cross and/or Blue Shield Plan to provide care to participants in the benefit program, or is not designated as a Participating Provider by any Blue Cross and/or Blue Shield Plan at the time Covered Services for medical benefits are rendered ("Non-Participating Provider"), the following amount (unless otherwise required by applicable law or arrangement with the Non-Participating Provider):

(i) the lesser of (a) the Provider's Billed Charges and (b) an amount determined by the Claim Administrator to be approximately 100% of the base Medicare reimbursement rate, excluding any Medicare adjustment(s) which is/are based on information on the Claim; or

(ii) if there is no base Medicare reimbursement rate available for a particular Covered Service, or if the base Medicare reimbursement amount cannot otherwise be determined under subsection (i) above based upon the information submitted on the Claim, the lesser of (a) the Provider's Billed Charges and (b) an amount determined by the Claim Administrator to be 100% of the Maximum Allowance that would apply if the services were rendered by a Participating Professional Provider on the date of service; or

(iii) if the base Medicare reimbursement amount and the Eligible Charge cannot be determined under subsections (i) or (ii) above, based upon the information submitted on the Claim, then the amount will be 100% of the Provider's Billed Charges, provided, however, that the Claim Administrator may limit such amount to the lowest contracted rate that the Claim Administrator has with a Participating Provider for the same or similar services based upon the type of provider and the information submitted on the Claim, as of January 1 of the same year that the Covered Services are rendered to the covered person.

The Claim Administrator will utilize the same Claim processing rules and/or edits, that it utilizes in processing Blue Choice Options and Participating Provider Claims for processing Claims submitted by Out-of-Network Providers which may also alter the Eligible Charge for a particular service. In the event the Claim Administrator does not have any Claim edits or rules, the Claim Administrator may utilize the Medicare claim rules or edits that are used by Medicare in processing the Claims. The Eligible Charge will not include any additional payments that may be permitted under the Medicare laws or regulations which are not directly attributable to a specific Claim, including, but not limited to, disproportionate share payments and graduate medical education payments.

Any change to the Medicare reimbursement amount will be implemented by the Claim Administrator within one hundred and ninety (190) days after the effective date that such change is implemented by the Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services, or its successor.

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

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

EMERGENCY MEDICAL CARE.....means services provided for the initial Outpatient treatment, including related Diagnostic Services, of a medical condition displaying itself by acute symptoms of sufficient severity (including severe pain) such that a prudent layperson, who possesses an average knowledge of health and medicine, could reasonably expect that the absence of immediate medical attention could result in:

(i) placing the health of the individual (in the case of a pregnant woman, the health of the fetus) in serious jeopardy;

(ii) serious impairment to bodily functions; or

(iii) serious dysfunction of any bodily organ or part.

Examples of symptoms that may indicate the presence of an emergency medical condition include, but are not limited to, difficulty breathing, severe chest pains, convulsions, or persistent severe abdominal pains.

EMERGENCY MENTAL ILLNESS OR SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER ADMISSION.....means an admission for the treatment of Mental Illness or Substance Use Disorders as a result of the sudden and unexpected onset of a Mental Illness or Substance Use Disorders condition such that a prudent layperson, who possesses an average knowledge of health and medicine, could reasonably expect that in the absence of immediate medical treatment would likely result in serious and permanent medical consequences to oneself or others.

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

EXPERIMENTAL/INVESTIGATIONAL.....means the use of any treatment, procedure, facility, equipment, drug, device, or supply (including emerging technologies, services, procedures, and service paradigms) not accepted as Standard Medical Treatment for the condition being treated or, if any of such items required federal or other governmental agency approval, such approval was not granted at the time services were provided. Approval by a federal agency means that the treatment, procedure, facility, equipment, drug, device, or supply has been approved for the condition being treated and, in the case of a drug, in the dosage used on the patient. As used herein, medical treatment includes medical, surgical, mental health treatment, Substance Use Disorder Treatment, or dental treatment.

Standard Medical Treatment means the services or supplies that are in general use in the medical community in the United States, and:

- have been demonstrated in peer reviewed literature to have scientifically established medical value for curing or alleviating the condition being treated;
- are appropriate for the Hospital or Facility Other Provider in which they were performed; and
- the Physician or Professional Other Provider has had the appropriate training and experience to provide the treatment or procedure.

The medical staff of the Claim Administrator shall determine whether any treatment, procedure, facility, equipment, drug, device, or supply is Experimental/Investigational, and will consider the guidelines and practices of Medicare, Medicaid, or other government-fixed programs in making its determination.

Although a Physician or Professional Provider may have prescribed treatment, and the services or supplies may have been provided as the treatment of last resort. The Claim Administrator still may determine such services or supplies to be Experimental/Investigational with this definition. Treatment provided as part of a clinic trial or research study is Experimental/Investigational.

Approval by a government or regulatory agency will be taken into consideration in assessing Experimental/Investigational status of a drug, device, biological product, supply and equipment for medical treatment or procedure but will not be determinative. Prescription drugs that are approved by the FDA through the accelerated approval program may be considered Experimental/Investigational.

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

HABILITATIVE SERVICES.....means Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, Speech Therapy, and other health care services that help an eligible person keep, learn, or improve skills and functioning for daily living, as prescribed by a Physician pursuant to a treatment plan. Examples include therapy for a child who isn't walking or talking at the expected age and includes therapy to enhance the ability of a child to function with a Congenital, Genetic, or Early Acquired Disorder. These services may include Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy, speech-language pathology, and other services for an eligible person with disabilities in a variety of Inpatient and/or Outpatient settings, with coverage as described in this benefit booklet.

HEARING AID.....means any wearable non-disposable, non-experimental instrument or device designed to aid or compensate for impaired human hearing and any parts, attachments, or accessories for the instrument or device, including an ear mold but excluding batteries and cords.

HEARING CARE PROFESSIONAL.....means a person who is a licensed Hearing Aid dispenser, licensed Audiologist, or licensed Physician operating within the scope of such license.

HOME INFUSION THERAPY PROVIDER.....means a duly licensed home infusion therapy provider, when operating within the scope of such license.

HOSPICE CARE PROGRAM PROVIDER.....means an organization duly licensed to provide Hospice Care Program Service, when operating within the scope of such license.

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

HOSPITAL.....means a facility which is a duly licensed institution for the care of the sick which provides services under the care of a Physician including the regular provision of bedside nursing by registered nurses and which is either accredited by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Hospitals or certified by the Social Security Administration as eligible for participation under Title XVIII, Health Insurance for the Aged and Disabled.

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

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

IATROGENIC INFERTILITY.....means an impairment of fertility caused directly or indirectly by surgery, radiation, chemotherapy, or other medical treatment, affecting reproductive organs or processes.

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

INFERTILITY.....means a disease, condition, or status characterized by:

1. The inability to conceive a child or to carry a pregnancy to live birth after one year of regular unprotected sexual intercourse for a woman 35 years of age or younger, or after 6 months for a woman over 35 years of age (conceiving but having a miscarriage does not restart the 12 month or 6-month term for determining Infertility);
2. A person's inability to reproduce either as a single individual or with a partner without medical intervention; or
3. A licensed Physician's findings based on a patient's medical, sexual, and reproductive history, age, physical findings, or diagnostic testing

INFUSION THERAPY.....means the administration of medication through a needle or catheter. It is prescribed when a patient's condition is so severe that it cannot be treated effectively by oral medications. Typically, "Infusion Therapy" means that a drug is administered intravenously, but the term also may refer to situations where drugs are provided through other non-oral routes, such as intramuscular injections and epidural routes (into the membranes surrounding the spinal cord). Infusion Therapy, in most cases, requires health care professional services for the safe and effective administration of the medication.

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

INTENSIVE OUTPATIENT PROGRAM.....means a freestanding or Hospital-based program that provides services for at least 3 hours per day, 2 or more days per week, to treat Mental Illness or Substance Use Disorder or specializes in the treatment of co-occurring Mental Illness and Substance Use Disorder. Requirements: the Claims Administrator requires that any Mental Illness and/or Substance Use Disorder Intensive Outpatient Program must be licensed in the state where it is located, or accredited by a national organization that is recognized by the Claims Administrator, as set forth in the current credentialing policy, and otherwise meets all other credentialing requirements set forth in such policy.

Intensive Outpatient Program services may be available with less intensity if you are recovering from severe and/or chronic Mental Illness and/or Substance Use Disorder conditions. If you are recovering from severe and/or chronic Mental Illness and/or Substance Use Disorder conditions, services may include psychotherapy, pharmacotherapy, and other interventions aimed at supporting recovery such as the development of recovery plans and advance directives, strategies for identifying and managing early warning signs of relapse,

development of self-management skills, and the provision of peer support services.

Intensive Outpatient Programs may be used as an initial point of entry into care, as a step up from routine Outpatient services, or as a step down from acute Inpatient, residential care.

LIFE-THREATENING DISEASE OR CONDITION.....means, for the purposes of a clinical trial, any disease or condition from which the likelihood of death is probable unless the course of the disease or condition is interrupted.

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

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

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

MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPIST ("LMFT").....means a duly licensed marriage and family therapist operating within the scope of their license.

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

MAXIMUM ALLOWANCE.....means (a) the amount which Blue Choice Options or Participating Professional Providers have agreed to accept as payment in full for a particular Covered Service. All benefit payments for Covered Services rendered by Blue Choice Options or Participating Professional Providers will be based on a Schedule of Maximum Allowances which these Providers have agreed to accept as payment in full. Benefit payments for Covered Services rendered by Blue Choice Options Professional Providers will be based upon the applicable Blue Choice Options payment tier appropriate for that Provider. However, benefit payments for Covered Services rendered by Professional Providers in the PPO network, but not in the Blue Choice OPT PPO network will be based upon the Schedule of Maximum Allowances applicable to PPO network which these Providers have agreed to accept as payment in full (b) For Professional Providers

Out-of-Network, the Maximum Allowance will be the lessor of (unless otherwise required by applicable law or arrangement with Out-of-Network Providers):

(i) the Provider's Billed Charges, or;

(ii) the Claim Administrator non-contracting Maximum Allowance. Except as otherwise provided in this section, the non-contracting Maximum Allowance is developed from base Medicare reimbursements and represents approximately 100% of the base Medicare reimbursement rate and will exclude any Medicare adjustment(s) which is/are based on information on the Claim.

Notwithstanding the preceding sentence, the non-contracting Maximum Allowance for Coordinated Home Care Program Covered Services will be 50% of the Out-of-Network Professional Provider's standard billed charge for such Covered Services.

The base Medicare reimbursement rate described above will exclude any Medicare adjustment(s) which is/are based on information on the Claim.

When a Medicare reimbursement rate is not available for a Covered Service or is unable to be determined from the information submitted on the Claim, the Maximum Allowance for Out-of-Network Professional Providers will be 100% of the Claim Administrator's rate for such Covered Service according to its current Schedule of Maximum Allowance. If there is no rate according to the Schedule of Maximum Allowance, then the Maximum Allowance will be 25% of Billed Charges.

The Claim Administrator will utilize the same Claim processing rules and/or edits that it utilizes in processing Blue Choice Options and Participating Professional Provider Claims for processing Claims submitted by Out-of-Network Professional Providers which may also alter the Maximum Allowance for a particular service. In the event the Claim Administrator does not have any Claim edits or rules, the Claim Administrator may utilize the Medicare claim rules or edits that are used by Medicare in processing the Claims. The Maximum Allowance will not include any additional payments that may be permitted under the Medicare laws or regulations which are not directly attributable to a specific Claim, including, but not limited to, disproportionate share payments and graduate medical education payments.

Any change to the Medicare reimbursement amount will be implemented by the Claim Administrator within 145 days after the effective date that such change is implemented by the Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services, or its successor.

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

MEDICALLY NECESSARY/MEDICAL NECESSITY.....means that a specific medical, health care, supply or Hospital service is required for the treatment or management of a medical symptom or condition, and that the service, supply, or

care provided is the most efficient and economical service which can safely be provided.

The fact that your Physician may prescribe, order, recommend, approve, or view hospitalization or other health care services and supplies as Medically Necessary, does not make the hospitalization, services or supplies Medically Necessary and does not mean that the Claim Administrator will pay the cost of the hospitalization, services, or supplies. Please refer to the *Exclusions – What Is Not Covered* section of this booklet for additional information.

The Claim Administrator will make the initial decision whether hospitalization or other health care services or supplies were not Medically Necessary. In most instances this initial decision is made by the Claim Administrator AFTER YOU HAVE BEEN HOSPITALIZED OR HAVE RECEIVED OTHER HEALTH CARE SERVICES OR SUPPLIES AND AFTER A CLAIM FOR PAYMENT HAS BEEN SUBMITTED. In making decisions of whether the hospitalization or other health care service(s) or supply(ies) are not Medically Necessary, and therefore not eligible for payment under the terms of this Plan, the Claim Administrator will take into account the information submitted to the Claim Administrator by your Provider(s), including any consultations with such Providers(s).

Hospitalization or other health care is not Medically Necessary when, applying the definition of Medical Necessary to the circumstances surrounding the hospitalization or other health care, it is determined that the medical services provided did not require an acute Hospital Inpatient (overnight) setting, but could have been provided in a Physician's office, the Outpatient department of a Hospital, or some other setting without adversely affecting the patient's condition.

If your Claim for benefits is denied on the basis that the services or supplies were not Medically Necessary, and you disagree with the Claim Administrator's initial decision, your benefit program provides for an appeal of that decision. You must exercise your right to this appeal as a precondition to the taking of any further action against the Claim Administrator, either at law or in equity. To initiate your appeal, you must give the Claim Administrator written notice of your intention to do so as described in the *Claim Filing and Appeals Procedures* section of this booklet.

Below are some examples, not an exhaustive list, of hospitalization or other health care services and supplies that are not Medically Necessary:

1. Hospital admissions for or consisting primarily of observation and/or evaluation that could have been provided safely and adequately in some other setting, e.g., a Physician's office or Hospital Outpatient department.
2. Hospital admissions primarily for diagnostic studies (x-ray, laboratory and pathological services and machine diagnostic tests) which could have been provided safely and adequately in some other setting, e.g., Hospital Outpatient department or Physician's office.

3. Continued Inpatient Hospital care, when the patient's medical symptoms and condition no longer require their continued stay in a Hospital.
4. Hospitalization or admission to a Skilled Nursing Facility or Residential Treatment Center, nursing home or other facility for the primary purposes of providing Custodial Care Service, convalescent care, rest cures or domiciliary care to the patient.
5. The use of skilled or private duty nurses to assist in daily living activities, routine supportive care or to provide services for the convenience of the patient and/or their family members.

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

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

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

MENTAL ILLNESS.....means a condition or disorder that involves a mental health condition or Substance Use Disorder that falls under any of the diagnostic categories listed in the mental and behavioral disorders chapter of the current edition of the International Classification of Disease or that is listed in the most recent version of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders or any mental health condition that occurs during pregnancy or during the postpartum period, including, but not limited to, postpartum depression.

NAPRAPATH.....means a duly licensed Naprapath operating within the scope of such license.

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

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

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

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

NON-EMERGENCY FIXED-WING AMBULANCE TRANSPORTATION .....means Ambulance Transportation on a fixed-wing airplane from a Hospital emergency department, other health care facility or Inpatient setting to an equivalent or higher level of acuity facility when transportation is not needed due to an emergency situation. Non-Emergency Fixed-Wing Ambulance Transportation may be considered Medically Necessary when you require acute Inpatient care and services are not available at the originating facility and commercial air transport or safe discharge cannot occur. Non-Emergency Fixed-Wing Ambulance Transportation provided primarily for the convenience of you, your family/caregivers or Physician, or the transferring facility, is not considered Medically Necessary and is not covered under this Health Care Plan.

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST.....means a duly licensed occupational therapist operating within the scope of their license.

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

OPTOMETRIST.....means a duly licensed optometrist operating within the scope of their license.

ORTHOTIC PROVIDER.....means a duly licensed orthotic provider operating within the scope of their license.

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

PARTIAL HOSPITALIZATION TREATMENT PROGRAM.....means a Claim Administrator approved planned program of a Hospital or Substance Use Disorder Treatment Facility for the treatment of Mental Illness or Substance Use Disorder Treatment in which patients spend days. This behavioral healthcare is typically 5 to 8 hours per day, 5 days per week (not less than 20 hours of treatment services per week). The program is staffed similarly to the day shift of an inpatient unit, i.e., medically supervised by a Physician and nurse. The program shall ensure a psychiatrist sees the patient face to face at least once a week and is otherwise available, in person or by telephone, to provide assistance and direction to the program as needed. Participants at this level of care do not require 24-hour supervision and are not considered a resident at the program. Requirements: The Claim Administrator requires that any Mental Illness and/or Substance Use Disorder Partial Hospitalization Treatment Program must be licensed in the state where it is located or accredited by a national organization that is recognized by the Claim Administrator as set forth in its current credentialing policy, and otherwise meets all other credentialing requirements set forth in such policy.

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

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

PEDIATRIC PALLIATIVE CARE.....means, for children under the age of 21, care focused on expert assessment and management of pain and other symptoms, assessment and support of caregiver needs, and coordination of care. Pediatric Palliative Care attends to the physical, functional, psychological, practical, and spiritual consequences of a serious illness. It is a person-centered and family-centered approach to care, providing people living with serious illness relief from the symptoms and stress of an illness. Through early integration into the care plan for the seriously ill, palliative care improves quality of life for the patient and the family. Palliative care can be offered in all care settings and at any stage in a serious illness through collaboration of many types of care providers.

PHARMACY.....means a state and federally licensed establishment that is physically separate and apart from any Provider's office, and where Legend Drugs and devices are dispensed under Prescription to the general public by a pharmacist licensed to dispense such drugs and devices under laws of the state in which they practice.

PHYSICAL THERAPIST.....means a duly licensed physical therapist operating within the scope of their license.

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

PHYSICIAN.....means a physician duly licensed to practice medicine in all of its branches operating within the scope of their license.

PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT.....means a duly licensed Physician Assistant performing under the direct supervision of a Physician, Dentist or Podiatrist and billing under such Provider operating within the scope of their license.

PODIATRIST.....means a duly licensed podiatrist operating within the scope of their license.

PRIOR AUTHORIZATION.....means a requirement that you must obtain authorization from the Claim Administrator before you receive certain types of Covered Services designated by the Claim Administrator.

PRIOR AUTHORIZATION or EMERGENCY MENTAL ILLNESS OR SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER ADMISSION REVIEW.....means a submission of a request to the Behavioral Health Unit for a determination of Medically Necessary care under this benefit booklet.

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

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

PROSTHETIC PROVIDER.....means a duly licensed prosthetic provider operating within the scope of their license.

PROVIDER.....means any health care facility (for example, a Hospital or Skilled Nursing Facility) or person (for example, a Physician or Dentist) or entity duly licensed to render Covered Services to you and operating within the scope of such license.

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

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

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

A "Blue Choice Options Provider" means an Administrator Hospital or a Professional Provider that has been designated by the Claim Administrator to provide services to participants in the Blue Choice Options program.

A "Professional Provider" means a Physician, Dentist, Podiatrist, Psychologist, Chiropractor, Optometrist, or any Provider designated by the Claim Administrator.

PROVIDER INCENTIVE.....means an additional amount of compensation paid to a health care Provider by a Blue Cross and/or Blue Shield Plan, based on the Provider's compliance with agreed upon procedural and/or outcome measures for a particular population of participants.

PSYCHOLOGIST.....means a Registered Clinical Psychologist operating within the scope of such license.

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

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

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

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

QUALIFIED ABA PROVIDER.....means a Provider operating within the scope of their license registration or certification that has met the following requirements:

For the treatment supervisor/case manager/facilitator:

(i) Master's level, independently licensed Clinician, who is licensed, certified, or registered by an appropriate agency in the state where services are being provided, for services treating Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) symptoms, with or without applied behavior analysis (ABA) service techniques; or

(ii) Master's level Clinician whose professional credential is recognized and accepted by an appropriate agency of the United States (i.e., Board-Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA) or Board-Certified Behavior Analyst-Doctoral (BCBA-D) to supervise and provide treatment planning, with ABA service techniques; or

(iii) Health Care Practitioner who is certified as a provider under the TRICARE military health system, if requesting to provide ABA services; or

(iv) Master's level Clinician with a specific professional credential or certification recognized by the state in which the clinician is located; or

1. Developmental Therapist with Certified Early Intervention Specialist credential or CEIS; or
2. If the Doctor or Medicine (MD) prescribes ABA, writes a MD order for services to be provided by a specific person.

For the para-professional/line therapist:

(i) Two years of college educated staff person with a Board-Certified Assistant Behavior Analyst (BCABA) for the para-professional/therapist; or

(ii) A bachelor level or high school graduate having obtained a GED, OR a staff person with a Registered Behavior Tech (RBT) certification for the direct line therapist; or

(iii) A person who is "certified as a provider under TRICARE military health system," if requesting to provide ABA services.

RECOMMENDED CLINICAL REVIEW.....means an optional voluntary review of Provider's recommended medical procedure, treatment, or test, which does not require Prior Authorization, to make sure it meets approved Claim Administrator medical policy guidelines and Medical Necessity requirements.

REGISTERED DIETICIAN.....means a duly licensed clinical professional counselor operating within the scope of their license.

REGISTERED SURGICAL ASSISTANT.....means a duly licensed certified surgical assistant, certified surgical technician, surgical assistant certified or registered nurse first assistant operating within the scope of their certification.

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

RESCISSION.....means a cancellation or discontinuance of coverage that has retroactive effect except to the extent attributable to a failure to timely pay premiums. A "Rescission" does not include other types of coverage cancellations, such as a cancellation of coverage due to a failure to pay timely premiums towards coverage or cancellations attributable to routine eligibility and enrollment updates.

RESIDENTIAL TREATMENT CENTER.....means a facility setting offering a defined course of therapeutic intervention and special programming in a controlled environment which also offers a level of security, supervision, and structure medically necessary to meet the needs of patients served or to be served by such facility. Residential Treatment Centers must be licensed by the appropriate state and local authority as a Residential Treatment Facility or its equivalent under the laws or regulations of such locality and/or must be accredited by a national accrediting body as a Residential Treatment Center or its equivalent. Accepted accrediting bodies are The Joint Commission, Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF), Accreditation Association for Ambulatory Healthcare (AAAHC), Council on Accreditation of Services for Families and Children Inc. (COA), or National Integrated Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (NIAHOSM). This includes any specialized licensing

that may be applicable given the services to be provided or population to be served. As they do not provide the level of care, security, or supervision appropriate of a Residential Treatment Center, the following shall not be included in the definition of Residential Treatment Center: half-way houses, supervised living, group homes, wilderness programs, boarding houses or other facilities that provide primarily a supportive/custodial environment and/or primarily address long term social needs, even if counseling is provided in such facilities. To qualify as a Residential Treatment Center, patients must be medically monitored with 24-hour medical professional availability and on-site nursing care and supervision for at least one shift a day with on call availability for the other shifts.

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

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

ROUTINE PATIENT COSTS.....means the cost for all items and services consistent with the coverage provided under this benefit booklet that is typically covered for you if you are not enrolled in a clinical trial. Routine Patient Costs do not include:

(i) The investigational item, device, or service, itself;

(ii) Items and services that are provided solely to satisfy data collection and analysis needs and that are not used in the direct clinical management of the patient; or

(iii) A service that is clearly inconsistent with widely accepted and established standards of care for a particular diagnosis.

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

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

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

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

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

SPEECH THERAPIST.....means a duly licensed speech therapist operating within the scope of their license.

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

STANDARD FERTILITY PRESERVATION SERVICES.....means procedure based upon current evidence-based standards of care established by the American Society for Reproductive Medicine, the American Society for Clinical Oncology, or other national medical associations that follow current evidence-based standards of care.

SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER.....means a condition or disorder that falls under any of the substance use disorder diagnostic categories listed in the mental and behavioral disorders chapter of the current edition of the International Classification of Disease or that is listed in the most recent version of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders.

SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER TREATMENT.....means an organized, intensive, structured, rehabilitative treatment program of either a Hospital or Substance Use Disorder Treatment Facility which may include, but is not limited to, Acute Treatment Services and Clinical Stabilization Services. It does not include programs consisting primarily of counseling by individuals other than a Behavioral Health Practitioner, court ordered evaluations, programs which are primarily for diagnostic evaluations, mental disabilities or learning disabilities, care in lieu of detention or correctional placement or family retreats.

SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER TREATMENT FACILITY.....means a facility (other than a Hospital) whose primary function is the treatment of Substance Use Disorder and is licensed by the appropriate state and local authority to provide

such service, when operating within the scope of such license. It does not include half-way houses, boarding houses or other facilities that provide primarily a supportive environment, even if counseling is provided in such facilities.

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

A "Non-Administrator Substance Use Disorder Treatment Facility" means a Substance Use Disorder Treatment Facility that does not meet the definition of an Administrator Substance Use Disorder Treatment Facility.

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

TELEHEALTH AND TELEMEDICINE SERVICES.....means a health care service delivered by a health care professional licensed, certified, or registered to practice in Illinois and acting within the scope of their license, certification, or entitlement to a patient at a different physical location than the health care professional using telecommunications or information technology.

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

TOBACCO USER.....means a person who is permitted under state and federal law to legally use Tobacco, with Tobacco use (other than religious or ceremonial use of Tobacco), occurring on average four or more times per week that last occurred within the past six months (or such other meaning required or permitted by applicable law). Tobacco includes, but is not limited to, cigarettes, cigars, pipe tobacco, smokeless tobacco, snuff, etc. For additional information, please call the number on the back of your Identification Card or visit our website at *www.bcbsil.com*.

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

TRANSPLANT LODGING ELIGIBLE EXPENSE.....means the amount of $50 per person per day reimbursed for lodging expenses related to a covered transplant.

VALUE BASED PROGRAM.....means an out-come based payment arrangement and/or a coordinated care model facilitated with one or more local Providers that is evaluated against cost and quality metrics/factors and is reflected in Provider payment.

VIRTUAL PROVIDER.....means a licensed Provider who has a written agreement with the Claim Administrator to provide diagnosis and treatment of injuries and illnesses through either (i) interactive audio communication (via telephone or other similar technology) or (ii) interactive audio/video examination and communication (via online portal, mobile application, or similar technology) to you at the time Covered Services are rendered, operating within the scope of such license.

VIRTUAL VISIT.....means a service provided for the diagnosis or treatment of non-emergency medical and/or behavioral health illnesses or injuries as described in the VIRTUAL VISITS provision under the SPECIAL CONDITIONS AND PAYMENTS section of this benefit booklet.

VITAMIN D TESTING....means vitamin D blood testing that measures the level of vitamin D in a person's blood.

ELIGIBILITY SECTION

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

- Meet the definition of an Eligible Person as determined by your Employer;
- Live within the Claim Administrator's service area;
- Have applied for this coverage; and
- Have received an Identification Card.

If you meet this description and comply with the other terms and conditions of this benefit booklet, including, but not limited to, payment of premiums, you are entitled to the benefits of this program.

MEDICARE ELIGIBLE COVERED PERSONS

If you meet the definition of an Eligible Person stated in the ELIGIBILITY Section above and you are eligible for Medicare and not affected by the "Medicare Secondary Payer" (MSP) laws as described below, the benefits described in the section of this benefit booklet entitled "Benefits for Medicare Eligible covered persons" will apply to you and to your spouse and covered dependent children (if they are also eligible for Medicare and not affected by the MSP laws). This section does not apply to a party of a Civil Union with the Eligible Person and their children. This section does not apply to a Domestic Partner of the Eligible Person and their children.

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

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

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

individual's family has "current employee status." If the GHP is a multi-employer or multiple employer plan, which has at least one participating employer that employs 100 or more employees, the MSP rules apply even with respect to employers of fewer than 100 employees.

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

YOUR MSP RESPONSIBILITIES

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

YOUR ID CARD

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

INDIVIDUAL COVERAGE

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

FAMILY COVERAGE

Child(ren) used hereafter, means a natural child(ren), a stepchild(ren), an adopted child(ren), a child(ren) for whom you have received a court order requiring that you are financially responsible for providing coverage under 26 years of age, a child(ren) who is in your custody under an interim court order of adoption or who is placed with you for adoption vesting temporary care.

If you have Family Coverage, your health expenses for Covered Services and those of your enrolled spouse and your (or your spouse's) enrolled children up to age 26 will be covered. All of the provisions of this benefit booklet that pertain to a spouse also apply to a party of a Civil Union unless specifically noted otherwise. The coverage for children will end on the last day of the month in which the limiting age is reached.

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

- Live within the state of Illinois; and
- Have served as an active or reserve member of any branch of the Armed Forces of the United States; and

- Have received a release or discharge other than a dishonorable discharge.

Your enrolled Domestic Partner and their enrolled children who have not attained the limiting age stated above will be covered. Whenever the term "spouse" is used, we also mean Domestic Partner. All of the provisions of this benefit booklet that pertain to a spouse also apply to a Domestic Partner, unless specifically noted otherwise.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

a. Legal separation, divorce, dissolution from a Civil Union, cessation of dependent status, death of an employee, termination of employment, or reduction in the number of hours of employment;
b. In the case of HMO, coverage is no longer provided because an individual no longer resides in the service area or the HMO no longer

offers coverage in the HMO service area in which the individual resides;

c. Reaching a lifetime limit on all benefits in another group health plan;

d. Another group health plan no longer offering any benefits to the class of similarly situated individuals that includes you or your dependent;

e. When Medicaid or Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) coverage is terminated as a result of loss of eligibility; or

f. When you or your dependents become eligible for a premium assistance subsidy under Medicaid or CHIP.

- Termination of employer contributions towards your or your dependent's other coverage.
- Exhaustion of COBRA continuation coverage or state continuation coverage.

When Coverage Begins

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

- Marriage.
- Establishment of a Domestic Partnership.
- Becoming party to a Civil Union.
- Birth, adoption, or placement of adoption of a child.
- Obtaining legal guardianship of a child.

However, an application to add a newborn to Family Coverage is not necessary if an additional premium is not required. Please notify your Group Administrator so that your membership records can be adjusted.

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

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

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

Your Family Coverage or the coverage for your additional dependents will be effective from the date of the event if you apply for this change within 60 days of any of the following events:

- Loss of eligibility for you or your dependents when Medicaid or CHIP coverage is terminated as a result of loss of eligibility; or
- You or your dependents become eligible for a premium assistance subsidy under Medicaid or CHIP.

You must request this special enrollment within 60 days of the loss of Medicaid or CHIP coverage, or within 60 days of when eligibility for premium assistance under Medicaid or CHIP is determined. Coverage will be effective no later than the first of the month after the special enrollment request is received.

Late Applicants

If you do not apply for Family Coverage or to add dependents within the required number of days of the event, you can apply at any time to make those changes. Such changes will be effective on a date that has been mutually agreed to by your Employer and the Claim Administrator.

CHANGING FROM FAMILY TO INDIVIDUAL COVERAGE

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

TERMINATION OF COVERAGE

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

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

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

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

Unless specifically mentioned elsewhere in this benefit booklet, if one of your dependents becomes ineligible, their coverage will end as of the date the event occurs which makes them ineligible.

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

UTILIZATION MANAGEMENT AND REVIEW

The Claim Administrator has established the Utilization Management and Review Program to assist you in determining the course of treatment that will maximize your benefits under this Health Care Plan. Utilization management may be referred to as Medical Necessity reviews, utilization review (UR) or medical management reviews. A Medical Necessity review for a procedure/service, Inpatient admission, and length of stay is based on the Claim Administrator's Medical Policy and, site or level of care review criteria. Medical Necessity reviews may occur prior to services rendered, during the course of care, or after care has been completed for a Post-Service Medical Necessity Review. Some services may require a Prior Authorization before the start of services, while other services will be subject to a Post-Service Medical Necessity review. If requested, services normally subject to a Post-Service Medical Necessity review may be reviewed for Medical Necessity prior to the service through a Recommended Clinical Review as defined below.

Please refer to the definition of Medically Necessary under the *Definitions* section of this booklet for additional information regarding any limitations and/or special conditions pertaining to your benefits.

The Utilization Management and Review Program requires a review of the following Covered Services **before** maximum benefits for such services are available:

- Inpatient Hospital services
- Skilled Nursing Facility services
- Services received in a Coordinated Home Care Program
- Certain Outpatient Procedures

PRIOR AUTHORIZATION

Prior Authorization is a requirement that you must obtain authorization from the Claim Administrator before you receive a certain type of Covered Services designated by the Claim Administrator in order to be eligible for maximum benefits.

For Inpatient Hospital facility services, your In-Network Provider is required to obtain Prior Authorization. If Prior Authorization is not obtained, the In-Network Provider will be sanctioned based on the Claim Administrator's contractual agreement with the Provider, and the member will be held harmless for the Provider sanction. For additional information about prior authorization for services outside of the Claim Administrator's service area, see the section of this benefit booklet entitled "THE BLUECARD PROGRAM."

Failure to contact the Claim Administrator or to comply with the determinations of the Claim Administrator, as described in this section, may result in a reduction in benefits. These reductions in benefits are in addition to the applicable Copayments, Coinsurance, Deductibles and out-of-pocket expense limit amounts.

Providers may bill you for any reduction in payment, as described in this section, resulting from failure to contact the Claim Administrator or to comply with the determinations of the Claim Administrator. We encourage you to call ahead. The pre-notification toll-free telephone number is on your Identification Card.

Please read the provisions below very carefully. The provisions of this section do not apply to the treatment of Mental Illness and Substance Use Disorder Treatment. The provisions for the treatment of Mental Illness and Substance Use Disorder Treatment are specified in the CLAIM ADMINISTRATOR'S BEHAVIORAL HEALTH UNIT section of this benefit booklet.

PREADMISSION REVIEW

- **Inpatient Hospital Preadmission Review**

  Preadmission review is not a guarantee of benefits. Actual availability of benefits is subject to eligibility and the other terms, conditions, limitations, and exclusions of this Health Care Plan. The Claim Administrator recommends you confirm with your Provider if Prior Authorization has been obtained.

  Whenever a non-emergency or non-maternity Inpatient Hospital admission is recommended by your Physician, you must call the Claim Administrator's medical pre-notification number. This call must be made at least one business day prior to the Hospital admission.

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

- **Emergency Admission Review**

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

  In the event of an emergency admission, you or someone who calls on your behalf must notify the Claim Administrator no later than two business days or as soon as reasonably possible after the admission has occurred.

- **Pregnancy/Maternity Admission Review**

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

  In the event of a maternity admission, you or someone who calls on your behalf must notify the Claim Administrator no later than two business days after the admission has occurred.

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

- **Skilled Nursing Facility Preadmission Review**

  Skilled Nursing Facility preadmission review is not a guarantee of benefits. Actual availability of benefits is subject to eligibility and the other terms, conditions, limitations, and exclusions of the Health Care Plan.

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

- **Coordinated Home Care Program Preadmission Review**

  Coordinated Home Care Program preadmission review is not a guarantee of benefits. Actual availability of benefits is subject to eligibility and the other terms, conditions, limitations, and exclusions of the Health Care Plan.

  Whenever an admission to a Coordinated Home Care Program is recommended by your Physician, you must call the Claim Administrator's medical pre-notification number. This call must be made at least one business day prior to the scheduling of the admission.

OUTPATIENT SERVICE PRIOR AUTHORIZATION REVIEW

Outpatient Service Prior Authorization review is not a guarantee of benefits. Actual availability of benefits is subject to eligibility and the other terms, conditions, limitations, and exclusions of the Health Care Plan.

Whenever the following Outpatient procedure(s)/services(s), are recommended by your Physician, in order to receive maximum benefits under this Health Care Plan, you must call the Claim Administrator's medical pre-notification number. This call must be made at least two business days prior to receiving these services:

- Coordinated Home Care Program services
- Home hemodialysis
- Home Hospice

- Home Infusion Therapy
- Home Health
- Transplant Evaluations and Transplants
- Cardiology Lipid Apheresis

Ears, Nose and Throat (ENT):

- Bone Conduction Hearing Aids
- Cochlear Implant
- Nasal and Sinus Surgery

Gastroenterology (Stomach):

- Gastric Electrical Stimulation (GES)

Neurology:

- Deep Brain Stimulation
- Sacral Nerve Neuromodulation/Stimulation

Pain Management:

- Occipital Nerve Stimulation

Specialty Pharmacy:

- Specialty Pharmacy Medications covered by Medical Benefits including Infusion Site of Care, Medical Oncology & Supportive Care and Provider Administered Drug Therapies.

Surgical Procedures:

- Outpatient Surgery Jaw
- Outpatient Breast
- Surgical Deactivation of Headache Trigger Sites

Wound Care:

- Hyperbaric Oxygen (HBO2) Therapy-Systemic

Non-Emergency Fixed-Wing Ambulance Transportation:

Non-Emergency Fixed-Wing Ambulance Transportation- Please refer to the definition of "Non-Emergency Fixed-Wing Ambulance Transportation" under the DEFINITIONS section of this benefit booklet for additional information regarding any limitations and/or special conditions pertaining to your benefits.

Whenever the following Outpatient services(s), received by a Non-Participating Provider, are recommended by your Physician, in order to receive maximum benefits under this Health Care Plan, you must call the Claim Administrator's

medical pre-notification number. This call must be made at least two business days prior to receiving these services:

- Dialysis
- Elective Surgery

If an Inpatient Emergency Hospital admission occurs after an Outpatient service, in order to receive maximum benefits under this Health Care Plan, an additional call must be made to the Claim Administrator.

The Claim Administrator will send a letter to you, your Physician and the Hospital or facility with a determination of your Prior Authorization review no later than fifteen (15) calendar days after the Claim Administrator receives the request for Prior Authorization review. However, in some instances depending on the timing of the request for review, these letters will not be received prior to your scheduled date of service or procedure.

For specific details about the Prior Authorization requirement for any of the above referenced Outpatient services, please call the customer service number on the back of your Identification Card. The Claim Administrator reserves the right to no longer require Prior Authorization during your benefit period for any or all of the listed services. Updates to the list of services requiring Prior Authorization may be confirmed by calling the customer service number.

RECOMMENDED CLINICAL REVIEW

Some services that do not require Prior Authorization may be subject to review for evidence of medical necessity for coverage determinations that may occur prior to services rendered, during care, or after care has been completed for a Post-Service Medical Necessity Review.

A Recommended Clinical Review is a Medical Necessity review for a Covered Service that occurs before services are completed and helps limit the situations where you have to pay for a non-approved service. The Claim Administrator will review the request to determine if it meets approved Claim Administrator medical policy and, site, or level of care review criteria for medical and behavioral health services. Once a decision has been made on the services reviewed as part of the Recommended Clinical Review process, they will not be reviewed for Medical Necessity again on a retrospective basis. Submitted services (subject to Medical Necessity review) not included as part of Recommended Clinical Review may be reviewed retrospectively.

To determine if a Recommended Clinical Review is available for a specific service, visit our website at www.bcbsil.com/find-care/where-you-go-matters/utilization-management. for the Required Prior Authorization and Recommended Clinical Review list, which is updated when new services are added or when services are removed. You can also call Customer Service at the toll-free telephone number on the back of your Identification Card. You or your Provider may request a Recommended Clinical Review.

Recommended Clinical Review is not a guarantee of benefits. Actual availability of benefits is subject to eligibility and the other terms, conditions,

limitations, and exclusions under this Plan. Please coordinate with your Provider to submit a written request for a Recommended Clinical Review.

General Provisions Applicable to All Recommended Clinical Reviews

1. **No Guarantee of Payment**

   A Recommended Clinical Review is not a guarantee of benefits or payment of benefits by the plan. Actual availability of benefits is subject to eligibility and the other terms, conditions, limitations, and exclusions of this Plan. Even if the service has been approved on Recommended Clinical Review, coverage or payment can be affected for a variety of reasons. For example, the member may have become ineligible as of the date of service or the member's benefits may have changed as of the date of service.

2. **Request for Additional Information**

   The Recommended Clinical Review process may require additional documentation from the member's health care Provider or pharmacist. In addition to the written request for Recommended Clinical Review, the health care Provider or pharmacist may be required to include pertinent documentation explaining the proposed services, the functional aspects of the treatment, the projected outcome, treatment plan and any other supporting documentation, study models, prescription, itemized repair and replacement cost statements, photographs, x-rays, etc., as may be requested by the plan to make a determination of coverage pursuant to the terms and conditions of this Plan.

Post-Service Medical Necessity Review

A Post-Service Medical Necessity Review, sometimes referred to as a retrospective review or Post-Service Claims request, is the process of determining coverage after treatment has been provided and is based on Medical Necessity guidelines. A Post-Service Medical Necessity Review confirms member eligibility, availability of benefits at the time of service, and reviews necessary clinical documentation to ensure the service was Medically Necessary. Providers should submit appropriate documentation at the time of a Post-Service Medical Necessity Review request. A Post-Service Medical Necessity Review may be available when a Prior Authorization or Recommended Clinical Review was not obtained prior to services being rendered.

General Provisions Applicable to All Post-Service Medical Necessity Reviews

1. **No Guarantee of Payment**

   A Post-Service Medical Necessity Review is not a guarantee of benefits. Actual availability of benefits is subject to eligibility and the other terms, conditions, limitations, and exclusions of this Certificate. Post-Service Medical Necessity Review does not guarantee payment of benefits by the plan, for instance a member may become ineligible as of the date of service or the member's benefits may have changed as of the date of service.

2. Request for Additional Information

The Post-Service Medical Necessity Review process may require additional documentation from the member's health care Provider or pharmacist. In addition to the written request for Post-Service Medical Necessity Review, the health care Provider or pharmacist may be required to include pertinent documentation explaining the services rendered, the functional aspects of the treatment, the projected outcome, treatment plan and any other supporting documentation, study models, prescription, itemized repair and replacement cost statements, photographs, x-rays, etc., as may be requested by the plan to make a determination of coverage pursuant to the terms and conditions of this Plan.

CASE MANAGEMENT

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

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

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

LENGTH OF STAY/SERVICE REVIEW

Length of stay/service review is not a guarantee of benefits. Actual availability of benefits is subject to eligibility and the other terms, conditions, limitations, and exclusions of the Health Care Plan.

Upon completion of the Inpatient or emergency admission review, the Claim Administrator will send a letter to you, your Physician, Provider of services, Behavioral Health Practitioner and/or the Hospital or facility with a determination on the approved length of stay.

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

A length of stay/service review, also known as a concurrent Medical Necessity review, is when you, your Provider, or other authorized representative may submit a request to the Plan for continued services. If you, your Provider, or authorized representative requests to extend care beyond the approved time limit and it is a

request involving urgent care or an Ongoing Course of Treatment, the Plan will make a determination on the request/appeal as soon as possible but no later than 72 hours after it receives the initial request, or within 48 hours after it receives the missing information (if the initial request is incomplete).

MEDICALLY NECESSARY DETERMINATION

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

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

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

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

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

UTILIZATION REVIEW PROCEDURE

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

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

Upon receipt of the required information, the Claim Administrator:

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

APPEAL PROCEDURE

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

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

Medical Director
Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Illinois
P. O. Box A3957
Chicago, Illinois 60601

Additional information about appeals procedures is set forth in the CLAIM FILING AND APPEALS PROCEDURES section of this benefit booklet.

FAILURE TO NOTIFY

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

MEDICARE ELIGIBLE MEMBERS

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

CLAIM ADMINISTRATOR'S BEHAVIORAL HEALTH UNIT

The Claim Administrator's Behavioral Health Unit has been established to assist in the administration of Mental Illness and Substance Use Disorder Treatment benefits, including Prior Authorization review, Emergency Mental Illness or Substance Use Disorder Admission Review and length of stay/service review for your Inpatient Hospital admissions and/or Outpatient services for the treatment of Mental Illness and Substance Use Disorders.

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

Prior Authorization is a requirement that you must obtain authorization from the Claim Administrator before you receive a certain type of Covered Services designated by the Claim Administrator in order to be eligible for maximum benefits.

For Inpatient Hospital facility services, your Participating Provider is required to obtain Prior Authorization. If Prior Authorization is not obtained, the Participating Provider will be sanctioned based on the Claim Administrator's contractual agreement with the Provider, and the member will be held harmless for the Provider sanction. For additional information about prior authorization for services outside of the Claim Administrator's service area, see the section of this benefit booklet entitled "THE BLUECARD PROGRAM."

Failure to contact the Claim Administrator or to comply with the determinations of the Claim Administrator, as described in this section, may result in a reduction in benefits. These reductions in benefits are in addition to the applicable Copayments, Coinsurance, Deductibles, and out-of-pocket expense limit amounts. Providers may bill you for any reduction in payment, as described in this section, resulting from failure to contact the Claim Administrator or to comply with the determinations of the Claim Administrator. We encourage you to call ahead. The pre-notification toll-free telephone number is on your Identification Card.

CONTACTING BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

You, your Physician, Provider of services, or your authorized representative may contact the Claim Administrator for a Prior Authorization or Recommended Clinical Review by calling the toll-free number shown on the back of your Identification Card and follow the prompts to the Behavioral Health Unit. During regular business hours (8:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m., Central Time, on business days), the caller will be routed to the appropriate behavioral health clinical team for review. Residential and Outpatient requests should be requested during regular business hours. After 6:00 PM, on weekends, and on holidays, the same

behavioral health line is answered by clinicians available for Inpatient acute reviews only.

PRIOR AUTHORIZATION REVIEW

- **Inpatient Hospital Prior Authorization Review**

  Prior Authorization review is not a guarantee of benefits. Actual availability of benefits is subject to eligibility and the other terms, conditions, limitations, and exclusions of the Health Care Plan. The Claim Administrator recommends you confirm with your Provider if Prior Authorization has been obtained.

  To receive maximum benefits under this Health Care Plan, you must obtain Prior Authorization for your non-emergency Inpatient Hospital admission for the treatment of Mental Illness (other than Substance Use Disorder Treatments described below) by calling the Behavioral Health Unit. Providers may obtain Prior Authorization for you, when required, but it is your responsibility to ensure Prior Authorization requirements are satisfied, as described in this section. To determine if the Provider has completed the Prior Authorization requirements, you or someone on your behalf may call customer service at the toll-free number on your Identification Card. This call must be made at least one day prior to the Inpatient Hospital admission.

  Your Participating Provider, and not you, is required to obtain Prior Authorization for Inpatient Hospital admissions for Substance Use Disorder Treatment.

  For all other Non-Participating Providers, the Provider must notify the Claim Administrator within two business days after the initiation of Inpatient Hospital admissions for Substance Use Disorder Treatment, to the extent required by law. If your Provider does not notify the Claim Administrator, then you or someone on your behalf must notify the Claim Administrator within three business days of the initiation of Substance Use Disorder Treatment.

- **Residential Treatment Center Prior Authorization Review**

  Prior Authorization review is not a guarantee of benefits. Actual availability of benefits is subject to eligibility and the other terms, conditions, limitations, and exclusions of this Health Care Plan. The Claim Administrator recommends you confirm with your Provider if Prior Authorization has been obtained.

  Whenever an admission to a Residential Treatment Center for the treatment of Mental Illness (other than Substance Use Disorder Treatments described below) is recommended by your Physician, you must, in order to receive maximum benefits under this Health Care Plan, call the Behavioral Health Unit. This call must be made at least one day prior to scheduling of the admission. Providers may obtain Prior Authorization for you, when required, but it is your responsibility to ensure Prior Authorization

requirements are satisfied, as described in this section. To determine if the Provider has completed the Prior Authorization requirements, you or someone on your behalf may call customer service at the toll-free number on your Identification Card. This call must be made at least one day prior to the Inpatient Hospital admission.

Your Participating Provider, and not you, is required to obtain Prior Authorization for Residential Treatment Center admissions for Substance Use Disorder Treatment.

For all other Non-Participating Providers, the Provider must notify the Claim Administrator within two business days after the initiation of Residential Treatment Center admissions for Substance Use Disorder Treatment, to the extent required by law. If your Provider does not notify the Claim Administrator, then you or someone on your behalf must notify the Claim Administrator within three business days of the initiation of Substance Use Disorder Treatment.

- **Emergency Mental Illness or Substance Use Disorder Admission Review**

  Emergency Mental Illness or Substance Use Disorder Admission Review is not a guarantee of benefits. Actual availability of benefits is subject to eligibility and the other terms, conditions, limitations, and exclusions of the Health Care Plan.

  In order to receive maximum benefits under this Health Care Plan, you or someone who calls on your behalf must notify the Behavioral Health Unit no later than two business days or as soon as reasonably possible after the admission for the treatment of Mental Illness (other than Substance Use Disorder Treatments described below) has occurred.

  Your Participating Provider, and not you, is required to obtain Prior Authorization for Inpatient Hospital admissions for Substance Use Disorder Treatment.

  For all other Non-Participating Providers, the Provider must notify the Claim Administrator within two business days after the initiation of Inpatient Hospital admissions for Substance Use Disorder Treatment, to the extent required by law. If your Provider does not notify the Claim Administrator, then you or someone on your behalf must notify the Claim Administrator within three business days of the initiation of Substance Use Disorder Treatment.

  If the call is made any later than the specified time period, you may not be eligible for maximum benefits. Providers may obtain Prior Authorization for you, when required, but it is your responsibility to ensure Prior Authorization requirements are satisfied, as described in this section. To determine if the Provider has completed the Prior Authorization requirements, you or someone on your behalf may call customer service at the toll-free number on your Identification Card.

- **Partial Hospitalization Treatment Program Review**

  Partial Hospitalization Treatment Program review is not a guarantee of benefits. Actual availability of benefits is subject to eligibility and the other terms, conditions, limitations, and exclusions of the Health Care Plan.

  In order to receive maximum benefits under this Health Care Plan, you must notify the Behavioral Health Unit no later than 48 hours after the admission for the treatment of Mental Illness (other than Substance Use Disorder Treatments described below) has occurred. Providers may call for you, when required, but it is your responsibility to ensure these requirements are satisfied, as described in this section. To determine if the Provider has completed the Prior Authorization requirements, you or someone on your behalf may call customer service at the toll-free number on your Identification Card. The Behavioral Health Unit will obtain information regarding the service(s) and may discuss proposed treatment with your Behavioral Health Practitioner.

  Your Participating Provider, and not you, is required to obtain Prior Authorization for Partial Hospitalization Treatment Programs for Substance Use Disorder Treatment.

  For all other Non-Participating Providers, the Provider must notify the Claim Administrator within two business days after the initiation of Partial Hospitalization Treatment Programs for Substance Use Disorder Treatment, to the extent required by law. If your Provider does not notify the Claim Administrator, then you or someone on your behalf must notify the Claim Administrator within three business days of the initiation of Substance Use Disorder Treatment.

  If an Inpatient Emergency Mental Illness Admission occurs after a service(s), in order to receive maximum benefits under this Health Care Plan, an additional call must be made to the Behavioral Health Unit for an Emergency Mental Illness Admission Review.

- **Length of Stay/Service Review**

  Length of stay/service review is not a guarantee of benefits. Actual availability of benefits is subject to eligibility and the other terms, conditions, limitations, and exclusions of the Health Care Plan.

  Upon completion of the Prior Authorization or Emergency Mental Illness or Substance Use Disorder Review, the Behavioral Health Unit will send you a letter confirming that you or your representative called the Behavioral Health Unit. A letter assigning a length of service or length of stay will be sent to your Behavioral Health Practitioner and/or the Hospital.

  An extension of the length of stay/service will be based solely on whether continued Inpatient care or other health care service is Medically Necessary as determined by the Behavioral Health Unit. In the event that the extension is determined not to be Medically Necessary, the length of stay/service will

not be extended, and the case will be referred to a Behavioral Health Unit Physician for review except as otherwise described in the APPEAL PROCEDURE section of this benefit booklet.

OUTPATIENT SERVICE PRIOR AUTHORIZATION REVIEW

- **Outpatient Service Prior Authorization Review**

  Outpatient service Prior Authorization review is not a guarantee of benefits. Actual availability of benefits is subject to eligibility and the other terms, conditions, limitations, and exclusions of the Health Care Plan. The Claim Administrator recommends you confirm with your Provider if Prior Authorization has been obtained.

  In order to receive maximum benefits under this Health Care Plan for Outpatient services for the treatment of Mental Illness or Substance Use Disorder, you must, except as otherwise provided, obtain Prior Authorization for the following Outpatient service(s) by calling the Behavioral Health Unit:

  - Electroconvulsive therapy
  - Partial Hospitalization Program
  - Intensive Outpatient Programs (Please note, if your Provider of Substance Use Disorder Treatment notifies the Claim Administrator within two business days of the initiation of the service, you will not be required to Preauthorize).
  - Repetitive Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation
  - Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) Therapies (Please see coverage details as described in the Autism Spectrum Disorder(s) provision under the SPECIAL CONDITIONS AND PAYMENTS section of this benefit booklet.)

  Providers may obtain Prior Authorization for you, when required, but it is your responsibility to ensure Prior Authorization requirements are satisfied, as described in this section. This call must be made at least one day prior to the scheduling of the planned Outpatient services(s). The Behavioral Health Unit will obtain information regarding the Outpatient service(s) and may discuss proposed treatment with your Behavioral Health Practitioner.

  If an Inpatient Emergency Mental Illness or Substance Use Disorder Admission occurs after an Outpatient service, in order to receive maximum benefits under this Health Care Plan, an additional call must be made to the Behavioral Health Unit for an Emergency Mental Illness or Substance Use Disorder Admission Review.

MEDICALLY NECESSARY DETERMINATION

The decision that Inpatient Hospital admission, Outpatient service, or other health care services or supplies are not Medically Necessary, as such term is defined in this benefit booklet, will be determined by the Behavioral Health Unit. If the Behavioral Health Unit concurs that the Inpatient Hospital admission, Outpatient service, or other health care service or supply does not meet the criteria for Medically Necessary care, benefit for some days, services or the entire hospitalization will be denied. Your Behavioral Health Practitioner and in the case of an Inpatient Hospital admissions, the Hospital will be advised by telephone of this determinations, with a follow-up notification letter sent to you, your Behavioral Health Practioner, and the Hospital, and will specify the dates, services or supplies that are not considered Medically Necessary. The Behavioral Health Unit will issue these notification letters promptly. However, in some instances, these letters will not be received prior to your scheduled date of admission or service. For further details regarding Medically Necessary care and other exclusions described in this benefit booklet, see the provision entitled, "EXCLUSIONS—WHAT IS NOT COVERED."

The Behavioral Health Unit does not determine your course of treatment or whether you receive particular health care services. The decision regarding the course of treatment and receipt of particular health care services is a matter entirely between you and your Behavioral Health Practitioner. The Behavioral Health Unit's determination of Medically Necessary care is limited to merely whether a proposed admission, continued hospitalization, Outpatient service or other health care service is Medically Necessary under the Health Care Plan.

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

Remember that your Health Care Plan does not cover the cost of hospitalization or any health care services and supplies that are not Medically Necessary. The fact that your Behavioral Health Practitioner or another health care Provider may prescribe, order, recommend or approve an Inpatient Hospital admission, Outpatient service or other health care service or supply does not of itself make such hospitalization, service or supply Medically Necessary. Even if your Behavioral Health Practitioner prescribes, orders, recommends, approves, or views hospitalization or other health care services or supplies as Medically Necessary, the Claim Administrator will not pay for the hospitalization, services or supplies if the Behavioral Health Unit decides they were not Medically Necessary, except as otherwise provided in the APPEAL PROCEDURE section of this benefit booklet.

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH UNIT PROCEDURE

When you contact the Behavioral Health Unit to obtain Prior Authorization for your Inpatient Hospital admission, Outpatient service, and/or other service/supply, provide notification of your Emergency Mental Illness or Substance Use Disorder Admission, or request a length of stay/service review you should be prepared to provide the following information:

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

When you contact the Behavioral Health Unit to Preauthorize your Inpatient Hospital admission, Outpatient service, and/or other service/supply, provide notification of your Emergency Mental Illness or Substance Use Disorder Admission, or request a length of stay/service review, the Behavioral Health Unit:

1. will review the medical information provided and follow-up with the Behavioral Health Practitioner;
2. upon request, will advise you of Providers in the area who may be able to provide the admission and/or services that are the subject of the Prior Authorization Review;
3. may determine that the admission and/or services to be rendered are not Medically Necessary.

FIRST RESPONDERS MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELING

This plan provides mental health services for first responders without imposing a deductible, coinsurance, copayment, or any other cost-sharing requirements when services are rendered in-network. Benefit is applicable for Clinical Social Worker, Professional Counselor, and Licensed Psychologist provider types.

APPEAL PROCEDURE

Expedited Appeal

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

If the Claim Administrator determines that Benefits, as defined below, related to Substance Use Disorder Treatment are no longer Medically Necessary, you or your authorized representative shall be notified in writing within 24 hours of the Adverse Determination of your right to request an external review. Because the denial was based on a medical judgment, you may have the right to an Independent External Review as described in INDEPENDENT EXTERNAL REVIEW provision of the HOW TO FILE A CLAIM section of this benefit booklet.

You or your authorized representative may only request an expedited external review if initiated by submitting a request to the Illinois Department of Insurance as described in the EXPEDITED INDEPENDENT EXTERNAL REVIEW provision of the HOW TO FILE A CLAIM section of this benefit booklet, within 24 hours following the Adverse Determination notification from the Claim Administrator for Benefits related to Substance Use Disorder Treatment. Failure to request an expedited external review within 24 hours shall preclude you or your authorized representative from requesting an expedited external review. An expedited external review may not occur if the Substance Use Disorder Treatment Provider or facility determines that continued treatment is no longer Medically Necessary. For purposes of this section, "Benefits" means the benefits provided for treatment services for Inpatient and Outpatient treatment of Substance Use Disorders or conditions at American Society of Addiction Medicine levels of treatment 2.1 (Intensive Outpatient), 2.5 (Partial Hospitalization), 3.1 (Clinically Managed Low-Intensity Residential), 3.3 (Clinically Managed Population-Specific High-Intensity Residential), 3.5 (Clinically Managed High-Intensity Residential), and 3.7 (Medically Monitored Intensive Inpatient) and OMT (Opioid Maintenance Therapy) services.

If an expedited external review request meets the criteria of the Health Carrier External Review Act, an independent review organization (IRO) shall make a final determination of Medical Necessity within 72 hours of the receipt of the request by the Claim Administrator. If an IRO upholds an Adverse Determination, the Claim Administrator will provide coverage of Benefits through the day following the determination of the IRO.

Written Appeal

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

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Illinois
Appeals Coordinator
Blue Cross and Blue Shield BH Unit
P. O. Box 660240
Dallas, Texas 75266-0240
Fax Number: 1-877-th 1-7656

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

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

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

Additional information about appeals procedures is set forth in the CLAIM FILING AND APPEALS PROCEDURES section of this benefit booklet.

FAILURE TO OBTAIN PRIOR AUTHORIZATION OR NOTIFY

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

For Outpatient behavioral health services, including Partial Hospitalization Treatment Programs, there is no penalty to you for failure to notify the Claim Administrator. For Substance Use Disorder Treatment, there is no penalty to you for failure to notify the Claim Administrator for Inpatient Hospital admissions and Residential Treatment Centers.

MEDICARE ELIGIBLE MEMBERS

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

BENEFIT INFORMATION

Your employer has chosen a Claim Administrator Participating Provider Option benefit program for your Hospital and Physician benefits that provides you access to the Blue Choice PPO network. This program of health care benefits is designed to provide you with economic incentives for receiving Covered Services from a Blue Choice Options Provider.

As a participant in this benefit program, a directory of Providers participating in the Blue Choice PPO network will be available to you. You can visit the Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Illinois website at *www.bcbsil.com* for a list of Participating Providers. While there may be changes in the network list from time to time, selection of Providers by Blue Cross and Blue Shield will continue to be based upon the range of services, geographic location, and cost-effectiveness of care. Notice of changes in the network will be provided to your Group Administrator annually, or as required, to allow you to make selection within the network. However, you are urged to check with your Provider before undergoing treatment to make certain of its participation status. Although you can go to the Hospital or Professional Provider of your choice, benefits under this benefit program will be greater when you receive services from a Blue Choice Options Provider.

This section of your benefit booklet tells you what services are covered and how much will be paid. Your benefits are id for each of these services.

Your benefits are subject to all of the terms and conditions of this benefit booklet. Please refer to the DEFINITIONS, ELIGIBILITY and EXCLUSIONS sections of this benefit booklet for additional information regarding any limitations and/or special conditions pertaining to your benefits.

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

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

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

YOUR BENEFIT PERIOD

Your benefit period is a period of one year which begins on July 1st of each year. When you first enroll under this coverage, your first benefit period begins on your Coverage Date, and ends on the first June 30th following that date.

YOUR DEDUCTIBLE

When you choose to use the services of a Blue Choice Options Provider, your deductible will be less than when you use another Provider. Each benefit period you must satisfy for Covered Services rendered by Blue Choice Options Provider(s). This deductible will be referred to as the program deductible.

In addition to your program deductible, each time you are admitted to a Blue Choice Options Hospital, you must satisfy a $350 deductible.

For Covered Services you receive from a Provider other than a Blue Choice Options Provider, the program deductible will be as stated below.

Each benefit period you must satisfy a $400 deductible for Covered Services rendered by Participating Provider(s) and a separate $600 deductible for Covered Services rendered by a Non-Participating Provider(s) or Non-Administrator Provider(s). In other words, after you have Claims for Covered Services for more than the deductible amount in a benefit period, your benefits will begin. This deductible will be referred to as the program deductible.

In addition to your program deductible, each time you are admitted to a Participating Hospital, you must satisfy a $400 deductible.

Each time you are admitted to an Out-of-Network Hospital or Non-Administrator Hospital, you must satisfy a $500 deductible. This deductible is in addition to your program deductible.

HOSPITAL BENEFIT SECTION

INPATIENT CARE

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

Inpatient Covered Services

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

Preadmission Testing

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

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

Coordinated Home Care Program

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

BENEFIT PAYMENT FOR INPATIENT HOSPITAL COVERED SERVICES

Blue Choice Options Provider

When you receive Inpatient Hospital Covered Services from a Blue Choice Options Provider or in a Plan Program of a Blue Choice Options Provider, benefits will be provided at 100% of the Eligible Charge and your Inpatient Hospital admission deductible. If you are in a private room, benefits will be limited by the Hospital's rate for its most common type of room with two or more beds. If a private room is medically necessary, benefits will be based on the Hospital's private room and board rate.

Benefits for services under a Coordinated Home care Program of Blue Choice Option Provider will be subject to a Copayment of $45, then benefits will be provided at 100% of the Eligible Charge. Your program deductible will not apply.

For Inpatient Hospital Covered Services you receive at a Hospital other than a Blue Choice Options Provider, benefit payment will be as described below.

Participating Provider

When you receive Inpatient Hospital Covered Services from a Participating Provider or in an Administrator Program of a Participating Provider, benefits will be provided at 80% of the Eligible Charge after you have met your program deductible and your Inpatient Hospital admission deductible. If you are in a private room, benefits will be limited by the Hospital's rate for its most common type of room with two or more beds.

Benefits for services under a Coordinated home Care program of a Participating provider will be provided at 75% of the Eligible Charge after you have met your program deductible.

Out-of-Network

When you receive Inpatient Covered Services Out-of-Network, benefits will be provided at 50% of the Eligible Charge, after you have met your program deductible and your Inpatient Hospital admission deductible. If you are in a private room, benefits will be limited by the Hospital's rate for its most common type of room with two or more beds.

Non-Administrator Provider

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

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

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

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

OUTPATIENT HOSPITAL CARE

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

Outpatient Hospital Covered Services

1. Surgery and any related Diagnostic Service received on the same day as the Surgery. In addition, benefits for Covered Services received for gender reassignment Surgery, including related services and supplies will be provided the same as any other condition.
2. Radiation Therapy Treatments
3. Chemotherapy
4. Electroconvulsive Therapy
5. Partial Hospitalization Program
6. Renal Dialysis Treatments—if received in a Hospital, a Dialysis Facility or in your home under the supervision of a Hospital or Dialysis Facility
7. Diagnostic Service—when you are an Outpatient, and these services are related to Surgery or Medical Care
8. Urgent care
9. Emergency Accident Care
10. Emergency Medical Care
11. Bone Mass Measurement and Osteoporosis—Benefits will be provided for bone mass measurement and the diagnosis and treatment of osteoporosis
12. Approved Clinical Trials—Benefits for Covered Services for Routine Patient Costs are provided in connection with a phase I, phase II, phase III or phase IV clinical trial that is conducted in relation to the prevention, detection or treatment of cancer or other Life-Threatening Disease or Condition and is recognized under state and/or federal law.

BENEFIT PAYMENT FOR OUTPATIENT HOSPITAL COVERED SERVICES

Blue Choice Options Provider

Benefits will be provided at 100% of the Eligible Charge when you receive Outpatient Hospital Covered Services from a Blue Choice Options Provider. Your program deductible will not apply.

Each time you receive Covered Services for Outpatient Surgery from a Blue Choice Options Provider, you will be responsible for a Copayment of $300. Your program deductible will not apply.

For Outpatient Hospital Covered Services you receive at a Hospital other than a Blue Choice Options Provider, benefit payment will be as described below.

Benefits for Urgent Care from a Blue Choice Options Provider will be provided at 100% of the Hospital's Eligible Charge, subject to a Copayment of $40 per visit. Your program deductible will not apply.

Participating Provider

Benefits will be provided at 80% of the Eligible Charge after you have met your program deductible when you receive Outpatient Hospital Covered Services from a Participating Provider.

Each time you receive Covered Services for Outpatient Surgery from a Participating Provider, you will be responsible for a Copayment of $300.

Benefits will be provided at 80% of the Eligible Charge after you have met your program deductible when you receive Urgent Care Services from a Participating Provider.

Out-of-Network

When you receive Outpatient Hospital Covered Services Out-of-Network, benefits will be provided at 50% of the Eligible Charge after you have met your program deductible.

Each time you receive Covered Services for Outpatient Surgery Out-of-Network, you will be responsible for a Copayment of $300.

Benefits will be provided at 50% of the Eligible Charge after you have met your program deductible when you receive Urgent Care Services from a Out-of-Network Provider.

Non-Administrator Provider

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

Emergency Care

Benefits for Emergency Accident Care will be provided at 100% of the Eligible Charge when you receive Covered Services that meet the definition of Emergency Accident Care either, from a Blue Choice Options, a Participating, Out-of-Network or Non-Administrative Provider in a Hospital emergency room department.

Benefits for Emergency Accident Care will not be subject to the program deductible.

Benefits for Emergency Medical Care will be provided at 100% of the Eligible Charge when you receive Covered Services that meet the definition of Emergency Medical Care either from a Blue Choice Options, a Participating, Out-of-Network or Non-Plan Provider.

Benefits for Emergency Medical Care will not be subject to the program deductible.

Each time you receive Covered Services in an emergency room, you will be responsible for a Copayment of $300. If you are admitted to the Hospital as an Inpatient immediately following emergency treatment, the emergency room Copayment will be waived.

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

If you disagree with the Claim Administrator's determination in processing your benefits as non-emergency care instead of Emergency Accident Care or Emergency Medical Care, you may call the Claim Administrator at the number on the back of your Identification Card. Please review the HOW TO FILE A CLAIM AND APPEALS PROCEDURES section of this benefit booklet for specific information on your right to seek and obtain a full and fair review of your Claim.

WHEN SERVICES ARE NOT AVAILABLE FROM A BLUE CHOICE OPTIONS PROVIDER OR PARTICIPATING PROVIDER (HOSPITAL)

If you must receive Hospital Covered Services which the Claim Administrator has reasonably determined are unavailable from a Blue Choice Options provider or a Participating Provider, benefits for the Covered Services you receive from a Provider Out-of-Network will be provided at the payment level described for a Participating Provider.

PHYSICIAN AND OTHER PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

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

Certain services are covered pursuant to the Claim Administrator's medical policies and clinical procedure and coding policies, which are updated throughout the Calendar Year. The medical policies are guides considered by the Claim Administrator's when making coverage determinations and lay out the procedure and criteria to determine whether a procedure, treatment, facility, equipment, drug or device is Medically Necessary and is eligible as a Covered Service or is Experimental/Investigational, cosmetic, or a convenience item. The clinical procedure and coding policies provide information about what services are reimbursable under the benefit Plan. The most up-to-date medical and clinical procedure and coding policies are available at www.bcbsil.com, or call customer service at the number listed on the back of your Identification Card.

COVERED SERVICES

Surgery

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

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

The following services are also part of your surgical benefits:

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

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

Benefits will be provided for anesthesia administered in connection with dental care treatment rendered in a dental office, oral surgeon's office, Hospital or Ambulatory Surgical Facility if you are under age 19 and have been diagnosed with an Autism Spectrum Disorder or a developmental disability.

For purposes of this provision only, the following definitions shall apply:

Autism Spectrum Disorder means.....a pervasive developmental disorder described by the American Psychiatric Association or the World Health Organization diagnostic manuals as an autistic disorder, atypical autism, Asperger Syndrome, Rett Syndrome, childhood disintegrative disorder, or pervasive developmental disorder not otherwise specified; or a special education classification for autism or other disabilities related to autism.

Developmental disability means….a disability that is attributable to an intellectual disability or a related condition, if the related condition meets all of the following conditions:

- It is attributable to cerebral palsy, epilepsy, or any other condition, other than a Mental Illness, found to be closely related to an intellectual disability because that condition results in impairment of general intellectual functioning or adaptive behavior similar to that of individuals with an intellectual disability and requires treatment or services similar to those required for those individuals; for purposes of this definition, autism is considered a related condition;
- It manifested before the age of 22;
- It is likely to continue indefinitely; and
- It results in substantial functional limitations in 3 or more of the following areas of major life activity: i) self-care, ii) language, iii) learning, iv) mobility, v) self-direction, and vi) the capacity for independent living.

2. Assist at Surgery—when performed by a Physician, Dentist or Podiatrist who assists the operating surgeon in performing covered Surgery in a Hospital or Ambulatory Surgical Facility. In addition, benefits will be provided for assist at Surgery when performed by a Registered Surgical Assistant or an Advanced Practice Nurse. Benefits will also be provided for assist at Surgery when performed by a Physician Assistant under the direct supervision of a Physician, Dentist or Podiatrist.
3. Sterilization Procedures (even if they are voluntary).
4. Gender reassignment-benefits for Covered Services received for gender reassignment Surgery, including related service and supplies, will be provided the same as any other condition.

Additional Surgical Opinion

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

A1C Testing

This plan provides benefits for A1C testing for prediabetes, type I diabetes, and type II diabetes mellitus.

Biomarker Testing

This plan provides benefits for Medically Necessary Biomarker Testing for the purposes of diagnosis, treatment, appropriate management, or ongoing monitoring of a disease or condition, including Medically Necessary home saliva cancer screenings, once every twenty-four (24) months, if you are at high risk or showing symptoms of the disease being tested for.

Biomarker Testing means the analysis of a patient's tissue, blood, or other biospecimen for the presence of a biomarker. The term includes single-analyte tests, multiplex panel tests and whole genome sequencing.

Blood Glucose Monitors for Treatment of Diabetes

This plan provides benefits for Medically Necessary blood glucose monitors (including continuous glucose monitors, non-invasive monitors and monitors for the blind) if a Physician has provided a written order. This coverage also includes related supplies, and training in the use of continuous glucose monitors.

Benefits for glucose monitors will be provided at no charge when obtained from a Participating Provider.

Comprehensive Cancer Testing

This plan provides benefits for Medically Necessary Comprehensive Cancer Testing, including, but not limited to, whole-exome genome testing, whole-genome sequencing, RNA sequencing, tumor mutation burden, and targeted cancer gene panels.

Pancreatic Cancer Screening

This plan provides benefits for Medically Necessary pancreatic cancer screenings.

Vitamin D Testing

This plan provides benefits for Vitamin D Testing in accordance with vitamin D deficiency risk factors identified by the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Medical Benefit Therapeutic Alternatives

Certain prescription drugs administered by a health care professional have therapeutic equivalents or therapeutic alternatives that are used to treat the same condition. Benefits may be limited to only certain therapeutic equivalents or therapeutic alternatives. However, benefits may be provided for the therapeutic equivalents or therapeutic alternatives that are not otherwise covered under your benefit, if an exception is granted.

You may contact Customer Service at the toll-free telephone number on the back of your Identification Card or visit www.bcbsil.com/find-care/medical-rx for more information about covered therapeutic equivalents or therapeutic alternatives. To request an exception, you, your prescribing health care Provider, or your authorized representative, can call the toll-free telephone number on the back of your Identification Card.

Therapeutic equivalents or therapeutic alternatives may be covered through your prescription drug benefit, depending on your benefit plan.

Medical Care

Benefits are available for Medical Care visits when:

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

Consultations

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

Diabetes Self-Management Training and Education

Benefits will be provided for Outpatient self-management training, education, and medical nutrition therapy. Benefits will be provided if these services are rendered by a Physician, or duly certified, registered, or licensed health care professional with expertise in diabetes management, operating within the scope of their license. Benefits for such health care professionals will be provided at the Benefit Payment for Other Covered Services described in the OTHER COVERED SERVICES section of this benefit booklet. Benefits for Physicians will be provided at the Benefit Payment for Physician Services described later in this benefit section.

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

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

Emergency Accident Care

Emergency Medical Care

Electroconvulsive Therapy

Allergy Injections and Allergy Testing

Chemotherapy

Occupational Therapy

Benefits will be provided for Occupational Therapy when these services are rendered by a registered Occupational Therapist under the supervision of a Physician. This therapy must be furnished under a written plan established by a Physician and regularly reviewed by the therapist and Physician. The plan must be established before treatment is begun and must relate to the type, amount, frequency, and duration of therapy and indicate the diagnosis and anticipated goals. Your benefits for Occupational Therapy are limited to a maximum of 60 visits per benefit period. Benefits for Autism Spectrum Disorder will not apply towards and are not subject to any Occupational Therapy visits maximum indicated in the Benefit Highlights section of this benefit booklet.

Physical Therapy

Benefits will be provided for Physical Therapy when rendered by a licensed professional Physical Therapist; provided, however, when the therapy is beyond the scope of the Physical Therapist's license, the Physical Therapist must be under the supervision of a Physician, and the therapy must be furnished under a written plan established by a Physician and regularly reviewed by the therapist and the Physician. The plan must be established before treatment is begun and must relate to the type, amount, frequency, and duration of therapy and indicate the diagnosis and anticipated goals. Benefits will also be provided for preventive or Maintenance Physical Therapy when prescribed for persons affected by multiple sclerosis, subject to the Outpatient Physical Therapy benefit maximum. Benefits for Outpatient Physical Therapy will be limited to a maximum of 60 visits per benefit period. Benefits for Autism Spectrum Disorder will not apply towards and are not subject to any Physical Therapy visits maximum indicated in the Benefit Highlights section of this benefit booklet.

Chiropractic and Osteopathic Manipulations—Benefits will be provided for manipulation or adjustment of osseous or articular structures, commonly referred to as chiropractic and osteopathic manipulations, when performed by a person licensed to perform such procedures. Your benefits for chiropractic and osteopathic manipulations will be limited to a maximum of 30 visits per benefit period.

Naprapathy—Benefits will be provided for naprapathy when rendered by a Naprapath. Benefits for naprapathy will be limited to a maximum of 20 visits per benefit period.

Radiation Therapy Treatments

This plan provides benefits for Medically Necessary radiation therapy treatments.

Speech Therapy

Benefits will be provided for Speech Therapy when these services are rendered by a licensed Speech Therapist or Speech Therapist certified by the American Speech and Hearing Association. Inpatient Speech Therapy benefits will be provided only if Speech Therapy is not the only reason for admission. Your benefits for Outpatient Speech Therapy Out-of-Network are limited to a maximum of 60 visits per benefit period. Benefits for Autism Spectrum Disorder will not apply towards and are not subject to any Speech Therapy visits maximum indicated in the Benefit Highlights section of this benefit booklet.

Telehealth and Telemedicine Services

This plan provides benefits for Telehealth and Telemedicine Services as defined under the BENEFIT HIGHLIGHTS and DEFINITIONS section of this booklet.

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

Experimental/Investigational Treatment—Benefits will be provided for routine patient care in conjunction with experimental/investigational treatments when medically appropriate and you have cancer or a terminal condition that according to the diagnosis of your Physician is considered life threatening, if a) you are a qualified individual participating in an Approved Clinical Trial program; and b) if those services or supplies would otherwise be covered under this benefit booklet if not provided in connection with an Approved Clinical Trial program. You and/or your Physician are encouraged to call customer service at the toll-free number on your Identification Card in advance to obtain information about whether a particular clinical trial is qualified.

Breast Reduction Surgery

This Plan provides benefits for Medically Necessary breast reduction surgery.

Colorectal Cancer Screening

Benefits will be provided for colorectal cancer screening, including routine colonoscopy and sigmoidoscopy, as prescribed by a Physician, in accordance with the published American Cancer Society guidelines on colorectal cancer screening

or other existing colorectal cancer screening guidelines issued by nationally recognized professional medical societies or federal government agencies, including the National Cancer Institute, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the American College of Gastroenterology.

Diagnostic Colonoscopies

Benefits will be provided for diagnostic colonoscopies, when determined to be Medically Necessary by a Physician, Advanced Practice Nurse, or Physician Assistant.

Ovarian Cancer Screening

Benefits will be provided for annual ovarian cancer screening using CA-125 serum tumor marker testing, transvaginal ultrasound, and pelvic examination.

Pap Smear Test

Benefits will be provided for an annual routine cervical smear or pap smear test.

Prostate Cancer Screening

Benefits will be provided for an annual routine prostate cancer screening.

Routine Liver Screening

Benefits will be provided at no charge for routine liver screenings, including liver ultrasounds and alpha-fetoprotein blood tests, for individuals who are at high risk for liver disease, every six months.

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

Approved Clinical Trials—Benefits for Covered Services for Routine Patient Costs are provided in connection with a phase I, phase II, phase III or phase IV clinical trial that is conducted in relation to the prevention, detection or treatment of cancer or other Life-Threatening Disease or Condition and is recognized under state and/or federal law.

Acupuncture—Benefits will be provided for acupuncture per Benefit Period.

Durable Medical Equipment

Benefits will be provided for such things as internal cardiac valves, internal pacemakers, mandibular reconstruction devices (not used primarily to support dental prosthesis), compression sleeves to prevent or mitigate lymphedema, bone screws, bolts, nails, plates, and any other internal and permanent devices as reasonably approved by the Claim Administrator. Benefits will also be provided for the rental (but not to exceed the total cost of equipment) or purchase of durable medical equipment required for temporary therapeutic use provided that this equipment is primarily and customarily used to serve a medical purpose.

Orthotic Devices

Benefits will be provided for a supportive device for the body or a part of the body, head, neck, or extremities, including but not limited to, leg, back, arm and neck braces. In addition, benefits will be provided for adjustments, repairs, or replacement of the device because of a change in your physical condition, as Medically Necessary.

Your benefits for foot orthotics will be limited to two foot orthotic devices or one pair of foot orthotic devices per benefit period.

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

Prosthetic Appliances

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

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

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

Outpatient Contraceptive Services

Benefits will be provided for prescription contraceptive devices, injections, implants, and Outpatient contraceptive services. Outpatient contraceptive services means consultations, examinations, procedures, and medical services provided on an Outpatient basis and related to the use of contraceptive methods (including natural family planning) to prevent an unintended pregnancy.

Benefits for prescription contraceptive devices and implants will not be subject to a calendar year maximum.

Hormone Therapy to Treat Menopause

This plan provides benefits for Medically Necessary hormone therapy to treat menopause that has been induced by a hysterectomy.

Routine Pediatric Hearing Examination—Benefits will be provided for routine hearing examinations.

Pulmonary Rehabilitation Therapy—Benefits will be provided for Outpatient cardiac/pulmonary rehabilitation programs provided within six months of a cardiac incident and Outpatient pulmonary rehabilitation services.

Gender assignment surgery and gender reassignment surgery with related services, including medically necessary gender-affirming care consistent with the requirements and standards contained in 215 ILCS 5/370c and 50 Ill. Adm. Code 2603.35 and also, to the extent possible, consistent with the standards of care set forth by the World Professional Association for Transgender Health (WPATH).

Therapy to Treat Menopause

This plan provides benefits for Medically Necessary hormonal and non-hormonal treatments for menopausal symptoms, including all FDA approved administration modalities such as oral, transdermal, topical, and vaginal rings.

Mobile Integrated Health Care Services

Benefits will be provided for Medically Necessary health services provided on-site by emergency medical services personnel, when your Provider has determined such services would likely prevent admission or readmission to a hospital, behavioral health facility, acute care facility, or nursing facility.

Inherited Gene Mutation Testing

Benefits will be provided for outpatient clinical genetic testing for an inherited gene mutation for those with a personal or family history of cancer, or for evidence-based screenings for those with an inherited mutation, associated with an increased risk of cancer, when recommended by a Provider. Cost sharing for this coverage will not exceed $50 per test, when obtained from a Participating Provider.

Epinephrine Injectors—Unless otherwise provided for in this benefit booklet, benefits for Medically Necessary epinephrine injectors are available under this benefit section.

Early Treatment of a Serious Mental Illness

Benefits will be provided to treat a serious mental illness in a child or young adult under age 26, for the following bundled, evidenced-based treatments:

1. **First Episode Psychosis Treatment** - benefits for coordinated specialty care for first episode psychosis treatment will be covered when provided by FIRST.IL Providers.

2. **Assertive Community Treatment (ACT)** - benefits for ACT will be covered when provided by DHS-Certified Providers.
3. **Community Support Team Treatment (CST)** - benefits for CST will be covered when provided by DHS-Certified Providers.

In addition to the **DEFINITIONS** in this Certificate, the following definitions are applicable to this provision:

DHS-Certified Provider.....means a provider certified to provide ACT and CST by the Illinois Department of Human Services' Division of Mental Health and approved to provide ACT and CST by the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services.

FIRST IL Provider.....means a provider contracted with the Illinois Department of Human Services' Division of Mental Health to deliver coordinated specialty care for first episode psychosis treatment.

BENEFIT PAYMENT FOR PHYSICIAN SERVICES

The benefits provided by the Claim Administrator and the expenses that are your responsibility for your Covered Services will depend on whether you receive services from a Blue Choice Options, Participating or Out-of-Network Professional Provider. In most cases, your benefits will be greater when you receive services from a Blue Choice Options Provider.

Blue Choice Options Provider

When you receive any of the Covered Services described in this Physician Benefit Section from a Blue Choice Options Professional Provider or from a Dentist, benefits will be provided at 100% of the Maximum Allowance, unless otherwise specified in this Certificate. Your program deductible will not apply.

When you receive Covered Services (except for those services specified below) in a Blue Choice Options Professional Provider's office, benefits for Covered Services, including all related Covered Services received on the same day, are subject to a Copayment of $40 per visit. Benefits will then be provided at 100% of the Maximum Allowance. Your program deductible will not apply.

When you receive Covered Services (except for those services specified below) in a Blue Choice Options Professional Provider specialist's office, benefits for Covered Services, including all related Covered Services received on the same day, are subject to a Copayment of $45 per visit. Benefits will then be provided at 100% of the Maximum Allowance. Your program deductible will not apply.

A specialist is a Provider who is not a:

- Certified Nurse-Midwife
- Certified Nurse Practitioner
- Certified Clinical Nurse Specialist
- Clinical Professional Counselor
- Clinical Social Workers
- Clinical Laboratory
- Marriage and Family Therapist
- Mixed psychiatric group
- Mixed specialty group
- Neuro Psychologist
- Optician
- Optometrist
- Retail Health Clinic

or a Physician in:

- clinical psychology
- family practice
- general practice
- gynecology
- internal medicine
- obstetrics
- obstetrics/gynecology
- pediatrics

The following Covered Services are not subject to the Blue Choice Options office visit Copayment, and benefits will be provided at the general medical/surgical payment level, unless otherwise specified in this benefit booklet:

- Surgery
- Chiropractic and osteopathic manipulation

When you receive Outpatient Occupational Therapy, Outpatient Physical Therapy, or Outpatient Speech Therapy from a Blue Choice Options Professional Provider, benefits will be provided at 100% of the Maximum Allowance, subject to a Copayment of $45 per visit.

Benefits for Outpatient Occupational Therapy, Outpatient Physical Therapy, or Outpatient Speech Therapy from a Blue Choice Options Professional Provider will not be subject to your program deductible.

When you receive Covered Services, from a Blue Choice Options Hospital or from an Administrator Ambulatory Surgical Facility and, due to any reason, Covered Services are provided by an anesthesiologist (including a Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist,) pathologist, radiologist, neonatologist, emergency room Physician, assistant surgeon (if the primary surgeon is a Participating Provider) or other Physician who is not a Participating Provider, are unavailable from a Blue Choice Options Provider and Covered Services are provided by an Out-of-Network Provider, you will incur no greater out-of-pocket costs than you would have incurred if the Covered Services were provided by a Participating Provider.

However, in the event that you willfully choose to receive Covered Services from an Out-of-Network Provider when a Participating Professional Provider is available, or you or the Out-of-Network Provider reject the assignment of benefits, the above provision will not apply to you.

For Physician Covered Services you receive from a Provider other than a Blue Choice Options Provider, benefit payment will be as described below.

Participating Provider

When you receive any of the Covered Services described in this Physician Benefit Section from a Participating Provider or from a Dentist, benefits will be provided at 80% of the Maximum Allowance after you have met your program deductible. Although Dentists are not Participating Providers they will be treated as such for purposes of benefit payment made under this benefit booklet and may bill you for the difference between the Claim Administrator's benefit payment and the Provider's charge to you.

- Behavioral Health Practitioner
- psychiatry

When you receive Covered Services, from a Participating Hospital or from a Plan Ambulatory Surgical Facility and, due to any reason, Covered Services for anesthesiology, pathology, radiology, neonatology or emergency room are unavailable from a Participating Provider and Covered Services are provided by an Out-of-Network Provider, you will incur no greater out-of-pocket costs than you would have incurred if the Covered Services were provided by a Participating Provider.

However, in the event that you willfully choose to receive Covered Services from an Out-of-Network Provider when a Participating Professional Provider is available, or you or the Out-of-Network Provider reject the assignment of benefits, the above provision will not apply to you.

Out-of-Network

When you receive any of the Covered Services described in this Physician Benefit Section from a Professional Provider Out-of-Network, benefits will be provided at 50% of the Maximum Allowance, unless specifically mentioned below. Your program deductible will not apply.

Emergency Care

Benefits for Emergency Accident Care will be provided at 100% of the Maximum Allowance when rendered by either a Blue Choice Options, Participating or Out-of-Network Provider. Your program deductible will not apply.

When you receive Covered Services for Emergency Accident Care in a Provider's office, benefits for office visits are subject to a Copayment of $40 per visit. Benefits for office visits will be provided at 100% of the Maximum Allowance .

Benefits for Emergency Medical Care will be provided at 100% of the Maximum Allowance when rendered by either a Blue Choice Options, Participating or Out-of-Network Provider. Your program deductible will not apply.

When you receive Covered Services for Emergency Medical Care in a Provider's office, benefits for office visits are subject to a Copayment of $40 per visit. Benefits for office visits will be provided at 100% of the Maximum Allowance.

If you disagree with the Claim Administrator's determination in processing your benefits as non-emergency care instead of Emergency Accident Care or Emergency Medical Care, you may call the Claim Administrator at the number on the back of your Identification Card. Please review the HOW TO FILE A CLAIM AND APPEALS PROCEDURES section of this benefit booklet for specific information on your right to seek and obtain a full and fair review of your Claim.

Participating and Non-Participating Professional Providers are:

- Acupuncturists
- Audiologists
- Certified Nurse-Midwives
- Certified Nurse Practitioners
- Certified Clinical Nurse Specialists
- Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists
- Chiropractors
- Clinical Social Workers
- Clinical Professional Counselors
- Clinical Laboratories
- Dentists*
- Durable Medical Equipment Providers
- Home Infusion Therapy Providers
- Naprapaths
- Occupational Therapists
- Optometrists
- Orthotic Providers
- Other Professional Providers
- Physical Therapists
- Physicians
- Podiatrists
- Psychologists
- Prosthetic Providers
- Registered Surgical Assistants
- Registered Dieticians
- Retail Health Clinics
- Speech Therapists

- Marriage and Family Therapists

* Dentists are Non-Participating Providers, and will be treated as such for purposes of benefit payment made under this benefit booklet. They may bill you for the difference between the Blue Cross and Blue Shield benefit payment and the Provider's charge to you.

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

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

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

OTHER COVERED SERVICES

OTHER COVERED SERVICES

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

- The processing, transporting, storing, handling and administration of blood and blood components.
- Ambulance Transportation—Benefits will not be provided for long distance trips or for use of an ambulance because it is more convenient than other transportation.
- Dental accident care—Dental services rendered by a Dentist or Physician which are required as the result of an accidental injury.
- Oxygen and its administration.
- Medical and surgical dressings, supplies, casts, and splints.
- Hearing Implants—Benefits will be provided for bone anchored Hearing Aids and cochlear implants.
- Hearing Aids—Benefits will be provided for Medically Necessary Hearing Aids when a Hearing Care Professional prescribes a Hearing Aid to augment communication as follows:
  - (i) Benefits for one Hearing Aid will be covered for each ear every 36 months;
  - (ii) Related services, such as audiological examinations and selection, fitting, and adjustment of ear molds to maintain optimal fit will be covered when deemed Medically Necessary by a Hearing Care Professional; and
  - (iii) Hearing Aid repairs will be covered when deemed Medically Necessary.

BENEFIT PAYMENT FOR OTHER COVERED SERVICES

After you have met your program deductible, benefits will be provided at 100% of the Eligible Charge or 100% of the Maximum Allowance for any of the Covered Services described in this section.

Benefits for ambulance transportation (local ground or air transportation to the nearest appropriately equipped facility) will be provided at 100% of the Eligible Charge or 100% of the Maximum Allowance whether or not you have met your program deductible.

Notwithstanding anything else described herein, Providers of ambulance transportation will be paid using local pricing methods as submitted to the Claim Administrator. Benefits for Ambulance Transportation will be paid at the highest level available under this benefit program. However, you will be responsible for any charges in excess of this amount.

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

The expenses that are your responsibility for your Other Covered Services will depend on whether you receive services from a Blue Choice Options, Participating or Out-of-Network Provider.

Participating and Non-Participating Professional Providers are:

- Acupuncturists
- Audiologists
- Certified Nurse-Midwives
- Certified Nurse Practitioners
- Certified Clinical Nurse Specialists
- Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists
- Chiropractors
- Clinical Social Workers
- Clinical Professional Counselors
- Clinical Laboratories
- Dentists*
- Durable Medical Equipment Providers
- Home Infusion Therapy Providers
- Marriage and Family Therapists
- Naprapaths
- Occupational Therapists
- Optometrists
- Orthotic Providers
- Other Professional Providers
- Physical Therapists
- Physicians
- Podiatrists
- Psychologists
- Prosthetic Providers
- Registered Surgical Assistants
- Registered Dieticians
- Retail Health Clinics
- Speech Therapists

* Dentists are Non-Participating Providers, and will be treated as such for purposes of benefit payment made under this benefit booklet. They may bill you for the difference between the Blue Cross and Blue Shield benefit payment and the Provider's charge to you.

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

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

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

SPECIAL CONDITIONS AND PAYMENTS

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

HUMAN ORGAN TRANSPLANTS

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

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

Benefits will be provided for:

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

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

- **Whenever a heart, lung, heart/lung, liver, pancreas, or pancreas/kidney transplant is recommended by your Physician, you must contact the Claim Administrator by telephone before your transplant Surgery has been scheduled. The Claim Administrator will furnish you with the names of Hospitals which have Claim Administrator approved Human Organ Transplant Programs. No benefits will be provided for heart, lung, heart/lung, liver, pancreas, or pancreas/kidney transplants performed at any Hospital that does not have a Claim Administrator approved Human Organ Transplant Program.**
- Your benefits under this coverage will begin no earlier than 5 days prior to the transplant Surgery and shall continue for one period of no longer than 365 days after the transplant Surgery. Benefits will be provided for all Inpatient and Outpatient Covered Services related to the transplant Surgery.

— If you are the recipient of the transplant, benefits will be provided for transportation and lodging for you and up to two companion(s). For benefits to be available, your place of residency must be more than 50 miles from the Hospital where the transplant will be performed.

— Benefits for transportation and lodging are limited to $2,400 per night for you and an additional $50 per night for each permitted companion (up to $100 per night). The maximum amount that will be provided for lodging is $70 per person per day.

— In addition to the other exclusions of this benefit booklet, benefits will not be provided for the following:

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

CARDIAC REHABILITATION SERVICES

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

PREVENTIVE CARE SERVICES

In addition to the benefits otherwise provided for in this benefit booklet, (and notwithstanding anything in your benefit booklet to the contrary), the following preventive care services will be considered Covered Services and will not be subject to any deductible, Coinsurance, Copayment or dollar maximum (to be implemented in the quantities and within the time period allowed under applicable law or regulatory guidance) when such services are received from a Blue Choice Options or Participating Provider or Participating Pharmacy that is contracted for such service:

1. evidence-based items or services that have in effect a rating of “A” or “B” in the current recommendations of the United States Preventive Services Task Force (“USPSTF”);

2. immunizations recommended by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ("CDC") with respect to the individual involved;
3. evidenced-informed preventive care and screenings provided for in the comprehensive guidelines supported by the Health Resources and Services Administration ("HRSA") for infants, children, and adolescents;
4. with respect to women, such additional preventive care and screenings, not described in item 1. above, as provided for in comprehensive guidelines supported by the HRSA; and
5. Preventive Drugs (including both prescription and over-the-counter products) that meet the preventive recommendations outlined above and that are listed on the No-Cost Preventive Drug List (to be implemented in the quantities and within the tine period allows under applicable law) will be covered and will not be subject to and Copayment Amount, Coinsurance Amount, Deductibles, or dollar maximum when obtained from a Participating Pharmacy. Drugs on the No-Cost Preventive Drug List that are obtained from a non-Participating Pharmacy, may be subject to Copayment Amount, Coinsurance Amount, Deductibles, or dollar maximums, if applicable.

A copay waiver can be requested for drugs or immunizations that meet the preventive recommendations outlined above that are not on the No-Cost Preventive Drug List. Please call the Customer Service toll-free telephone number on the back of your Identification Card for more information or visit BCBSIL.com/provider or myprime.com to obtain a Copay waiver form.

The services listed below may include requirements pursuant to state regulatory mandates and are to be covered at no cost to the member.

For purposes of this Preventive Care Services benefit provision, the current recommendations of the USPSTF regarding breast cancer screening and mammography and prevention will be considered the most current (other than those issued in or around November 2009).

The preventive care services described in items 1. through 5. above may change as USPSTF, CDC and HRSA guidelines are modified. For more information, you may access the Claim Administrator's website at *www.bcbsil.com* or contact customer service at the toll-free number on your Identification Card.

If a recommendation or guideline for a particular preventive health service does not specify the frequency, method, treatment or setting in which it must be provided, the Claim Administrator may use reasonable medical management techniques, including but not limited to, those related to setting and medical appropriateness to determine coverage.

If a covered preventive health service is provided during the office visit and is billed separately from the office visit, you may be responsible for the Copayment or Coinsurance for the office visit only. If an office visit and the preventive health service are billed together and the primary purpose of the visit was not the

preventive health service, you may be responsible for the Copayment or Coinsurance for the office visit including the preventive health service.

Preventive Care Services for Adults (or others as specified):

1. Abdominal aortic aneurysm screening for men ages 65 to 75 who have ever smoked
2. Unhealthy alcohol and drug use screening and counseling
3. Clinicians offer or refer adults with a Body Mass Index (BMI) of 30 or higher to intensive, multicomponent behavioral interventions
4. Aspirin use for prevention of cardiovascular disease for certain ages
5. Blood pressure screening
6. Cholesterol screening for adults of certain ages or at higher risk
7. Colorectal cancer screening for adults over age 45
8. Depression screening
9. Physical activity counseling for adults who are overweight or obese and have additional cardiovascular disease risk factors for cardiovascular disease
10. HIV screening for all adults at higher risk
11. HIV preexposure prophylaxis (PrEP) with effective antiretroviral therapy for persons at high risk of HIV acquisition including baseline and monitoring services
12. The following immunization vaccines for adults (doses, recommended ages, and recommended populations vary):
    - Haemophilus influenzae type b (Hib)
    - Hepatitis A
    - Hepatitis B
    - Herpes Zoster (Shingles)
    - Human papillomavirus
    - Influenza (Flu shot or flu mist)
    - Measles, Mumps, Rubella
    - Meningococcal
    - MPOX
    - Pneumococcal
    - RSV
    - Tetanus, Diphtheria, Pertussis (DTap/Tdap/Td)
    - Varicella
    - COVID-19
13. Obesity screening and counseling

14. Sexually transmitted infections (STI) counseling
15. Tobacco use screening and cessation interventions for tobacco users
16. Syphilis screening for adults at higher risk
17. Exercise interventions to prevent falls in adults aged 65 years and older who are at increased risk for falls
18. Hepatitis C virus (HCV) screening of infection in adults aged 19 to 79 years
19. Hepatitis B virus screening for persons at high risk for infection
20. Counseling children, adolescents and young adults who have fair skin about minimizing their exposure to ultraviolet radiation to reduce risk for skin cancer
21. Lung cancer screening in adults 50 and older who have a 20 pack-year smoking history and currently smoke or have quit within the past 15 years
22. Screening for high blood pressure in adults aged 18 years or older
23. Screening for abnormal blood glucose and type II diabetes as part of cardiovascular risk assessment in adults who are overweight or obese
24. Low to moderate-dose statin for the prevention of cardiovascular disease (CVD) for adults aged 40 to 75 years with: (a) no history of CVD, (b) 1 or more risk factors for CVD (including but not limited to dyslipidemia, diabetes, hypertension, or smoking) and (c) a calculated 10 year CVD risk of 10% or greater
25. Tuberculin testing for adults 18 years or older who are at a higher risk of tuberculosis
26. Whole body skin examination for lesions suspicious for skin cancer

Preventive Care Services for Women (including pregnant women or others as specified):

1. Bacteriuria urinary tract screening or other infection screening for pregnant women
2. Perinatal depression screening and counseling
3. BRCA counseling about genetic testing for women at higher risk
4. Breast cancer chemoprevention counseling for women at higher risk
5. Breastfeeding comprehensive lactation support and counseling from trained providers, as well as access to breastfeeding supplies for pregnant and nursing women. Electric breast pumps are limited to one per benefit period
6. Cervical cancer screening
7. Chlamydia infection screening for younger women and women at higher risk
8. Contraception: FDA-approved contraceptive methods, sterilization procedures, and patient education and counseling, not including abortifacient drugs

9. Domestic and interpersonal violence screening and counseling for all women
10. Daily supplements of .4 to .8 mg of folic acid supplements for women who may become pregnant
11. Diabetes screen after pregnancy
12. Gestational diabetes screening for women after 24 to 28 weeks pregnant and those at high risk of developing gestational diabetes
13. Gonorrhea screening for all women at higher risk
14. Hepatitis B screening for pregnant women at their first prenatal visit
15. HIV screening and counseling for women
16. Human papillomavirus (HPV) DNA test: high risk HPV DNA testing every 3 years for women with normal cytology results who are age 30 or older
17. Osteoporosis screening for women over age 65, and younger women with risk factors
18. Rh incompatibility screening for all pregnant women and follow-up testing for women at higher risk
19. Tobacco use screening and interventions for all women, and expanded counseling for pregnant tobacco users
20. Screening for anxiety in adolescent and adult women, including those who are pregnant or postpartum, who have not recently been screened
21. Sexually transmitted infections (STI) counseling
22. Syphilis screening for all pregnant women or other women at increased risk
23. Well-woman visits to obtain recommended preventive services
24. Urinary incontinence screening
25. Breast cancer mammography screenings, including breast tomosynthesis and, if determined to be Medically Necessary by a Physician, Advanced Practice Nurse or a Physician Assistant, a screening MRI and comprehensive ultrasound
26. Intrauterine device (IUD) services related to follow up and management of side effects, counseling for continued adherence, and device removal
27. Aspirin use for pregnant women to prevent preeclampsia
28. Screening for preeclampsia in pregnant women with blood pressure measurements throughout pregnancy
29. Behavioral counseling to promote healthy weight gain during pregnancy
30. Behavioral counseling to maintain weight or limit weight gain to prevent obesity for women who are aged 40 or older
31. Annual menopause health visit

Preventive Care Services for Children (or others as specified):

1. Alcohol and drug use assessment for adolescents
2. Behavioral assessments for children of all ages
3. Blood pressure screenings for children of all ages
4. Cervical dysplasia screening for members
5. Congenital hypothyroidism screening for newborns
6. Critical congenital heart defect screening for newborns
7. Depression screening for adolescents
8. Development screening for children under age 3, and surveillance throughout childhood
9. Dyslipidemia screening for children ages 9-11 and 17-21
10. Bilirubin screening in newborns
11. Fluoride chemoprevention supplements for children without fluoride in their water source
12. Fluoride varnish to primary teeth of all infants and children starting at the age of primary tooth eruption
13. Gonorrhea preventive medication for the eyes of all newborns
14. Hearing screening for all newborns, children, and adolescents
15. Height, weight, and body mass index measurements
16. Hematocrit or hemoglobin screening
17. Hemoglobinopathies or sickle cell screening for all newborns
18. HIV screening for adolescents at higher risk
19. The following immunization vaccines for children from birth to age 18 (doses, recommended ages, and recommended populations vary):
    - Hepatitis A
    - Hepatitis B
    - Human papillomavirus (HPV)
    - Influenza (Flu shot or Flu mist)
    - Measles, Mumps, Rubella
    - Meningococcal
    - Pneumococcal
    - Tetanus, Diphtheria, Pertussis
    - Varicella
    - Haemophilus influenzae type b (Hib)
    - Rotavirus

- RSV
- Inactivated Poliovirus
- Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis (DTap/Tdap/Td)
- COVID-19

20. Lead screening for children at risk for exposure
21. Autism screenings for Children at 18-24 months of age
22. Medical history for all children throughout development
23. Obesity screening and counseling
24. Oral health risk assessment for younger children up to six years old
25. Phenylketonuria (PKU) screening for newborns
26. Sexually transmitted infections (STI) prevention and counseling for adolescents
27. Tuberculin testing for children at a higher risk of tuberculosis
28. Vision screening for children and adolescents
29. Tobacco use interventions, including education or brief counseling, to prevent initiation of tobacco use in school-aged children and adolescents
30. Newborn blood screening
31. Any other immunization that is required by law for a child. Allergy injections are not considered immunizations under this benefit provision
32. Whole body skin examination for lesions suspicious for skin cancer

The FDA-approved contraceptive drugs and devices currently covered under this benefit provision are listed on the *Contraceptive Drug List*. This list is available on the Claim Administrator's website at *www.bcbsil.com* and/ or by contacting customer service at the toll-free number on your Identification Card. Benefits are not available under this benefit provision for contraceptive drugs and devices not listed on the *Contraceptive Drug List*. You may, however, have coverage under other sections of this benefit booklet, subject to any applicable deductible, Coinsurance, Copayments and/or benefit maximums. The *Contraceptive Drug List* and the preventive care services covered under this benefit provision are subject to change as FDA guidelines, medical management and medical policies are modified.

Routine pediatric care, preventive care (such as contraceptives) and/or Outpatient periodic health examinations Covered Services not included above will be subject to the deductible, Coinsurance, Copayments and/or benefit maximums previously described in this benefit booklet, if applicable.

Preventive care services received from a Non-Participating Provider, or a Non-Administrator Provider facility, or a Non-Participating Pharmacy or other routine Covered Services not provided for under this provision may be subject to the deductible, Coinsurance, Copayments and/or benefit maximums.

Benefits for vaccinations that are considered preventive care services will not be subject to any deductible, Coinsurance, Copayments and/or benefit maximum when such services are received from a Blue Choice Options or Participating Provider or Participating Pharmacy.

Benefits for vaccinations that are considered preventive care services will not be subject to any deductible, Coinsurance, Copayments and/or benefit maximum when such services are received from a Community or Participating Provider or Participating Pharmacy.

Vaccinations that are received from a Out-of-Network Provider Non-Participating Provider, or a Non-Administrator Provider facility, or a Non-Participating Pharmacy or other vaccinations that are not provided for under this provision may be subject to the deductible, Coinsurance, Copayments and/or benefit maximum.

ROUTINE MAMMOGRAMS

Benefits will be provided for routine mammograms. A routine mammogram is an x-ray or digital examination of the breast for the presence of breast cancer, even if no symptoms are present. Benefits for routine mammograms will be provided as follows:

— one baseline mammogram

— an annual mammogram

Benefits for routine mammograms will be provided for women who have a family history of breast cancer, prior personal history of breast cancer, positive genetic testing or other risk factors at the age and intervals considered Medically Necessary by their Physician.

If a routine mammogram reveals heterogeneous or dense breast tissue, benefits will be provided for a comprehensive ultrasound screening and magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) screening of an entire breast or breasts, when determined to be Medically Necessary by your Physician.

DIAGNOSTIC MAMMOGRAMS

Benefits will be provided for Diagnostic Mammograms when determined to be Medically Necessary by a Physician, Advanced Practice Nurse, or Physician Assistant.

Benefits for Diagnostic Mammograms will be provided at no cost.

Blue Choice Options Provider

Benefits for routine mammograms when rendered by a Blue Choice Options Provider will be provided at 100% of the Eligible Charge or Maximum Allowance whether or not you have met your program deductible. Benefits for routine mammograms rendered by a Blue Choice Options Provider will not be subject to the Physician office visit Copayment.

Participating Provider

Benefits for routine mammograms when rendered by a Participating Provider will be provided at 80% of the Eligible Charge or 80% of the Maximum Allowance after you have met your program deductible.

Out-of-Network Provider

Benefits for routine mammograms when rendered by an Out-of-Network Provider will be provided at 50% of the Eligible Charge or 50% of the Maximum Allowance after you have met your program deductible. Benefits for routine mammograms will not be subject to the Out-of-Network Provider office visit Copayment if applicable.

Benefit Maximum

Benefits for routine mammograms will not be subject to any benefit period maximum or lifetime maximum.

SKILLED NURSING FACILITY CARE

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

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

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

Benefits for Covered Services rendered in an Administrator Skilled Nursing Facility will be provided at 85% of the Eligible Charge after you have met your program deductible.

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

AMBULATORY SURGICAL FACILITY

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

Benefit payment for Covered Services rendered by an Administrator Ambulatory Surgical Facility will be provided at the same payment level as Blue Choice Options Hospital Outpatient Surgery. Benefits for services by a Non-Administrative Ambulatory Surgical Facility will be provided at 50% of the Eligible Charge.

Benefits for services rendered by an Administrator Ambulatory Surgical Facility will be provided at 80% of the Eligible Charge. Benefits for services by a Non-

Administrator Ambulatory Surgical Facility will be provided at 50% of the Eligible Charge.

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

AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER(S)

Your benefits for the diagnosis and treatment of Autism Spectrum Disorder(s) are the same as your benefits for any other condition. Treatment for Autism Spectrum Disorder(s) shall include the following care when prescribed, provided or ordered for an individual diagnosed with an Autism Spectrum Disorder (a) by a Physician or a Psychologist who has determined that such care is Medically Necessary, or (b) by a certified, registered or licensed health care professional with expertise in treating Autism Spectrum Disorder(s), including but not limited to, a health care professional who is eligible as a Qualified ABA Provider by state regulation and when such care is determined to be Medically Necessary and ordered by a Physician or a Psychologist:

- psychiatric care, including diagnostic services;
- psychological assessments and treatments;
- habilitative or rehabilitative treatments;
- therapeutic care, including behavioral Speech, Occupational and Physical Therapies that provide treatment in the following areas: a) self-care and feeding, b) pragmatic, receptive and expressive language, c) cognitive functioning, d) applied behavior analysis (ABA), intervention and modification, e) motor planning and f) sensory processing.

Please review the Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy and Speech Therapy provisions in this benefit booklet.

Note: Covered benefits for clinically appropriate Autism Spectrum Disorder services and Habilitative services will not be denied solely on the basis of where those services are provided.

HABILITATIVE SERVICES

Your benefits for Habilitative Services with Congenital, Genetic, or Early Acquired Disorder are the same as your benefits for any other condition if all of the following conditions are met:

- a physician has diagnosed the Congenital, Genetic, or Early Acquired Disorder; and
- treatment is administered by a licensed speech-language pathologist, Audiologist, Occupational Therapist, Physical Therapist, Physician, licensed nurse, Optometrist, licensed nutritionist, Clinical Social Worker, or Psychologist upon the referral of a Physician; and
- treatment must be Medically Necessary and therapeutic and not Investigational.

SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER TREATMENT

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

DETOXIFICATION

Covered Services received for detoxification are not subject to the Substance Use Disorder Treatment provisions specified above. Benefits for Covered Services received for detoxification will be provided under the HOSPITAL BENEFITS and PHYSICIAN BENEFITS section of this benefit booklet, the same as for any other condition.

MENTAL ILLNESS AND SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER SERVICES

Benefits for all of the Covered Services described in this benefit booklet are available for the diagnosis and/or treatment of a Mental Illness and/or Substance Use Disorder. Benefits for the diagnosis and/or treatment of a Mental Illness and/or Substance Use Disorder includes pregnancy and postpartum periods and are available for those who have experienced a miscarriage or stillbirth. Inpatient benefits for these Covered Services will also be provided for the diagnosis and/or treatment of Inpatient Mental Illness or Substance use Disorder in a Residential Treatment Center. Treatment of a Mental Illness or Substance Use Disorder is eligible when rendered by a Behavioral Health Practitioner working within the scope of their license. Covered Services rendered in a Non-Administrator Provider facility will be paid at the Non-Participating Provider facility payment level. If you require Medically Necessary Mental Illness or Substance Use Disorder services and receive a network exception because they are not available from a Participating Provider, reasonable reimbursement for food, lodging, and travel costs will also be available if a claim is submitted with sixty (60) days of the last date of the Covered health care service for which travel was required. Reimbursement for food and lodging will be at the prevailing federal per diem rates then in effect, as set by the United States General Services Administration. Reimbursement for travel expenses for miles driven will be at the current Internal Revenue Service mileage standard.

BARIATRIC SURGERY

Benefits for Covered Services received for bariatric Surgery will be provided under the HOSPITAL BENEFIT and PHYSICIAN BENEFIT sections of this benefit booklet, the same as for any other condition.

MATERNITY SERVICE

Your benefits for Maternity Service are the same as your benefits for any other condition and are available whether you have Individual Coverage or Family Coverage. Benefits will also be provided for Covered Services rendered by a Certified Nurse-Midwife, certified professional midwife, a perinatal doula, or a certified lactation consultant. Covered Services include home births (including necessary equipment and supplies), home visits, and support during labor, abortion, or miscarriage.

NOTE: Home visits by a perinatal doula are limited to sixteen (16) visits before birth, and sixteen (16) visits after birth.

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

Benefits will be provided for any hospital length of stay in connection with childbirth for the birthing parent or newborn child for no less than 48 hours following a normal vaginal delivery, or no less than 96 hours following a cesarean section. Your Provider will not be required to obtain authorization from the Claim Administrator for prescribing a length of stay less than 48 hours (or 96 hours). Such an earlier discharge may only be provided if there is coverage and availability of a post-discharge Physician office visit or an in-home visit to verify the condition of the infant in the first 48 hours after discharge.

Other Reproductive Health Services

Your coverage includes benefits for abortion care. Benefits for abortion care are the same as your benefits for any other condition.

Your coverage includes benefits for abortion care. Benefits for abortion care will be provided at no cost.

FERTILITY CARE

Benefits will be provided the same as your benefits for any other condition for Covered Services rendered in connection with the diagnosis and/or treatment of Infertility, or to promote fertility, including, but not limited to, in-vitro fertilization, uterine embryo lavage, embryo transfer, assisted insemination, gamete intrafallopian tube transfer, zygote intrafallopian tube transfer, surgical sperm extraction procedures, low tubal ovum transfer and intracytoplasmic sperm

injection. This coverage also includes procedures necessary to screen or diagnose a fertilized egg, before implantation, for aneuploidy, chromosome structural rearrangements, and monogenic or single gene disorders.

Benefits for the diagnosis and/or treatment of infertility described above are subject to the following conditions:

1. They are determined to be Medically Necessary by your Provider, based on clinical guidelines and standards developed by the American Society for Reproductive Medicine, the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, or the Society for Assisted Reproductive Technology; and
2. They are performed at Facilities that are members in good standing of the Society for Assisted Reproductive Technology.

Infertility means a disease, condition, or status characterized by;

1. The inability to conceive a child or to carry a pregnancy to live birth after one year of regular unprotected sexual intercourse for a woman 35 years of age or younger, or after 6 months for a woman over 35 years of age (conceiving but having a miscarriage does not restart the 12 month or 6-month term for determining Infertility);
2. A person's inability to reproduce either as a single individual or with a partner without medical intervention; or
3. A licensed Physician's findings based on a patient's medical, sexual, and reproductive history, age, physical findings, or diagnostic testing.

Unprotected sexual intercourse means a sexual union without the use of any process, device or method that prevents conception including, but not limited to, oral contraceptives, chemicals, physical or barrier contraceptives, natural abstinence or voluntary permanent surgical procedures and includes appropriate measures to ensure the health and safety of sexual partners.

Benefits for treatments that include oocyte retrievals will be provided only when you have been unable to attain or maintain a viable pregnancy or sustain a successful pregnancy through reasonable, less costly medically appropriate Infertility treatments; however, this requirement will be waived if you or your partner has a medical condition that renders such treatment useless. Benefits for treatments that include oocyte retrievals are limited to four completed oocyte retrievals per benefit period. Coverage includes medical expenses for donor for the retrieval and transfer only.

Benefits will also be provided for medical expenses of an oocyte or sperm donor for procedures used to retrieve oocytes or sperm and the subsequent procedure to transfer the oocytes or sperm to you. Associated donor medical expenses are also covered, including, but not limited to, physical examinations, laboratory screenings, psychological screenings, and prescription drugs.

If an oocyte donor is used, then the completed oocyte retrieval performed on the donor shall count as one completed oocyte retrieval.

Special Limitations

Benefits will not be provided for the following:

1. Services or supplies rendered to a surrogate, except those costs for procedures to obtain eggs, sperm, or embryos from you will be covered if you choose to use a surrogate. .
2. Expenses incurred for cryo-preservation or storage of sperm, eggs, or embryos, except for those procedures which use a cryo-preserved substance. Please note, that the benefits may be provided for fertility preservation as set forth in the FERTILITY PRESERVATION SERVICES provision of this benefit booklet.
3. Non-medical costs of an egg or sperm donor.
4. Fertility treatments which are deemed Investigational, in writing, by the American Society for Reproductive Medicine or the American College of Obstetricians or Gynecologists.
5. Fertility treatment rendered to your dependents under age 18.

FERTILITY PRESERVATION SERVICES

Your benefits for fertility preservation services are the same as your benefits for any other condition. Benefits will be provided for Medically Necessary Standard Fertility Preservation Services when a Medically Necessary treatment may directly or indirectly cause Iatrogenic Infertility to you.

For purposes of this section, Iatrogenic Infertility means an impairment of fertility caused directly or indirectly by surgery, radiation, chemotherapy, or other medical treatment, affecting reproductive organs or processes.

TEMPOROMANDIBULAR JOINT DYSFUNCTION AND RELATED DISORDERS

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

PORT-WINE STAIN TREATMENT

Benefits for all of the Covered Services previously described under this benefit booklet are available for the treatment to eliminate or provide maximum feasible treatment of nevus flammeus, also known as port-wine stains, including, but not limited to, port-wine stains caused by Sturge-Weber Syndrome. This benefit does not apply to Port-Wine Stain Treatment, solely for cosmetic reasons.

MASTECTOMY-RELATED SERVICES

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

1. Reconstruction of the breast on which the mastectomy has been performed;

2. Surgery and reconstruction of the other breast to produce a symmetrical appearance;
3. Inpatient care following a mastectomy for the length of time determined by your attending Physician to be Medically Necessary and in accordance with protocols and guidelines based on sound scientific evidence and patient evaluation and a follow-up Physician office visit or in-home nurse visit within 48 hours after discharge;
4. Prostheses and physical complications of all stages of the mastectomy including, but not limited to, lymphedemas; and
5. The removal of breast implants when the removal of the implants is a Medically Necessary treatment for a sickness or injury. Surgery performed for removal of breast implants that were implanted solely for cosmetic reasons are not covered. Cosmetic changes performed as reconstruction resulting from sickness or injury is not considered Cosmetic Surgery.

VIRTUAL VISITS

Benefits will be provided for Covered Services described in this benefit booklet for the diagnosis and treatment of non-emergency medical and/or behavioral health injuries or illnesses in situations when a Virtual Provider determines that such diagnosis and treatment can be conducted without an in-person primary care office visit, convenient care, urgent care, emergency room or behavioral health office visit. Benefits for such Covered Services will only be provided if you receive them via consultation with a Virtual Provider who has a specific written agreement with the Claim Administrator to provide Virtual Visits to you at the time services are rendered. For more information about this benefit, you may visit the Claim Administrator's website at *www.bcbsil.com* or call customer service at the number on the back of your Identification Card.

Benefits for Covered Services you receive through a Virtual Visit from an In-Network Virtual Provider are subject to a Copayment of $10 per visit and then will be provided at 100% of the Maximum Allowance. Your program deductible will not apply.

Benefits will not be provided for services you receive through an interactive audio or interactive audio/video communication from a Provider who does not have a specific agreement with the Claim Administrator to provide Virtual Visits.

Note: Not all medical or behavioral health conditions can be appropriately treated through Virtual Visits. The Virtual Provider will identify any condition for which treatment by an in-person Provider is necessary.

PAYMENT PROVISIONS

Lifetime Maximum

Your benefits are not subject to a lifetime maximum. The total dollar amount that will be available in benefits for you is unlimited.

OUT-OF-POCKET EXPENSE LIMIT

There are separate Out-of-Pocket Expense Limits applicable to Blue Choice Options Providers, Participating Providers, and Out-of-Network Providers.

For Blue Choice Options Providers

If, during one benefit period, your out-of-pocket expense (the amount remaining unpaid after benefits have been provided) equals $7,250, any additional Eligible Claims for Blue Choice Options Providers (except for those Covered Services specifically excluded below) during that benefit period will be paid at 100% of the Eligible Charge or Maximum Allowance.

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

- the payments for which you are responsible after benefits have been provided

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

- charges that exceed the Eligible Charge or Maximum Allowance
- the Coinsurance resulting from Covered Services received Out-of-Network or rendered by a Non-Administrator Provider
- charges for Covered Services which have a separate dollar maximum specifically mentioned in this benefit booklet
- Copayments resulting from noncompliance with the provisions of the Medical Services Advisory Program and/or the Claim Administrator's Behavioral Health Unit

If you have Family Coverage and your out-of-pocket expense as described above equals $13,750 during one benefit period, then, for the rest of the benefit period, all other family members will have benefits for Covered Services (except for those Covered Services specifically excluded above) provided at 100% of the Eligible Charge or Maximum Allowance. A member may not apply more than the individual out-of-pocket expense limit toward this amount.

For Participating Providers

If, during one benefit period, your out-of-pocket expense (the amount remaining unpaid after benefits have been provided) equals $7,250, any additional eligible claims for Participating Providers (except for those Covered Services specifically excluded below) during that benefit period will be paid at 100% of the Eligible Charge or Maximum Allowance.

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

- the payments for which you are responsible after benefits have been provided

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

- charges that exceed the Eligible Charge or Maximum Allowance
- the Coinsurance resulting from Covered Services received Out-of-Network or rendered by a Non-Plan Provider
- charges for Covered Services which have a separate dollar maximum specifically mentioned in this benefit booklet
- Copayments resulting from noncompliance with the provisions of the Medical Services Advisory Program and/or the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Behavioral Health Unit

If you have Family Coverage and your out-of-pocket expense as described above equals $13,750 during one benefit period, then, for the rest of the benefit period, all other family members will have benefits for Covered Services (except for those Covered Services specifically excluded above) provided at 100% of the Eligible Charge or Maximum Allowance. A member may not apply more than the individual out-of-pocket expense limit toward this amount.

EXTENSION OF BENEFITS IN CASE OF TERMINATION

If you are an Inpatient in a Hospital, Skilled Nursing Facility, Substance Use Disorder Treatment Facility, Residential Treatment Center or a patient in a Partial Hospitalization Treatment Program or Coordinated Home Care Program at the time your coverage under this benefit booklet is terminated, benefits will be provided for, and limited to, the Covered Services under this benefit booklet until you are discharged or until the end of your benefit period, whichever occurs first.

HOSPICE CARE PROGRAM

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

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

The following services are covered under the Hospice Care Program:

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

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

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

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

Pediatric Palliative Care

This Plan also provides benefits for Pediatric Palliative Care, for children under the age of 21 with a serious illness, by a trained interdisciplinary team that allows a child to receive community-based Pediatric Palliative Care, while continuing to pursue curative treatment and disease-directed therapies for the qualifying illness.

Benefit Payment for Hospice Care Program Services

Benefit payment for Covered Services rendered by a Hospice Care Program Provider will be provided at the same payment level as described for Inpatient Hospital Covered Services.

BENEFITS FOR MEDICARE ELIGIBLE COVERED PERSONS

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

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

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

1. determine what the payment for a Covered Service would be following the payment provisions of this coverage.
2. deduct from the charges eligible under Medicare, the amount paid by Medicare. (If you are eligible for Medicare, the amount that is available from Medicare will be deducted whether or not you have enrolled and/or received payment from Medicare.)
3. the lesser of the two amounts determined in accordance with step 1 and step 2 above is the amount that will be paid under the Health Care Plan.

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

EXCLUSIONS - WHAT IS NOT COVERED

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

If your Claim for benefits is denied on the basis that the services or supplies were not Medically Necessary, and you disagree with the Claim Administrator's decision, your plan provides for an appeal of that decision.

Additional information about appeals procedures is set forth in the CLAIM FILING AND APPEALS PROCEDURES section of this benefit booklet.

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

— Services or supplies that are not specifically mentioned in this benefit booklet.

— Services or supplies for any illness or injury arising out of or in the course of employment for which benefits are available under any Workers' Compensation Law or other similar laws whether or not you make a claim for such compensation or receive such benefits. However, this exclusion shall not apply if you are a corporate officer of any domestic or foreign corporation and are employed by the corporation and elect to withdraw yourself from the operation of the Illinois Workers' Compensation Act according to the provisions of the Act.

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

— Services and supplies for any illness or injury occurring on or after your Coverage Date as a result of war or an act of war.

— Services or supplies that were received prior to your Coverage Date or after the date that your coverage was terminated.

— Services or supplies from more than one Provider on the same day(s) to the extent benefits are duplicated.

— Services or supplies that do not meet accepted standards of medical and/or dental practice.

— Experimental/Investigational Services and Supplies and all related services and supplies, except as may be provided under this benefit booklet for a) the cost of routine patient care associated with Investigational cancer treatment if you are a qualified individual participating in a qualified clinical cancer trial, if those services or supplies would otherwise be covered under this benefit booklet if not provided in connection with a qualified cancer trial program and b) applied behavior analysis used for the treatment of Autism Spectrum Disorder(s). You may contact Customer Service at the toll-free telephone number on the back of your Identification Card for more information about what Experimental/Investigational Services or Supplies may be excluded.

— Clinical technology, services, procedures, and service paradigms designated by a temporary (CPT® Category III) code are not covered, except for certain services otherwise specified by state or federal law, or federal coverage or billing guidelines.

— Custodial Care Service.

— Long Term Care Service.

— Respite Care Service, except as specifically mentioned under the Hospice Care Program.

— Inpatient Private Duty Nursing Service.

— Routine physical examinations, unless otherwise specified in this benefit booklet.

— Services or supplies received during an Inpatient stay when the stay is primarily related to behavioral, social maladjustment, lack of discipline or other antisocial actions which are not specifically the result of Mental Illness. This does not include services or supplies provided for the treatment of an injury resulting from an act of domestic violence or a medical condition (including both physical and mental health conditions).

— Cosmetic Surgery and related services and supplies, except for the correction of congenital deformities or for conditions resulting from accidental injuries, scars, tumors, or diseases.

— Services or supplies for which you are not required to make payment or would have no legal obligation to pay if you did not have this or similar coverage.

— Charges for failure to keep a scheduled visit or charges for completion of a Claim form.

— Personal hygiene, comfort or convenience items commonly used for other than medical purposes, such as air conditioners, humidifiers, physical fitness equipment, televisions, and telephones.

— Special braces, splints, specialized equipment, appliances, ambulatory apparatus, battery implants, except as specifically mentioned in this benefit booklet.

— Blood derivatives which are not classified as drugs in the official formularies.

— Services or supplies for intersegmental traction; all types of home traction devices and equipment; vertebral axial decompression sessions; surface EMGs; spinal manipulation under anesthesia; muscle testing through computerized kinesiology machines such as Isostation, Digital Myograph and Dynatron; and balance testing through computerized dynamic posturography sensory organization test.

— Eyeglasses, contact lenses or cataract lenses and the examination for prescribing or fitting of glasses or contact lenses or for determining the refractive state of the eye, except as specifically mentioned in this benefit booklet.

— Treatment of flat foot conditions and the prescription of supportive devices for such conditions and the treatment of subluxations of the foot.

— Routine foot care, except for persons diagnosed with diabetes.

— Immunizations, unless otherwise specified in this benefit booklet.

— Treatment of decreased blood flow to the legs with pneumatic compression device high pressure rapid inflation deflation cycle, or treatment of tissue damage in any location with platelet rich plasma.

— Treatment of tissue damage or disease in any location with platelet-rich plasma

— Maintenance Occupational Therapy, Maintenance Physical Therapy and Maintenance Speech Therapy, except as specifically mentioned in this benefit booklet.

— Maintenance Care.

— Speech Therapy when rendered for the treatment of psychosocial speech delay, behavioral problems (including impulsive behavior and impulsivity syndrome), attention disorder, conceptual disability, or mental disability, except as may be provided under this benefit booklet for Autism Spectrum Disorder(s).

— Habilitative Services that are solely educational in nature or otherwise paid under state or federal law for purely educational services.

— Hypnotism.

— Services and supplies to the extent benefits are duplicated because the spouse, parent and/or child are covered separately under this Health Care Plan.

— Diagnostic Service as part of routine physical examinations or check-ups, premarital examinations, determination of the refractive errors of the eyes, auditory problems, surveys, case finding, research studies, screening, or similar procedures and studies, or tests which are Investigational, unless otherwise specified in this benefit booklet.

— Procurement or use of prosthetic devices, special appliances and surgical implants which are for cosmetic purposes, the comfort and convenience of the patient, or unrelated to the treatment of a disease or injury.

— Services and supplies rendered or provided for human organ or tissue transplants other than those specifically named in this benefit booklet.

— Scanning the visible front portion of the eye with computerized ophthalmic diagnostic imaging or measuring the firmness of the front of the eye with corneal hysteresis by air impulse stimulation.

— Testing of blood for measurement of levels of: Lipoprotein a; small dense low density lipoprotein; lipoprotein subclass high resolution; lipoprotein subclass particle numbers; lipoprotein associated phospholipase A2, which are fat/protein substances in the blood that might be ordered in people with suspected deposits in the walls of blood vessels; urine for measurement of collagen cross links, which is a substance that might be ordered in people with suspected high bone turnover; cervicovaginal fluid for amniotic fluid protein during pregnancy, which might be ordered in people suspected to have fluid leaking from around the baby(premature ruptured membranes); and allergen specific IgG measurement.

— Nutritional items such as infant formulas, weight-loss supplements, over-the-counter food substitutes, non-prescription vitamins, and herbal supplements, other than those specifically named in this benefit booklet.

— Private Duty Nursing.

— Reversals of sterilization.

— Any related services to a non-covered service. Related services are a) services in preparation for the non-covered service; b) services in connection with providing the non-covered service; c) hospitalization required to perform the non-covered service; or d) services that are usually provided following the non-covered service, such as follow up care or therapy after surgery.

— Self-Administered drugs dispensed by a Physician.

— Behavioral health services provided at behavioral modification facilities, boot camps, emotional group academies, military schools, therapeutic boarding schools, wilderness programs, halfway houses, and group homes, except for Covered Services provided by appropriate Providers as defined in this benefit booklet.

— This Plan does not cover cannabis. Cannabis means all parts of the plant genus Cannabis containing delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) as an active ingredient, whether growing or not, the seeds of the plant, the resin extracted from any part of the plant, and every cannabis-derived compound, manufacture, salt, derivative, mixture or preparation of the plant, its seeds, or its resin. Cannabis with THC as an active ingredient may be called marijuana.

— Select medications may be excluded from the medical benefit when a self-administered formulation of the product is available.

— Viscosupplementation (intra-articular hyaluronic acid injection), except for individuals currently receiving maintenance therapy.

— Wigs (also referred to as a cranial prostheses)

Any of the following applied behavioral analysis (ABA) related services:

— Services with a primary diagnosis that is not Autism Spectrum Disorder;

— Services that are facilitated by a Provider that is not properly credentialed. Please see the definition of "Qualified ABA Provider" in the DEFINITIONS SECTION of this benefit booklet;

— Activities primarily of an educational nature;

— Shadow or companion services; or

— Any other services not provided by an appropriately licensed Provider in accordance with nationally accepted treatment standards.

COORDINATION OF BENEFITS SECTION

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

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

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

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

Claim Administrator, and upon its request to provide a copy, of such court decree.

3. If neither of the above rules apply, then the coverage that has been in effect the longest is primary. Back to the original effective date under the employer group, whether or not the insurance company has changed over the course of coverage.

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

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

— pay any other organization an amount which it determines to be warranted if payments which should have been made by the Claim Administrator have been made by such other organization under any other group program.

— recover any overpayment which the Claim Administrator may have made to you, any Provider, insurance company, persons, or other organization.

CONTINUATION COVERAGE RIGHTS UNDER COBRA

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

INTRODUCTION

You're receiving this notice because you recently gained coverage under a group health plan (the Plan). This notice has important information about your right to COBRA continuation coverage, which is a temporary extension of coverage under the Plan. **This notice explains COBRA continuation coverage, when it may become available to you and your family, and what you need to do to protect your right to get it.** When you become eligible for COBRA, you may also become eligible for other coverage options that may cost less than COBRA continuation coverage.

The right to COBRA continuation coverage was created by a federal law, the Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1985 (COBRA). COBRA continuation coverage can become available to you and other members of your family when group health coverage would otherwise end. For more information about your rights and obligations under the Plan and under federal law, you should review the Plan's Summary Plan Description or contact the Plan Administrator.

You may have other options available to you when you lose group health coverage. For example, you may be eligible to buy an individual plan through the Health Insurance Marketplace. By enrolling in coverage through the Marketplace, you may qualify for lower costs on your monthly premiums and lower out-of-pocket costs. Additionally, you may qualify for a 30-day special enrollment period for another group health plan for which you are eligible (such as a spouse's plan), even if that plan generally doesn't accept late enrollees.

WHAT IS COBRA CONTINUATION COVERAGE?

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

If you're an employee, you'll become a qualified beneficiary if you lose your coverage under the Plan because of the following qualifying events:

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

If you're the spouse of an employee, you'll become a qualified beneficiary if you lose your coverage under the Plan because of the following qualifying events:

- Your spouse dies;
- Your spouse's hours of employment are reduced;
- Your spouse's employment ends for any reason other than his or her gross misconduct;
- Your spouse becomes entitled to Medicare benefits (under Part A, Part B, or both); or
- You become divorced or legally separated from your spouse.

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

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

If the Plan provides health care coverage to retired employees, the following applies:

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

WHEN IS COBRA CONTINUATION COVERAGE AVAILABLE?

The Plan will offer COBRA continuation coverage to qualified beneficiaries only after the Plan Administrator has been notified that a qualifying event has occurred. The employer must notify the Plan Administrator of the following qualifying events:

- The end of employment or reduction of hours of employment;
- Death of the employee;

- ***In the event of retired employee health coverage:***
  - Commencement of a proceeding in bankruptcy with respect to the employer; or
  - The employee's becoming entitled to Medicare benefits (under Part A, Part B, or both).

YOU MUST GIVE NOTICE OF SOME QUALIFYING EVENTS

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

HOW IS COBRA CONTINUATION COVERAGE PROVIDED?

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

COBRA continuation coverage is a temporary continuation of coverage that generally lasts for 18 months due to employment termination or reduction of hours of work. Certain qualifying events, or a second qualifying event during the initial period of coverage, may permit a beneficiary to receive a maximum of 36 months of coverage. There are also ways in which this 18-month period of COBRA continuation coverage can be extended:

DISABILITY EXTENSION OF 18-MONTH PERIOD OF COBRA CONTINUATION COVERAGE

If you or anyone in your family covered under the Plan is determined by Social Security to be disabled and you notify the Plan Administrator in a timely fashion, you and your entire family may be entitled to get up to an additional 11 months of COBRA continuation coverage, for a maximum of 29 months. The disability would have to have started at some time before the 60th day of COBRA continuation coverage and must last at least until the end of the 18-month period of COBRA continuation coverage.

Contact your employer and/or the COBRA Administrator for procedures for this notice, including a description of any required information or documentation.

SECOND QUALIFYING EVENT EXTENSION OF 18-MONTH PERIOD OF CONTINUATION COVERAGE

If your family experiences another qualifying event during the 18 months of COBRA continuation coverage, the spouse and dependent children in your family can get up to 18 additional months of COBRA continuation coverage, for a

maximum of 36 months, if the Plan is properly notified about the second qualifying event. This extension may be available to the spouse and any dependent children getting COBRA continuation coverage if the employee or former employee dies; becomes entitled to Medicare benefits (under Part A, Part B, or both); gets divorced or legally separated; or if the dependent child stops being eligible under the Plan as a dependent child. This extension is only available if the second qualifying event would have caused the spouse or dependent child to lose coverage under the Plan had the first qualifying event not occurred.

ARE THERE OTHER COVERAGE OPTIONS BESIDES COBRA CONTINUATION COVERAGE?

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

CAN I ENROLL IN MEDICARE INSTEAD OF COBRA CONTINUATION COVERAGE AFTER MY GROUP HEALTH PLAN COVERAGE ENDS?

In general, if you don't enroll in Medicare Part A or B when you are first eligible because you are still employed, after the Medicare initial enrollment period, you have an 8-month special enrollment period[1] to sign up for Medicare Part A or B, beginning on the earlier of:

- The month after your employment ends; or
- The month after group health plan coverage based on current employment ends.

If you don't enroll in Medicare and elect COBRA continuation coverage instead, you may have to pay a Part B late enrollment penalty and you may have a gap in coverage if you decide you want Part B later. If you elect COBRA continuation coverage and later enroll in Medicare Part A or B before the COBRA continuation coverage ends, the Plan may terminate your continuation coverage. However, if Medicare Part A or B is effective on or before the date of the COBRA election, COBRA coverage may not be discontinued on account of Medicare entitlement, even if you enroll in the other part of Medicare after the date of the election of COBRA coverage.

If you are enrolled in both COBRA continuation coverage and Medicare, Medicare will generally pay first (primary payer) and COBRA continuation coverage will pay second. Certain plans may pay as if secondary to Medicare, even if you are not enrolled in Medicare.

For more information visit https://www.medicare.gov/medicare-and-you.

[1]https://www.medicare.gov/basics/get-started-with-medicare/sign-up/when-does-medicare-coverage-start.

IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS

Questions concerning your Plan, or your COBRA continuation coverage rights should be addressed to the contact or contacts identified below. For more information about your rights under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act (ERISA), including COBRA, the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, and other laws affecting group health plans, contact the nearest Regional or District Office of the U.S. Department of Labor's Employee Benefits Security Administration (EBSA) in your area or visit **www.dol.gov/ebsa**. (Addresses and phone numbers of Regional and District EBSA Offices are available through EBSA's website.) For more information about the Marketplace, visit **www.HealthCare.gov**.

KEEP YOUR PLAN INFORMED OF ADDRESS CHANGES

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

PLAN CONTACT INFORMATION

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

CONTINUATION OF COVERAGE FOR DOMESTIC PARTNERS

The purpose of this section of your benefit booklet is to explain the options available for temporarily continuing your coverage after termination if you are covered under this benefit booklet as the Domestic Partner of an Eligible Person or as the dependent child of a Domestic Partner. Your continued coverage under this benefit booklet will be provided only as specified below. Please read the provisions very carefully.

Continuation of Coverage

If you are the Domestic Partner or the dependent child of a Domestic Partner and you lose coverage under this benefit booklet, you have the same options as the spouse or dependent child of an Eligible Person to continue your coverage. The options available to a spouse or a dependent child are described in the CONTINUATION COVERAGE RIGHTS UNDER COBRA section, if applicable to your Group.

NOTE: Certain employers may not be required to offer COBRA continuation coverage. See your Group Administrator if you have any questions about COBRA.

In addition to the events listed in the CONTINUATION COVERAGE RIGHTS UNDER COBRA section, if applicable, continuation of coverage is available to you and your dependent children in the event you lose coverage because your Domestic Partnership with the Eligible Person terminates. Your Domestic Partnership will terminate if your partnership no longer meets the criteria described in the definition of "Domestic Partnership" in the DEFINITIONS SECTION of this benefit booklet. You are entitled to continue coverage for the same period of time as a spouse or child who loses coverage due to divorce.

CONTINUATION OF COVERAGE FOR PARTIES TO A CIVIL UNION

The purpose of this section of your benefit booklet is to explain the options available for temporarily continuing your coverage after termination if you are covered under this benefit booklet as the party to a Civil Union of an Eligible Person or as the dependent child of a party to a Civil Union. Your continued coverage under this benefit booklet will be provided only as specified below. Please read the provisions very carefully.

Continuation of Coverage

If you are a dependent who is party to a Civil Union or their child and you lose coverage under this benefit booklet, you have the same options as the spouse or dependent child of an Eligible Person to continue your coverage. The options available to a spouse or a dependent child are described in the CONTINUATION COVERAGE RIGHTS UNDER COBRA section, if applicable to your Group.

NOTE: Certain employers may not be required to offer COBRA continuation coverage. See your Group Administrator if you have any questions about COBRA.

In addition to the events listed in the CONTINUATION COVERAGE RIGHTS UNDER COBRA section, if applicable, continuation of coverage is available to you and your dependent children in the event you lose coverage because your Civil Union Partnership with the Eligible Person terminates. Your Civil Union Partnership will terminate if your partnership no longer meets the criteria described in the definition of "Civil Union" in the DEFINITIONS SECTION of this benefit booklet. You are entitled to continue coverage for the same period of time as a spouse or child who loses coverage due to divorce.

HOW TO FILE A CLAIM AND APPEALS PROCEDURES

To obtain your benefits under this benefit program, it is necessary for a Claim to be filed with the Claim Administrator. To file a Claim, usually all you will have to do is show your Identification Card to your Hospital or Physician (or other Provider). They will file your Claim for you. Remember however, it is your responsibility to ensure that the necessary Claim information has been provided to the Claim Administrator.

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

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

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

   Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Illinois
   P. O. Box 660603
   Dallas, Texas 75266-0603

In any case, Claims should be filed with the Claim Administrator on or before December 31st of the calendar year following the year in which your Covered Service was rendered. (A Covered Service furnished in the last month of a particular calendar year shall be considered to have been furnished the succeeding calendar year.) **Claims not filed within the required time period will not be eligible for payment.**

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

INTERNAL CLAIM DETERMINATIONS AND APPEALS PROCESS

INITIAL CLAIM DETERMINATIONS

When the Claim Administrator receives a properly submitted claim, the Claim Administrator will determine benefits in accordance with the Health Benefit Plan provisions. The Claim Administrator will receive and review claims for benefits

and will process claims consistent with administrative practices and procedures established by your Plan. You, your valid assignee, your authorized representative, or Provider will be notified of the Claim Administrator's benefit decision.

(For information regarding assigning benefits, see "Payment of Claims and Assignment of Benefits" provisions in the GENERAL PROVISIONS section of this benefit booklet.)

If a Claim Is Denied or Not Paid in Full

If the claim for benefits is denied, you or your authorized representative shall be notified in writing of the following:

a. The reasons for determination;

b. A reference to the benefit plan provisions on which the determination is based, or the contractual, administrative, medical policy or protocol for the determination;

c. A description of additional information which may be necessary to perfect the Claim and an explanation of why such material is necessary;

d. Subject to privacy laws and other restrictions, if any, the identification of the Claim, date of service, health care provider, Claim amount (if applicable), diagnosis, treatment and determination codes with their meanings and the standards used. Upon request, diagnosis/treatment codes with their meanings and the standards used are also available;

e. An explanation of the Claim Administrator's internal review/appeals and external review processes (and how to initiate a review/appeal or external review;

f. In certain situations, a statement in non-English language(s) that future notices of Claim determinations and certain other benefit information may be available in such non-English language(s);

g. In certain situations, a statement in non-English language(s) that indicates how to access the language services provided by the Claim Administrator;

h. The right to request, free of charge, reasonable access to and copies of all documents, records, and other information relevant to the claim for benefits;

i. Any internal rule, guideline, protocol, or other similar criterion relied on in the determination, and a statement that a copy of such rule, guideline, protocol, or other similar criterion will be provided free of charge on request;

j. An explanation of the scientific or clinical judgment relied on in the determination as applied to claimant's medical circumstances, if the determination was based on medical necessity, experimental treatment or similar exclusion, or a statement that such explanation will be provided free of charge upon request;

k. In the case of a determination of an Urgent Care Clinical Claim, a description of the expedited review procedure applicable to such Claims. An Urgent Care Clinical Claim decision may be provided orally, so long as written notice is furnished to the claimant within three days of oral notification.

If You Need Assistance

If you have any questions about the Claims procedures or the review procedure, write or call the Claim Administrator Headquarters at 1-800-538-8833. The Claim Administrator's offices are open from 8:45 a.m. to 4:45 p.m., Monday through Friday. Customer service hours and operations are subject to change without notice.

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Illinois
P. O. Box 805107
Chicago, Illinois 60680-4112
1-800-538-8833 Toll-free phone

If you need assistance with the internal Claims and appeals or the external review processes that are described below, you may contact the health insurance consumer assistance office or ombudsman. You may contact the Illinois ombudsman program at 1-877-527-9431 or call the number on the back of your Identification Card for contact information. In addition, for questions about your appeal rights or for assistance, you can contact the Employee Benefits Security Administration at 1-866-444-EBSA (3272).

INQUIRIES AND COMPLAINTS

An **"Inquiry"** is a general request for information regarding claims, benefits, or membership.

A **"Complaint"** is an expression of dissatisfaction by you either orally or in writing.

The Claim Administrator has a team available to assist you with Inquiries and Complaints. Issues may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Claims
- Quality of care

When your Complaint relates to dissatisfaction with an Adverse Benefit Determination (or partial determination), then you have the right to a Claim review/appeal as described in the CLAIM APPEAL PROCEDURES.

To pursue an Inquiry or a Complaint, you may contact **customer service** at the number on the back of your Identification Card, or you may write to:

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

When you contact customer service to pursue an Inquiry or Complaint, you will receive a written acknowledgement of your call or correspondence. You will receive a written response to your Inquiry or Complaint within 30 days of receipt by customer service. Sometimes the acknowledgement and the response will be combined. If the Claim Administrator needs more information, you will be contacted. If a response to your Inquiry or Complaint will be delayed due to the need for additional information, you will be contacted. If an Inquiry or Complaint is not resolved to your satisfaction, you may appeal to the Claim Administrator.

An appeal is an oral or written request for review of an Adverse Benefit Determination (as defined below) or an adverse action by the Claim Administrator, its employees, or a Provider.

The following is the contact information for the Illinois Department of Insurance consumer assistance and ombudsman:

For Complaints and general Inquiries:

Illinois Department of Insurance
Office of Consumer Health Insurance
320 West Washington Street
Springfield, Illinois 62767
(877) 527-9431 Toll-free phone
(217) 558-2083 Fax number
Consumer_complaints@ins.state.il.us Email address
https://mc.insurance.illinois.gov/messagecenter.nsf

Timing of Required Notices and Extensions

Separate schedules apply to the timing of required notices and extensions, depending on the type of Claim. There are three types of Claims as defined below.

a. **Urgent Care Clinical Claim** is any pre-service claim for benefits for medical care or treatment with respect to which the application of regular time periods for making health Claim decisions could seriously jeopardize the life or health of the claimant or the ability of the claimant to regain maximum function or, in the opinion of a Physician with knowledge of the claimant's medical condition, would subject the claimant to severe pain that cannot be adequately managed without the care or treatment.

b. **Pre-Service Claim** is any non-urgent request for benefits or a determination with respect to which the terms of the benefit plan condition receipt of the benefit on approval of the benefit in advance of obtaining medical care.

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

Urgent Care Clinical Claims*

Type of Notice or Extension	Timing
If your Claim is incomplete, the Claim Administrator must notify you within:	**24 hours****
If you are notified that your Claim is incomplete, you must then provide completed Claim information to the Claim Administrator within:	**48 hours after receiving notice**
The Claim Administrator must notify you of the Claim determination (whether adverse or not):	
if the initial Claim is complete as soon as possible (taking into account medical exigencies), but no later than:	**48 hours**
after receiving the completed Claim (if the initial Claim is incomplete), within:	**48 hours**

*You do not need to submit appeals of Urgent Care Clinical Claims in writing. You should call the Claim Administrator at the toll-free number listed on the back of your Identification Card as soon as possible to submit an Urgent Care Clinical Claim.

**Notification may be oral unless the claimant requests written notification.

Pre-Service Claims

Type of Notice or Extension	Timing
If your Claim is filed improperly, the Claim Administrator must notify you within:	**5 days***
If your Claim is incomplete, the Claim Administrator must notify you within:	**15 days**
If you are notified that your Claim is incomplete, you must then provide completed Claim information to the Claim Administrator within:	**45 days after receiving notice**
The Claim Administrator must notify you of the Claim determination (whether adverse or not):	
if the initial Claim is complete, within:	**15 days****
after receiving the completed Claim (if the initial Claim is incomplete), within:	**30 days**
If you require post-stabilization care after an Emergency within:	**the time appropriate to the circumstance not to exceed one hour after the time of request**

*Notification may be oral unless the claimant requests written notification.

**This period may be extended one time by the Claim Administrator for up to 15 days, provided that the Claim Administrator both (1) determines that such an extension is necessary due to matters beyond the control of the Claim Administrator and (2) notifies you, prior to the expiration of the initial 15-day period of the circumstances requiring the extension of time and the date by which the Claim Administrator expects to render a decision.

Post-Service Claims

Type of Notice or Extension	Timing
If your Claim is incomplete, the Claim Administrator must notify you within:	**30 days**
If you are notified that your Claim is incomplete, you must then provide completed Claim information to the Claim Administrator within:	**45 days after receiving notice**
The Claim Administrator must notify you of any adverse Claim determination:	
if the initial Claim is complete, within:	**30 days***
after receiving the completed Claim (if the initial Claim is incomplete), within:	**45 days**

*This period may be extended one time by the Claim Administrator for up to 15 days, provided that the Claim Administrator both (1) determines that such an extension is necessary due to matters beyond the control of the Claim Administrator and (2) notifies you in writing, prior to the expiration of the initial 30-day period of the circumstances requiring the extension of time and the date by which the Claim Administrator expects to render a decision.

Concurrent Care

For benefit determinations relating to care that is being received at the same time as the determination, such notice will be provided no later than 24 hours after receipt of your Claim for benefits.

CLAIM APPEAL PROCEDURES - DEFINITIONS

An **"Adverse Benefit Determination"** means a determination, reduction, or termination of, or a failure to provide or make payment (in whole or in part) for, a benefit, in response to a Claim, Pre-Service Claim or Urgent Care Clinical Claim, including any such determination, reduction, termination, or failure to provide or make payment for, a benefit resulting from the application of utilization review, as well as a failure to cover an item or service for which benefits are otherwise provided because it is determined to be experimental or investigational or not Medically Necessary or appropriate. If an ongoing course of treatment had been approved by the Claim Administrator and the Claim Administrator reduces or terminates such treatment (other than by amendment or termination of the Group's benefit plan) before the end of the approved treatment period, that is also an Adverse Benefit Determination. A Rescission of coverage is also an Adverse Benefit Determination. A Rescission does not include a termination of coverage for reasons related to non-payment of premium.

Urgent Care/Expedited Clinical Appeals

If your situation meets the definition of an expedited clinical appeal, you may be entitled to an appeal on an expedited basis. An **expedited clinical appeal** is an appeal of a clinically urgent nature related to health care services, including but not limited to, procedures or treatments ordered by a health care provider, as well as continued hospitalization. Before authorization of benefits for an ongoing course of treatment is terminated or reduced, the Claim Administrator will provide you with notice at least 24 hours before the previous benefits authorization ends and an opportunity to appeal. For the ongoing course of treatment, coverage will continue during the appeal process.

Upon receipt of an expedited pre-service or concurrent clinical appeal, the Claim Administrator will notify the party filing the appeal, as soon as possible, but in no event more than 24 hours after submission of the appeal, of all the information needed to review the appeal. The Claim Administrator will render a decision on the appeal within 24 hours after it receives the requested information, but not more than 72 hours from the appeal request.

Standard or Non-Urgent Appeals

The Claim Administrator will send you a written decision for appeals that need medical review within 30 calendar days after we receive your appeal request, or if you are appealing before getting a service. All other appeals will be answered within 60 calendar days.

How to Appeal an Adverse Benefit Determination

You have the right to seek and obtain a review of any determination of a claim, any determination of a request for Prior Authorization, or any other determination made by the Claim Administrator in accordance with the benefits and procedures detailed in your Health Benefit Plan.

An appeal of an Adverse Benefit Determination may be filed by you or a person authorized to act on your behalf. In some circumstances, a health care provider may appeal on their own behalf. Under your health benefit plan, there is one level of internal appeal available to you. Your designation of a representative must be in writing as it is necessary to protect against disclosure of information about you except to your authorized representative. To obtain an Authorized Representative Form, you or your representative may call the Claim Administrator at the number on the back of your Identification Card. In urgent care situations, a doctor may act as your authorized representative without completing the form.

If you believe the Claim Administrator incorrectly denied all or part of your benefits, you may have your Claim reviewed. The Claim Administrator will review its decision in accordance with the following procedure:

- Within 180 days after you receive notice of an Adverse Benefit Determination, you may call or write to the Claim Administrator to request a Claim review. The Claim Administrator will need to know the reasons why you do not agree with the Adverse Benefit Determination.

- In support of your Claim review, you have the option of presenting evidence and testimony to the Claim Administrator. You and your authorized representative may ask to review your file and any relevant documents and may submit written issues, comments, and additional medical information within 180 days after you receive notice of an Adverse Benefit Determination or at any time during the claim review process.
- The Illinois Department of Insurance (IDOI) offers consumer assistance. If your standard or expedited (urgent) external review request does not qualify for review by your plan or its representatives, you may file an appeal with the IDOI at the Springfield address below. Also, if you have questions about your rights, with to file a complaint or wish to take up your matter with the IDOI, you may use either address below:

  IDOI Consumer Division
  320 W. Washington St.
  Springfield, Illinois 62767
  1-217-782-4515

  or

  IDOI Consumer Division
  115 S. LaSalle Street, 13th Floor
  Chicago, Illinois 60603
  1-312-814-2420
  web: *http://insurance.Illinois.gov*

Your Right to Appeal
You may appeal if you think you have been denied benefits in error. For all levels of appeals and reviews described below, you may give a written explanation of why you think we should change our decision and you may give any documents you want to add to make your point. For appeals, you may also make a verbal statement about your case. Send a written appeal request to: The Claim Administrator Claim Review Section P.O. Box 2401 Chicago, Illinois 60690
To file an appeal or if you have questions, please call 800-538-8833 (TTY/TDD:711, send a fax to 888-235-2936, or send a secure email using our Message Center by logging into Blue Access for Members (BAM) at *bcbsil.com*

During your internal appeal(s), the Claim Administrator will provide you or your authorized representative (free of charge) with any new or additional evidence considered, relied upon, or generated by the Claim Administrator in connection with the appealed Claim, as well as any new or additional rationale for a determination at the internal appeals stage. Such new or

additional evidence or rationale will be provided to you or your authorized representative as soon as possible and sufficiently in advance of the date a final decision on appeal is made to give you a reasonable opportunity to respond. The Claim Administrator may extend the time period described in this benefit booklet for its final decision on appeal to provide you with a reasonable opportunity to respond to such new or additional evidence or rationale. If the initial benefit determination regarding the Claim is based in whole or in part on a medical judgement, the appeal will be conducted by individuals associated with the Claim Administrator and/or by external advisors, but who were not involved in making the initial determination of your Claim. No deference will be given to the initial Adverse Benefit Determination. Before you or your authorized representative may bring any action to recover benefits the claimant must exhaust the appeal process and must raise all issues with respect to a Claim and must file an appeal or appeals and the appeals must be finally decided by the Claim Administrator.

Timing of Non-Urgent Appeal Determinations

Upon receipt of a non-urgent concurrent pre-service or post-service appeal, the Claim Administrator will notify the party filing the appeal within five business days of all the information needed to review the appeal.

The Claim Administrator will render a decision of a non-urgent concurrent or pre-service appeal as soon as practical, but in no event more than 30 calendar days after receipt of all required information. We will send you a written decision for appeals that are related to health care services and not related to administrative matters or Complaints within 30 calendar days after receipt of any needed information, but no later than 30 calendar days of receipt of the request. All other appeals will be answered within 30 calendar days if you are appealing before getting a service or within 60 calendar days if you have already received the service.

If the appeal is related to administrative matters or Complaints, the Claim Administrator will render a decision of a pre-service or post-service appeal as soon as practical, but in no event more than 60 business days after receipt of all required information.

Notice of Appeal Determination

The Claim Administrator will notify the party filing the appeal, you, and, if a clinical appeal, any health care provider who recommended the services involved in the appeal.

The written notice will include:

1. The reasons for the determination;
2. A reference to the benefit plan provisions on which the determination is based, or the contractual, administrative or protocol for the determination;
3. Subject to privacy laws and other restrictions, if any, the identification of the Claim, date of service, health care provider, Claim amount (if applicable),

and a statement describing determination codes with their meanings and the standards used. Upon request, diagnosis/treatment codes with their meanings and the standards used are also available;

4. An explanation of the Claim Administrator's internal review/appeals and external review processes (and how to initiate a review/appeal or an external review) and a statement of your right, if any, to bring a civil action under Section 502(a) of ERISA following a final determination on internal and external appeal;
5. An explanation that you and your Provider may file appeals separately and at the same time, and that deadlines for filing appeals or external review requests are not delayed by appeals made by your Provider UNLESS you have chosen your Provider to act for you as your authorized representative;
6. In certain situations, a statement in non-English language(s) that future notices of Claim determinations and certain other benefit information may be available in such non-English language(s);
7. In certain situations, a statement in non-English language(s) that indicates how to access the language services provided by the Claim Administrator;
8. The right to request, free of charge, reasonable access to and copies of all documents, records, and other information relevant to the claim for benefits;
9. Any internal rule, guideline, protocol, or other similar criterion relied on in the determination, or a statement that a copy of such rule, guideline, protocol, or other similar criterion will be provided free of charge on request;
10. An explanation of the scientific or clinical judgment relied on in the determination, or a statement that such explanation will be provided free of charge upon request;
11. A description of the standard that was used in denying the claim and a discussion of the decision;
12. When the notice is given upon the exhaustion of an appeal submitted by a health care Provider on their own behalf, the timeframes from the date of the adverse determination for the member to file an appeal or file an external review;
13. When the notice of final adverse determination is given upon the exhaustion of internal appeals by the member, a statement that all internal appeals have been exhausted and the member has 4 months from the date of the letter to file an external review;
14. A statement indicating whether the adverse determination relates to a MEMBER appeal (filed by the member or authorized representative who may be the health care Provider) or a PROVIDER appeal (pursuant to the Provider contract) and shall explain timeframes from the date of the adverse determination for the member to appeal and to file an external review regardless of the status of a Provider appeal.

If the Claim Administrator's or your Employer's decision is to continue to deny or partially deny your Claim or you do not receive timely decision, you may be

able to request an external review of your claim by an independent third party, who will review the determination and issue a final decision. Your external review rights are described in the **STANDARD EXTERNAL REVIEW** section below.

You may file a Complaint with the Illinois Department of Insurance. The Illinois Department of Insurance will notify the Claim Administrator of the Complaint. The Claim Administrator will have 21 days to respond to the Illinois Department of Insurance.

You must exercise the right to internal appeal as a precondition to taking any action against the Claim Administrator, either at law or in equity. If you have an adverse appeal determination, you may file civil action in a state or federal court.

Forum Selection

In the event of any dispute relating to or arising from this Plan, the jurisdiction and venue for the dispute is the United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois. If, and only if, the United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois lacks subject-matter jurisdiction over such dispute, the jurisdiction and venue for the dispute is the Circuit Court of Cook County, Illinois.

STANDARD EXTERNAL REVIEW

You or your authorized representative (as described above) may make a request for a standard external review or expedited external review of an Adverse Benefit Determination or Final Internal Adverse Benefit Determination by an independent review organization (IRO). The external review is at no charge to the member.

An "**Adverse Benefit Determination**" means a determination, reduction, or termination of, or a failure to provide or make payment (in whole or in part) for, a benefit, including any such determination, reduction, termination, or failure to provide or make payment for, a benefit resulting from the application of any utilization review, as well as a failure to cover an item or service for which benefits are otherwise provided because it is determined to be experimental or investigational or not Medically Necessary or appropriate. If an ongoing course of treatment had been approved by the Claim Administrator or your Employer and the Claim Administrator or your Employer reduces or terminates such treatment (other than by amendment or termination of the Employer's benefit plan) before the end of the approved treatment period, that is also an Adverse Benefit Determination. A Rescission of coverage is also an Adverse Benefit Determination. A Rescission does not include a termination of coverage for reasons related to non-payment of premium.

A "**Final Internal Adverse Benefit Determination**" means an Adverse Benefit Determination that has been upheld by the Claim Administrator at the completion of the Claim Administrator's internal review/appeal process.

1. **Request for external review.** Within 4 months after the date of receipt of a notice of an Adverse Benefit Determination or Final Internal Adverse Benefit Determination from the Claim Administrator, you or your authorized representative must file your request for standard external review. If there is no corresponding date 4 months after the date of receipt

of such a notice, then the request must be filed by the first day of the fifth month following the receipt of the notice. For example, if the date of receipt of the notice is October 30, because there is no February 30, the request must be filed by March 1. If the last filing date would fall on a Saturday, Sunday, or Federal holiday, the last filing date is extended to the next day that is not a Saturday, Sunday, or Federal holiday.

2. **Preliminary review.** Within 5 business days following the date of receipt of the external review request, the Claim Administrator must complete a preliminary review of the request to determine whether:
    a. You are, or were, covered under the plan at the time the health care item or service was requested or, in the case of a retrospective review, was covered under the plan at the time the health care item or service was provided;
    b. The Adverse Benefit Determination or the Final Adverse Benefit Determination does not relate to your failure to meet the requirements for eligibility under the terms of the plan (e.g., worker classification or similar determination);
    c. You have exhausted the Claim Administrator's internal appeal process unless you are not required to exhaust the internal appeals process under the interim final regulations. Please read the **EXHAUSTION** section below for additional information and exhaustion of the internal appeal process; and
    d. You or your authorized representative have provided all the information and forms required to process an external review.

    You will be notified within 1 business day after we complete the preliminary review if your request is eligible or if further information or documents are needed. You will have the remainder of the 4-month appeal period (or 48 hours following receipt of the notice), whichever is later, to perfect the appeal request. If your claim is not eligible for external review, we will outline the reasons it is ineligible in the notice, and provide contact information for the Department of Labor's Employee Benefits Security Administration (toll-free number 866-444-EBSA (3272).
3. **Referral to Independent Review Organization.** When an eligible request for external review is completed within the time period allowed, Claim Administrator will assign the matter to an independent review organization (IRO). The IRO assigned will be accredited by URAC or by similar nationally recognized accrediting organization. Moreover, the Claim Administrator will act against bias and to ensure independence. Accordingly, the Claim Administrator must contract within at least (3) IROs for assignments under the plan and rotate claims assignments among them (or incorporate other independent, unbiased methods for selection of IROs, such as random selection). In addition, the IRO may not be eligible for any financial incentives based on the likelihood that the IRO will support the determination of benefits.

The IRO must provide the following:

a. Utilization of legal experts where appropriate to make coverage determinations under the plan.

b. Timely notification to you or your authorized representative, in writing, of the request's eligibility and acceptance for external review. This notice will include a statement that you may submit in writing to the assigned IRO within ten business days following the date of receipt of the notice additional information that the IRO must consider when conducting the external review. The IRO is not required to, but may, accept and consider additional information submitted after 10 business days.

c. Within 5 business days after the date of assignment of the IRO, the Claim Administrator must provide to the assigned IRO the documents and any information considered in making the Adverse Benefit Determination or Final Internal Adverse Benefit Determination. Failure by the Claim Administrator to timely provide the documents and information must not delay the conduct of the external review. If the Claim Administrator fails to timely provide the documents and information, the assigned IRO may terminate the external review and make a decision to reverse the Adverse Benefit Determination or Final Internal Adverse Benefit Determination. Within 1 business day after making the decision, the IRO must notify the Claim Administrator and you or your authorized representative.

d. Upon receipt of any information submitted by you or your authorized representative, the assigned IRO must within 1 business day forward the information to the Claim Administrator. Upon receipt of any such information, the Claim Administrator may reconsider its Adverse Benefit Determination or Final Internal Adverse Benefit Determination that is the subject of the external review. Reconsideration by the Claim Administrator must not delay the external review. The external review may be terminated as a result of the reconsideration only if the Claim Administrator decides, upon completion of its reconsideration, to reverse its Adverse Benefit Determination or Final Internal Adverse Benefit Determination and provide coverage or payment. Within 1 business day after making such a decision, the Claim Administrator must provide written notice of its decision to you and the assigned IRO. The assigned IRO must terminate the external review upon receipt of the notice from the Claim Administrator.

e. Review all of the information and documents timely received. In reaching a decision, the assigned IRO will review the claim de novo and not be bound by any decisions or conclusions reached during the Claim Administrator's internal claims and appeals process applicable under paragraph (b) of the interim final regulations under section 2719 of the Public Health Service (PHS) Act. In addition to the documents

and information provided, the assigned IRO, to the extent the information or documents are available, and the IRO considers them appropriate, will consider the following in reaching a decision:

i. Your medical records;

ii. The attending health care professional's recommendation;

iii. Reports from appropriate health care professionals and other documents submitted by the Claim Administrator, you, or your treating provider;

iv. The terms of your plan to ensure that the IRO's decision is not contrary to the terms of the plan, unless the terms are inconsistent with applicable law;

v. Appropriate practice guidelines, which must include applicable evidence-based standards and may include any other practice guidelines developed by the Federal government, national or professional medical societies, boards, and associations;

vi. Any applicable clinical review criteria developed and used by the Claim Administrator, unless the criteria are inconsistent with the terms of the plan or with applicable law; and

vii. The opinion of the IRO's clinical reviewer or reviewers after considering information described in this notice to the extent the information or documents are available, and the clinical reviewer or reviewers consider appropriate.

f. Written notice of the final external review decision must be provided within 45 days after the IRO receives the request for the external review. The IRO must deliver the notice of final external review decision to the Claim Administrator and you or your authorized representative.

g. The notice of final external review decision will contain:

i. A general description of the reason for the request for external review, including information sufficient to identify the claim (including the date or dates of service, the health care provider, the claim amount (if applicable), the diagnosis code and its corresponding meaning, the treatment code and its corresponding meaning, and the reason for the previous determination);

ii. The date the IRO received the assignment to conduct the external review and the date of the IRO decision;

iii. References to the evidence or documentation, including the specific coverage provisions and evidence-based standards, considered in reaching its decision;

iv. A discussion of the principal reason or reasons for its decision, including the rationale for its decision and any evidence-based standards that were relied on in making its decision;

v. A statement that the determination is binding except to the extent that other remedies may be available under State or Federal law to either the Claim Administrator and you or your authorized representative;

vi. A statement that judicial review may be available to you or your authorized representative; and

vii. Current contact information, including phone number, for any applicable office of health insurance consumer assistance or ombudsman established under PHS Act section 2793.

h. After a final external review decision, the IRO must maintain records of all claims and notices associated with the external review process for six years. An IRO must make such records available for examination by the Claim Administrator, State or Federal oversight agency upon request, except where such disclosure would violate State or Federal privacy laws, and you or your authorized representative.

4. **Reversal of plan's decision.** Upon receipt of a notice of a final external review decision reversing the Adverse Benefit Determination or Final Internal Adverse Benefit Determination, the Claim Administrator immediately must provide coverage or payment (including immediately authorizing or immediately paying benefits) for the claim.

EXPEDITED EXTERNAL REVIEW

1. **Request for expedited external review.** Claim Administrator must allow you or your authorized representative to make a request for an expedited external review with the Claim Administrator at the time you receive:

a. An Adverse Benefit Determination if the Adverse Benefit Determination involves a medical condition of the claimant for which the timeframe for completion of an expedited internal appeal under the interim final regulations would seriously jeopardize your life or health or would jeopardize your ability to regain maximum function and you have filed a request for an expedited internal appeal; or

b. A Final Internal Adverse Benefit Determination, if the claimant has a medical condition where the timeframe for completion of a standard external review would seriously jeopardize your life or health or would jeopardize your ability to regain maximum function, or if the Final Internal Adverse Benefit Determination concerns an admission, availability of care, continued stay, or health care item or service for which you received emergency services, but have not been discharged from a facility.

2. **Preliminary review.** Immediately upon receipt of the request for expedited external review, the Claim Administrator must determine whether the request meets the reviewability requirements set forth in the STANDARD EXTERNAL REVIEW section above. The Claim Administrator must

immediately send you a notice of its eligibility determination that meets the requirements set forth in STANDARD EXTERNAL REVIEW section above.

3. **Referral to independent review organization.** Upon a determination that a request is eligible for external review following the preliminary review, the Claim Administrator will assign an IRO pursuant to the requirements set forth in the STANDARD EXTERNAL REVIEW section above. The Claim Administrator must provide or transmit all necessary documents and information considered in making the Adverse Benefit Determination or Final Internal Adverse Benefit Determination to the assigned IRO electronically or by telephone or facsimile or any other available expeditious method.

   The assigned IRO, to the extent the information or documents are available, and the IRO considers them appropriate, must consider the information or documents described above under the procedures for standard review. In reaching a decision, the assigned IRO must review the claim de novo and is not bound by any decisions or conclusions reached during the Claim Administrator's internal claims and appeals process.

4. **Notice of final external review decision.** The Claim Administrator's contract with the assigned IRO must require the IRO to provide notice of the final external review decision, in accordance with the requirements set forth in the STANDARD EXTERNAL REVIEW section above, as expeditiously as your medical condition or circumstances require, but in no event more than 72 hours after the IRO receives the request for an expedited external review. If the notice is not in writing, within 48 hours after the date of providing that notice, the assigned IRO must provide written confirmation of the decision to the Claim Administrator and you or your authorized representative.

EXHAUSTION

For standard internal review, you have the right to request external review once the internal review process has been completed and you have received the Final Internal Adverse Benefit Determination. For expedited internal review, you may request external review simultaneously with the request for expedited internal review. The IRO will determine whether your request is appropriate for expedited external review or if the expedited internal review process must be completed before external review may be requested.

You will be deemed to have exhausted the internal review process and may request external review if the Claim Administrator waives the internal review process or the Claim Administrator has failed to comply with the internal claims and appeals process. In the event you have been deemed to exhaust the internal review process due to the failure by the Claim Administrator to comply with the internal claims and appeals process, you also have the right to pursue any available remedies under 502(a) of ERISA or under State law.

External review may not be requested for an Adverse Benefit Determination involving a claim for benefits for a health care service that you have already received until the internal review process has been exhausted.

GENERAL PROVISIONS

1. CLAIM ADMINISTRATOR'S SEPARATE FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS WITH PROVIDERS AND OTHER ENTITIES

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

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

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

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

a. Assume you go into the Hospital for one night and the normal, full amount the Hospital bills for Covered Services is $1,000. How is the $1,000 bill paid?

b. You personally will have to pay the deductible and Coinsurance amounts set out in your benefit booklet.

c. However, for purposes of calculating your deductible and Coinsurance amounts, and whether you have reached any out-of-pocket or benefit maximums, the Hospital's Eligible Charge would be reduced by the ADP applicable to your Claim. In our example, if the applicable ADP were 30%, the $1,000 Hospital bill would be reduced by 30% to $700 for

purposes of calculating your deductible and Coinsurance amounts, and whether you have reached any out-of-pocket or benefit maximums.

d. Assuming you have already satisfied your deductible, you will still have to pay the Coinsurance portion of the $1,000 Hospital bill after it has been reduced by the ADP. In our example, if your Coinsurance obligation is 20%, you personally will have to pay 20% of $700, or $140. You should note that your 20% Coinsurance is based on the full $1,000 Hospital bill, after it is reduced by the applicable ADP.

e. After considering the deductible and Coinsurance amounts, the Claim Administrator will satisfy its portion of the Hospital bill. In most cases, the Claim Administrator has a contract with Hospitals that allows it to pay less, and requires the Hospital to accept less, than the amount of money the Claim Administrator would be required to pay if it did not have a contract with the Hospital.

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

The Claim Administrator or its subsidiaries or affiliates may also have ownership interests in or financial arrangements with certain Providers who provide Covered Services to covered persons and/or vendors or other third parties who provide services related to the Policy or provide services to certain Providers.

2. INTER-PLAN ARRANGEMENTS

I. Out-of-Area Services

Overview

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

When you receive care outside of the Claim Administrator's service area, you will receive it from one of two kinds of Providers. Most Providers

("participating Providers") contract with the local Blue Cross and/or Blue Shield Licensee in that geographic area ("Host Blue"). Some Providers ("non-participating Providers") do not contract with the Host Blue. The Claim Administrator explains below how the Claim Administrator pays both kinds of Providers.

Inter-Plan Arrangements Eligibility - Claim Types

All claim types are eligible to be processed through Inter-Plan Arrangements, as described above, except for all dental care benefits except when paid as medical claims/benefits, and those prescription drug benefits or vision care benefits that may be administered by a third party contracted by the Claim Administrator to provide the specific service or services.

A. BlueCard® Program

Under the BlueCard® Program, when you receive Covered Services within the geographic area served by a Host Blue, the Claim Administrator will remain responsible for doing what we agreed in the contract. However, the Host Blue is responsible for contracting with and generally handling all interactions with its participating Providers.

For Inpatient facility services received in a Hospital, the Host Blue's participating Provider is required to obtain Prior Authorization. If Prior Authorization is not obtained, the participating Provider will be sanctioned based on the Host Blue's contractual agreement with the Provider, and the member will be held harmless for the Provider sanction.

When you receive Covered Services outside the Claim Administrator's service area and the Claim is processed through the BlueCard Program, the amount you pay for Covered Services is calculated based on the lower of:

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

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

a. Suppose you receive Covered Services for an illness while you are on vacation outside of Illinois. You show your Identification Card to the provider to let them know that you are covered by the Claim Administrator.

b. The provider has negotiated with the Host Blue a price of $80, even though the provider's standard charge for this service is $100. In this example, the provider bills the Host Blue $100.

c. The Host Blue, in turn, forwards the claim to the Claim Administrator and indicates that the negotiated price for the covered service is $80. The Claim Administrator would then base the amount you must pay for the service - the amount applied to your deductible, if any, and your

coinsurance percentage - on the $80 negotiated price, not the $100 billed charge.

d. So, for example, if your coinsurance is 20%, you would pay $16 (20% of $80), not $20 (20% of $100). You are not responsible for amounts over the negotiated price for a covered service.

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

Often, this "negotiated price" will be a simple discount that reflects an actual price that the Host Blue pays to your healthcare provider. Sometimes, it is an estimated price that takes into account special arrangements with your healthcare provider or provider group that may include types of settlements, incentive payments, and/or other credits or charges. Occasionally, it may be an average price, based on a discount that results in expected average savings for similar types of healthcare providers after taking into account the same types of transactions as with an estimated price.

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

B. Negotiated (non-BlueCard Program) Arrangements

With respect to one or more Host Blues, instead of using the BlueCard Program, the Claim Administrator may process your claims for Covered Services through Negotiated Arrangements for National Accounts.

The amount you pay for Covered Services under this arrangement will be calculated based on the lower of either billed charges for Covered Services or negotiated price (refer to the description of negotiated price under Section A, BlueCard Program) made available to the Claim Administrator by the Host Blue.

If reference-based benefits, which are service-specific benefit dollar limits for specific procedures, based on a Host Blue's local market rates, are made available to you, you will be responsible for the amount that the healthcare provider bills above the specific reference benefit limit for the given procedure. For a participating Provider, that amount will be the difference between the negotiated price and the reference benefit limit. For a non-participating Provider, that amount will be the difference between the Provider's billed charge and the reference benefit limit. Where a reference benefit limit is greater than either a negotiated price or a Provider's billed charge, you will incur no liability, other than any related patient cost sharing under this agreement.

C. Special Cases: Value Based Programs

BlueCard® Program

If you receive Covered Services under a Value-Based Program inside a Host Blue's service area, you will not be responsible for paying any of the Provider incentives, risk-sharing, and/or Care Coordinator Fees that are a part of such an arrangement, except when a Host Blue passes these fees to the Claim Administrator through average pricing or fee schedule adjustments.

Value-Based Programs: Negotiated (non–BlueCard Program) Arrangements

If the Claim Administrator has entered into a Negotiated Arrangement with a Host Blue to provide Value-Based Programs to your Employer on your behalf, the Claim Administrator will follow the same procedures for Value-Based Programs administration and Care Coordinator Fees as noted above for the BlueCard Program.

D. Inter-Plan Programs: Federal/State Taxes/Surcharges/Fees

Federal or state laws or regulations may require a surcharge, tax or other fee that applies to self-funded accounts. If applicable, the Claim Administrator will include any such surcharge, tax, or other fee as part of the Claim Charge passed on to you.

E. Non-Participating Healthcare Providers Outside The Claim Administrator's Service Area

a. Member Liability Calculation

(1) In General

When Covered Services are provided outside of the Claim Administrator's service area by non-participating Providers, the amount(s) you pay for such services will be calculated using the methodology described in the benefit booklet for non-participating Providers located inside our service area. You may be responsible for the difference between the amount that the non-participating Provider bills and the payment the Claim Administrator will make for the Covered Services as set forth in this paragraph.

(2) Exceptions

In some exception cases, the Claim Administrator may, but is not required to, negotiate a payment with such non-participating Provider on an exception basis. If a negotiated payment is not available, then the Claim Administrator may make a payment based on the lesser of:

1. The amount calculated using the methodology described in the benefit booklet for non-participating Providers located inside our service area (and described in Section (a)(1) above); or

2. The following:

   a. For professional Providers, make a payment based on publicly available Provider reimbursement data for the same or similar services, adjusted for geographical differences where applicable, or

   b. For Hospital or facility Providers, make a payment based on publicly available data reflecting the approximate costs that Hospitals or facilities have reportedly incurred historically to provide the same or similar service, adjusted for geographical differences where applicable, plus a margin factor for the Hospital or facility.

In these situations, you may be liable for the difference between the amount that the non-participating Provider bills and the payment the Claim Administrator will make for the Covered Services as set forth in this paragraph.

F. Blue Cross Blue Shield Global® Core

If you are outside the United States, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands (hereinafter "BlueCard service area"), you may be able to take advantage of Blue Cross Blue Shield Global Core when accessing Covered Services. Blue Cross Blue Shield Global Core is unlike the BlueCard Program available in the BlueCard service area in certain ways. For instance, although Blue Cross Blue Shield Global Core assists you with accessing a network of Inpatient, Outpatient and Professional Providers, the network is not served by a Host Blue. As such, when you receive care from Providers outside the BlueCard service area, you will typically have to pay the Providers and submit the Claims yourself to obtain reimbursement for these services.

If you need medical assistance services (including locating a doctor or Hospital) outside the BlueCard service area, you should call the service center at 1.800.810.BLUE (2583) or call collect at 1.804.673.1177, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. An assistance coordinator, working with a medical professional, can arrange a Physician appointment or hospitalization, if necessary.

- **Inpatient Services**

  In most cases, if you contact the service center for assistance, Hospitals will not require you to pay for covered Inpatient services, except for your cost-share amounts/Deductibles, Coinsurance, etc. In such cases, the Hospital will submit your Claims to the service center to begin claims processing. However, if you paid in full at the time of service, you must submit a Claim to receive reimbursement for Covered Services. **You must contact the Claim Administrator to obtain Prior Authorization for non-emergency Inpatient services.**

- **Outpatient Services**

  Outpatient Services are available for Emergency Care, Physicians, urgent care centers and other Outpatient Providers located outside the BlueCard service area will typically require you to pay in full at the time of service. You must submit a Claim to obtain reimbursement for Covered Services.

- **Submitting a Blue Cross Blue Shield Global Core Claim**

  When you pay for Covered Services outside the BlueCard service area, you must submit a Claim to obtain reimbursement. For institutional and professional Claims, you should complete a Blue Cross Blue Shield Global Core International claim form and send the Claim form with the Provider's itemized bill(s) to the service center (the address is on the form) to initiate Claims processing. Following the instructions on the Claim form will help ensure timely processing of your Claim. The Claim form is available from the Claim Administrator, the service center or online at www.bcbsglobalcore.com. If you need assistance with your Claim submission, you should call the service center at 1.800.810.BLUE (2583) or call collect at 1.804.673.1177, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Claim Administrator's Separate Financial Arrangements with Pharmacy Benefit Managers

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

Prime negotiates rebate contracts with pharmaceutical manufacturers on behalf of the Claim Administrator but does not retain any rebates (although Prime may retain any interest or late fees earned on rebates received from manufactures to cover the administrative costs of processing late payments). The Claim Administrator may also negotiate rebate contracts with pharmaceutical manufacturers. The Claim Administrator may receive such rebates from Prime or pharmaceutical manufacturers. You are not entitled to receive any portion of any such rebates.

3. PAYMENT OF CLAIMS AND ASSIGNMENT OF BENEFITS

a. Under this Health Care Plan, the Claim Administrator has the right to make any benefit payment either to you or directly to the Provider of the Covered Services. For example, the Claim Administrator may pay benefits to you if you receive Covered Services from a Non-Administrator Provider. The Claim Administrator is specifically authorized by you to determine to whom any benefit payment should be made.

b. Once Covered Services are rendered by a Provider, you have no right to request the Claim Administrator not to pay the Claim submitted by such Provider and no such request will be given effect. In addition, the Claim Administrator will have no liability to you or any other person because of its rejection of such request.

c. A covered person's claim for benefits under this Health Care Plan is expressly non-assignable and non-transferable in whole or in part to any person or entity, including any Provider, at any time before or after Covered Services are rendered to a covered person. Coverage under this Health Care Plan is expressly non-assignable and non-transferable and will be forfeited if you attempt to assign or transfer coverage or aid or attempt to aid any other person in fraudulently obtaining coverage. Any such assignment or transfer of a claim for benefits or coverage shall be null and void.

4. YOUR PROVIDER RELATIONSHIPS

a. The choice of a Provider is solely your choice and the Claim Administrator will not interfere with your relationship with any Provider.

b. The Claim Administrator does not itself undertake to furnish health care services, but solely to make payments to Providers for the Covered Services received by you. The Claim Administrator is not in any event liable for any act or omission of any Provider or the agent or employee of such Provider, including, but not limited to, the failure or refusal to render services to you. Professional services which can only be legally performed by a Provider are not provided by the Claim Administrator. Any contractual relationship between a Physician and an Administrator Provider shall not be construed to mean that the Claim Administrator is providing professional service.

c. The use of an adjective such as Participating, Administrator, Preferred or approved in modifying a Provider shall in no way be construed as a recommendation, referral, or any other statement as to the ability or quality of such Provider. In addition, the omission, non-use or non-designation of Participating, Administrator, Preferred, approved or any similar modifier or the use of a term such as Non-Administrator or Non-Participating should not be construed as carrying any statement or inference, negative or positive, as to the skill or quality of such Provider.

d. Each Provider provides Covered Services only to you and does not interact with or provide any services to your Employer (other than as an individual covered person) or your Employer's ERISA Health Benefit Program.

5. NOTICES

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

6. LIMITATIONS OF ACTIONS

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

7. INFORMATION AND RECORDS

You agree that it is your responsibility to insure that any Provider, other Blue Cross and Blue Shield Plan, insurance company, employee benefit association, government body or program, any other person or entity, having knowledge of or records relating to (a) any illness or injury for which a Claim or Claims for benefits are made under the Health Care Plan, (b) any medical history which might be pertinent to such illness, injury, Claim or Claims, or (c) any benefits or indemnity on account of such illness or injury or on account of any previous illness or injury which may be pertinent to such Claim or Claims, furnish to the Claim Administrator or its agent, and agree that any such Provider, person or other entity may furnish to the Claim Administrator or its agent, at any time upon its request, any and all information and records (including copies of records) relating to such illness, injury, Claim or Claims. In addition, the Claim Administrator may furnish similar information and records (or copies of records) to Providers, Blue Cross and Blue Shield Plans, insurance companies, governmental bodies or programs or other entities providing insurance-type benefits requesting the same. It is also your responsibility to furnish the Claim Administrator and/or your Employer or group administrator information regarding your or your dependents becoming eligible for Medicare, termination of Medicare eligibility or any changes in Medicare eligibility status in order that the

Claim Administrator be able to make Claim Payments in accordance with MSP laws.

8. OVERPAYMENT

If your group's benefit plan or the Claim Administrator pays benefits for eligible expenses incurred by you or your dependents and it is found that the payment was more than it should have been, or it was made in error ("Overpayment"), your group's benefit plan or the Claim Administrator has the right to obtain a refund of the Overpayment amount from: (i) the person to, or for whom, such benefits were paid, or (ii) any insurance company or plan, or (iii) any other persons, entities, or organizations, including, but not limited to Participating Providers or Non-Participating Providers.

If no refund is received, your group's benefit plan and/or Blue Cross and Blue Shield (in its capacity as insurer or administrator) has the right to deduct any refund for any Overpayment due up to an amount equal to the Overpayment, from:

a. Any future benefit payment made to any person or entity under this benefit booklet, whether for the same or a different member; or

b. Any future benefit payment made to any person or entity under another Blue Cross and Blue Shield administered ASO benefit program and/or Blue Cross and Blue Shield administered insured benefit program or policy, if the future benefit payment owed is to a Contracted Provider; or

c. Any future benefit payment made to any person or entity under another Blue Cross and Blue Shield insured group benefit plan or individual policy, if the future benefit payment owed is to a Contracted Provider; or

d. Any future benefit payment, or other payment, made to any person or entity; or

e. Any future payment owed to one or more Contracted Providers.

Further, the Claim Administrator has the right to reduce your benefit plan's or policy's payment to a Contracted Provider by the amount necessary to recover another Blue Cross and Blue Shield's plan or policy Overpayment to the same Contracted Provider and to remit the recovered amount to the other Blue Cross and Blue Shield plan or policy.

9. VALUE BASED DESIGN PROGRAMS

The Claim Administrator and your Employer has the right to offer medical management programs, quality improvement programs and health behavior wellness, incentive, maintenance, or improvement programs that allow for a reward, a contribution, a penalty, a differential in premiums or a differential in medical, prescription drug or equipment Copayments, Coinsurance or deductibles, or costs, or a combination of these incentives or disincentives for participation in any such program offered or administered by the Claim Administrator or an entity chosen by the Claim Administrator to administer

such programs. In addition, discount, or incentive programs for various health and wellness-related, insurance-related, or other items and services may be available from time-to-time. Such programs may be discontinued with or without notice.

Contact your Employer for additional information regarding any value-based programs offered by your Employer.

REIMBURSEMENT PROVISION

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

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

b. the Claim Administrator is assigned the right to recover from the third party, or their insurer, to the extent of the benefits the Claim Administrator provided for that sickness or injury.

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

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

BENEFIT BOOKLET
NO SURPRISES ACT AMENDMENT

Amendment Effective Date: This Amendment is effective on the Employer's Contract Anniversary Date or for the Plan Year of your Employer's Group Health Plan occurring on or after January 1, 2022.

The terms of this Amendment supersede the terms of the benefit booklet to which this Amendment is attached and becomes a part of the benefit booklet. Unless otherwise required by Federal or Illinois law, in the event of a conflict between the terms on this Amendment and the terms of the benefit booklet, the terms on this Amendment apply. However, definitions set forth in this Amendment are for purposes of this Amendment only. Additionally, for purposes of this Amendment, references to You and Your mean any Member, including Subscriber and Dependents.

The benefit booklet is hereby amended as indicated below:

I. Continuity of Care

If You are under the care of a Participating Provider as defined in the benefit booklet who stops participating in the Plan's network (for reasons other than failure to meet applicable quality standards, including medical incompetence or professional behavior, or fraud), we will provide a notice within 60 days of your Provider leaving the network (for reasons other than terminations in situations involving direct imminent physical harm to a patient or a final disciplinary action by State licensing board), and You may be able to continue coverage for that Provider's Covered Services at the Participating Provider Benefit level if one of the following conditions is met:

1. You are undergoing a course of treatment for a serious and complex condition,
2. You are undergoing institutional or inpatient care,
3. You are scheduled to undergo nonelective surgery from the Provider (including receipt of postoperative care from such Provider with respect to such surgery),
4. You are pregnant or undergoing a course of treatment for Your pregnancy, or
5. You are determined to be terminally ill.

A serious and complex condition is one that (1) for an acute illness, is serious enough to require specialized medical treatment to avoid the reasonable possibility of death or permanent harm (for example, if You are currently receiving chemotherapy, radiation therapy, or post-operative visits for a serious acute disease or condition), and (2) for a chronic illness or condition, is (i) life-threatening, degenerative, disabling or potentially disabling, or congenital, and (ii) requires specialized medical care over a prolonged period of time.

Continuity coverage described in this provision shall continue until the treatment is complete but will not extend for more than 90 days beyond the date The Plan

notifies You of the Provider's termination, or any longer period provided by state law. If You are in the second or third trimester of pregnancy when the Provider's termination takes effect, continuity of coverage may be extended through delivery of the child, immediate postpartum care, and the follow-up check-up within the first six (6) weeks of delivery. You have the right to appeal any decision made for a request for Benefits under this provision, as explained in the benefit booklet.

II. Federal No Surprises Act

1. Definitions

The definitions below apply only to Section IV. Federal No Surprises Act, of this Amendment. To the extent the same terms are defined in both the benefit booklet and this Amendment, those terms will apply only to their use in the benefit booklet or this Amendment, respectively.

"Air Ambulance Services" means, for purposes of this Amendment only, medical transport by helicopter or airplane for patients.

"Emergency Medical Condition" means, for purposes of this Amendment only, a medical condition manifesting itself by acute symptoms of sufficient severity (including severe pain) such that a prudent layperson, who possesses an average knowledge of health and medicine, could reasonably expect the absence of immediate medical attention to result in a condition: (i) placing the health of the individual, or with respect to a pregnant woman her unborn child in serious jeopardy; (ii) constituting a serious impairment to bodily functions; or (iii) constituting a serious dysfunction of any bodily organ or part.

"Emergency Services" means, for purposes of this Amendment only,

- a medical screening examination performed in the emergency department of a hospital or a Freestanding Emergency Department;
- further medical examination or treatment You receive at a Hospital, regardless of the department of the Hospital, or a Freestanding Emergency Department to evaluate and treat an Emergency Medical Condition until Your condition is stabilized; and
- Covered Services You receive from a Non-Participating Provider during the same visit after Your Emergency Medical Condition has stabilized unless:
    1. Your Non-Participating Provider determines You can travel by non-medical or non-emergency transport;
    2. Your Non-Participating Provider has provided You with a notice to consent form for balance billing of services; and
    3. You have provided informed consent.

"Non-Participating Provider" means, for purposes of this Amendment only, with respect to a covered item or service, a physician or other health care provider who does not have a contractual relationship with Blue Cross and

Blue Shield of Illinois (BCBSIL) for furnishing such item or service under the Plan to which this Amendment is attached.

"Non-Participating Emergency Facility" means, for purposes of this Amendment only, with respect to a covered item or service, an emergency department of a hospital or an independent freestanding emergency department that does not have a contractual relationship with BCBSIL for furnishing such item or service under the Plan to which this Amendment is attached.

"Participating Provider" means, for purposes of this Amendment only, with respect to a Covered Service, a physician or other health care provider who has a contractual relationship with BCBSIL setting a rate (above which the provider cannot bill the member) for furnishing such item or service under the Plan to which this Amendment is attached regardless whether the provider is considered a preferred or in-network provider for purposes of in-network or out-of-network benefits under the subject Plan.

"Participating Facility" means, for purposes of this Amendment only, with respect to Covered Service, a Hospital or ambulatory surgical center that has a contractual relationship with BCBSIL setting a rate (above which the provider cannot bill the member) for furnishing such item or service under the Plan to which this Amendment is attached. Whether the provider is considered a preferred or in-network provider for purposes of in-network or out-of-network benefits under the subject Plan.

"Qualifying Payment Amount" means, for purposes of this Amendment only, a median of contracted rates calculated pursuant to federal or state law, regulation and/or guidance.

"Recognized Amount" means, for purposes of this Amendment only, an amount determined pursuant a state law that provides a method for determining the total amount payable for the item or service (if applicable); or, if there is no state law that provides a method for determining the total amount payable for the item or service, the lesser of the Qualifying Payment Amount or billed charges.

2. Federal No Surprises Act Surprise Billing Protections

a. The federal No Surprises Act contains various protections relating to surprise medical bills on services performed by Non-Participating Providers and Non-Participating Emergency Facilities. The items and services included in these protections ("Included Services") are listed below.

- Emergency Services obtained from a Non-Participating Provider or Non-Participating Emergency Facility.
- Covered non-Emergency Services performed by a Non-Participating Provider at a Participating Facility (unless You give written consent and give up balance billing protections).

- Air Ambulance Services received from a Non-Participating Provider if the services would be covered if received from a Participating Provider.

b. Claim Payments

For Included Services, the Plan will send an initial payment or notice of denial of payment directly to the Provider.

c. Cost-Sharing

For non-Emergency Services performed by Non-Participating Providers at a Participating Facility, and for Emergency Services provided by a Non-Participating Provider or Non-Participating Emergency Facility, the Recognized Amount is used to calculate Your cost-share requirements, including Deductibles, Copayments, and Coinsurance.

For Air Ambulance Services received from a Non-Participating Provider, if the services would be covered if received from a Participating Provider, the amount used to calculate Your cost-share requirements, including Deductibles, Copayments, and Coinsurance, will be the lesser of the Qualifying Payment Amount or billed charges.

For Included Services, these cost-share requirements will be counted toward Your Participating Provider deductible and/or out-of-pocket expense limit, if any.

3. Prohibition of Balance Billing

You are protected from balance billing on Included Services as set forth below.

If You receive Emergency Services from a Non-Participating Provider or non-Participating Emergency Facility, the most the Non-Participating Provider or non-Participating Emergency Facility may bill You is Your in-network cost-share. You cannot be balance billed for these Emergency Services unless You give written consent and give up Your protections not to be balanced billed for services You receive after You are in a stable condition.

When You receive Covered Non-Emergency Services from a Non-Participating Provider at a Participating Facility, the most those Non-Participating Providers may bill You is Your Plan's in-network cost-share requirements. When You receive emergency medicine, anesthesia, pathology, radiology, laboratory, neonatology, assistant surgeon, hospitalist, or intensivist services at a Participating Facility, Non-Participating Providers can't balance bill You and may not ask You to give up Your protections not to be balance billed. If You get other services at Participating Facilities, Non-Participating Providers can't balance bill You unless You give written consent and give up Your protections.

If Your Plan includes Air Ambulance Services as a Covered Service, and such services are provided by a Non-Participating Provider, the most the

Non-Participating Provider may bill You is Your in-network cost-share. You cannot be balance billed for these Air Ambulance Services.

NOTE: The revisions to Your Plan made by this Amendment are based upon the No Surprises Act, a federal law enacted in 2020 and effective for plan years beginning on or after January 1, 2022. To the extent federal regulations are adopted or additional guidance is issued by federal regulatory agencies that alter the terms of this Amendment, the regulations and any additional guidance will control over conflicting language in this Amendment.

RIDER TO THE BENEFIT BOOKLET FOR CONTINUED HEALTH CARE PLAN COVERAGE FOR CERTAIN PUBLIC SAFETY EMPLOYEES

The benefit booklet, to which this Rider is attached and becomes a part, is amended as stated below.

If you are a full-time law enforcement, correctional or correctional probation officer, or firefighter and are eligible for continued health coverage under the Public Safety Employee Benefits Act (820 ILCS 320), you may maintain such health coverage under the following conditions:

1. You and your eligible dependents must have been covered under this Health Care Plan on the day immediately preceding the date of eligibility for continued health coverage.
2. Your Employer shall pay the entire cost of the health coverage for you, your spouse, and each dependent child until the child reaches the limiting age under the benefit booklet or until the end of the calendar year in which the child reaches the age of 25, if the child continues to be dependent for support, whichever is later.
3. If you subsequently die, your Employer shall continue to pay the entire health coverage cost for your surviving spouse until he or she remarries and for your dependent children under the conditions established in 2. above.
4. Health coverage benefits under this Health Care Plan shall be reduced by health coverage benefits payable from any other source.

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

RIDER TO THE BENEFIT BOOKLET FOR DISABLED OR RETIRED PUBLIC EMPLOYEES

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

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

1. You and your eligible dependents, must have been covered under this Health Care Plan on the day immediately preceding the effective date of eligibility for continued health coverage.
2. Once properly established, continued health coverage under this Health Care Plan may be maintained by you or your surviving spouse, until the loss of eligibility as specified in Sections 367g, 367h and 367j of the Insurance Code. It shall be your responsibility to inform the Claim Administrator of the loss of eligibility.
3. The election by you or your surviving spouse, to obtain a conversion plan as described in the conversion provisions of this Health Care Plan shall terminate any right to continue health coverage according to Sections 367g, 367h and 367j of the Insurance Code. No reinstatement of continued health coverage shall be permitted after such conversion has been effected or if the continued health coverage provided by this Rider has been terminated for any reason.
4. If you or your surviving spouse is continuing coverage under this Health Care Plan and becomes eligible for Medicare, the benefits under this Health Care Plan shall be reduced in accordance with the benefit provisions for Medicare Eligibles stated in this benefit booklet.
5. If a timely and valid election of continued health coverage has been made, you must remit the total monthly premium payment required to establish and maintain such coverage, whether such total monthly premium is contributed by you, deducted from a pension payment or paid directly to your Employer by you.

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

RIDER TO THE BENEFIT BOOKLET FOR CONTINUED HEALTH CARE PLAN FOR CERTAIN DISABLED OR RETIRED FIREMEN

The benefit booklet, to which this Rider is attached and becomes a part, is hereby amended to add the following provisions:

If you are a fireman and are eligible for continued group accident and health insurance under Section 367f of the Illinois Insurance Code, as amended, you may establish and maintain such continued health coverage only under the following conditions:

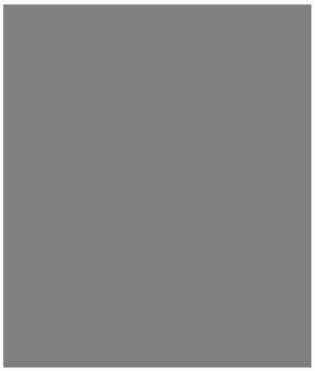
1. You and your eligible dependents, if any, must have been covered under this Health Care Plan in effect on the day immediately preceding the day on which such eligibility for continued health coverage begins.
2. Once properly established, continued health coverage under this Health Care Plan may be maintained by you or your surviving spouse, until the loss of eligibility as specified in Section 367f of the Insurance Code. It shall be the responsibility of you or your surviving spouse to inform the Claim Administrator of the loss of eligibility.
3. The election by you or your surviving spouse to obtain a conversion plan as described in the conversion provisions of this Health Care Plan relating to conversion, shall automatically terminate any right to continue health coverage under Section 367f of the Insurance Code. No reinstatement of continued health coverage shall be permitted after such conversion has been in effect or if the continued health coverage provided by this Rider is terminated for any reason.
4. If you or your surviving spouse are continuing coverage under this Health Care Plan and become eligible for Medicare, the benefits under this Health Care Plan shall become secondary to the benefits provided under Medicare.
5. If a timely and valid election of continued health coverage has been made, you or your surviving spouse shall remit the total monthly premium payment required to establish and maintain such coverage, whether such total monthly premium is contributed by you or your surviving spouse, deducted from a pension payment, paid directly to your Employer by you or your surviving spouse, or by any combination of the above.

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











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Effective Date: July 1, 2026

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Illinois, a Division of Home Care Service Corporation, a Mutual Legal Reserve Company, an Independent Licensee of Blue Cross Blue Shield Association

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