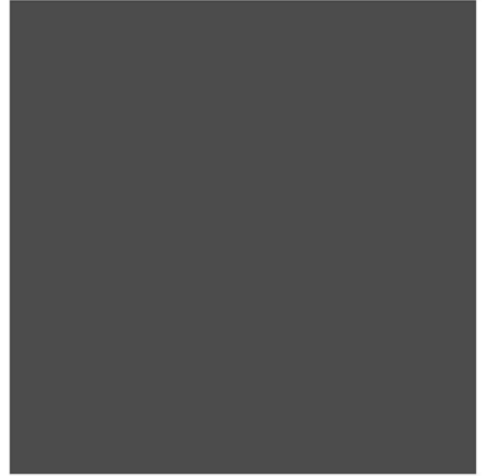


Administered by:



**BlueCross BlueShield of Texas**



## **Your Health Care Benefits Program**

Managed Health Care

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

**ExxonMobil Retiree Medical Plan**

**Account #388933**

**Group #390742 – PPO B PRE65 Option**

*January 1, 2025*

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## SCHEDULE OF COVERAGE

Plan Provisions	In-Network You Pay	Non-Network You Pay
<b>Deductibles</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Per-Admission Deductible</li> <li>Calendar Year Deductible <i>Applies to all Eligible Expenses</i></li> </ul>	\$200 per-admission Deductible  \$400 – per individual \$800 – per family	\$400 per-admission Deductible  \$700 – per individual \$1,400 – per family
<b>Medical Out-of-Pocket Maximum</b> <i>Includes Calendar Year Deductible and Copayment Amounts</i>	\$3,000 – per individual \$6,000 – per family	\$15,000 – per individual \$30,000 – per family
<b>Copayment Amounts Required</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Physician office visit/consultation for Primary Care Providers</li> <li>Telehealth/Telemedicine visit/consultation</li> <li>Physician office visit/consultation for Specialty Care Providers</li> <li>Telehealth/Telemedicine visit/consultation for Specialty Care Providers</li> <li>Outpatient Hospital Emergency Room/Treatment Room visit</li> <li>Urgent Care Center visit</li> <li>Retail Health Clinic</li> <li>Virtual Visit - Medical (MDLive)</li> <li>Virtual Visit - Behavioral Health (MDLive)</li> </ul>	\$25 Physician office visit  \$25 Telehealth/Telemedicine visit/consultation  \$45 Physician office visit  \$45 Telehealth/Telemedicine visit/consultation  \$150 outpatient Hospital Emergency Room/Treatment Room visit  \$45 Urgent Care Center visit  \$25 Retail Health Clinic visit  \$25 Virtual Visit  \$25 Virtual Visit	Does Not Apply  Does Not Apply  Does Not Apply  Does Not Apply  \$150 outpatient Hospital Emergency Room/Treatment Room visit  Does Not Apply  Does Not Apply  Does Not Apply  Does Not Apply
<b>Inpatient Hospital Expenses</b>		
All usual Hospital services and supplies, including semiprivate room, intensive care, and coronary care units.	20% of Allowable Amount after Calendar Year Deductible and \$200 per-admission Deductible  No penalty for failure to obtain Prior Authorization for services	40% of Allowable Amount after Calendar Year Deductible and \$400 per-admission Deductible  \$500 penalty for failure to obtain Prior Authorization for services
<b>Medical-Surgical Expenses</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Office visit/consultation (Primary Care Providers)</li> <li>Office visit/consultation (Specialty Care Providers)</li> <li>Diabetic Management (training/nutritional)</li> </ul>	No Charge after \$25 Copayment Amount  No Charge after \$45 Copayment Amount  No Charge after \$25 PCP/\$45 Specialist Copayment Amount	40% of Allowable Amount after Calendar Year Deductible  40% of Allowable Amount after Calendar Year Deductible  40% of Allowable Amount after Calendar Year Deductible

## SCHEDULE OF COVERAGE

<b>Plan Provisions</b>	<b>In-Network You Pay</b>	<b>Non–Network You Pay</b>
<b>Medical-Surgical Expenses (Cont’d)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Inpatient visits and Certain Diagnostic Procedures</li> <li>Home Infusion Therapy</li> <li>Physician surgical services in any setting</li> <li>Outpatient Diagnostic Lab &amp; X-ray (for Chemotherapy, Infusion and Surgery)</li> <li>Allergy testing and treatment (without office visit)</li> <li>Independent Lab &amp; X-ray</li> <li>Outpatient Lab &amp; X-ray (for services not billed with Chemotherapy, Infusion and Surgery)</li> </ul>	20% of Allowable Amount after Calendar Year Deductible      No Charge	40% of Allowable Amount after Calendar Year Deductible      40% of Allowable Amount after Calendar Year Deductible
<b>Extended Care Expenses</b> (Certain services will require Prior Authorization.) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Skilled Nursing Facility</li> <li>Home Health Care</li> <li>Hospice Care</li> <li>Private Duty Nursing (except Inpatient)</li> </ul>	<div>20% of Allowable Amount after Calendar Year Deductible</div> <div>Unlimited</div> <div>20% of Allowable Amount after Calendar Year Deductible</div> <div>Unlimited</div> <div>20% of Allowable Amount after Calendar Year Deductible</div> <div>Unlimited</div> <div>20% of Allowable Amount after Calendar Year Deductible</div> <div>Unlimited</div>	<div>40% of Allowable Amount after Calendar Year Deductible</div> <div>Unlimited</div> <div>40% of Allowable Amount after Calendar Year Deductible</div> <div>Unlimited</div> <div>40% of Allowable Amount after Calendar Year Deductible</div> <div>Unlimited</div> <div>40% of Allowable Amount after Calendar Year Deductible</div> <div>Unlimited</div>

## SCHEDULE OF COVERAGE

Plan Provisions	In-Network You Pay	Non-Network You Pay
<b>Mental Health Care/Serious Mental Illness/Treatment of Substance Use Disorder (SUD)</b> (Certain services will require Prior Authorization.) <b>Inpatient Services</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hospital Services (facility)</li> <li>Behavioral Health Practitioner Services</li> </ul> <b>Mental Health Care/Serious Mental Illness/Treatment of Substance Use Disorder (SUD) (Cont'd)</b> <b>Outpatient Services</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Behavioral Health Practitioner Expenses (office setting)</li> <li>Other Outpatient Services</li> </ul>	20% of Allowable Amount after Calendar Year Deductible and \$200 per-admission Deductible  20% of Allowable Amount after Calendar Year Deductible   No Charge after \$25 Copayment Amount  20% of Allowable Amount after Calendar Year Deductible	40% of Allowable Amount after Calendar Year Deductible and \$400 per-admission Deductible  40% of Allowable Amount after Calendar Year Deductible   40% of Allowable Amount after Calendar Year Deductible  40% of Allowable Amount after Calendar Year Deductible
<b>Emergency Care</b> Accidental Injury & Emergency Care (including Accidental Injury, Emergency and non-emergency Care for Behavioral Health Services) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Facility Charges</li> <li>Lab &amp; X-ray without emergency room or treatment room</li> <li>Physician Charges</li> </ul>	20% of Allowable Amount after Calendar Year Deductible and after \$150 outpatient Hospital emergency room Copayment Amount (waived if admitted)  No Charge  20% of Allowable Amount after Calendar Year Deductible	
<b>Non-Emergency Care</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Facility Charges</li> <li>Lab &amp; X-ray without emergency room or treatment room</li> <li>Physician Charges</li> </ul>	20% of Allowable Amount after Calendar Year Deductible and after \$150 outpatient Hospital emergency room Copayment Amount (waived if admitted)  No Charge  20% of Allowable Amount after Calendar Year Deductible	40% of Allowable Amount after Calendar Year Deductible and after \$150 outpatient Hospital emergency room Copayment Amount (waived if admitted)  40% of Allowable Amount after Calendar Year Deductible  40% of Allowable Amount after Calendar Year Deductible

## SCHEDULE OF COVERAGE

Plan Provisions	In-Network You Pay	Non-Network You Pay
<b>Urgent Care Services</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Urgent Care Center visit including lab &amp; x-ray services (excluding Certain Diagnostic Procedures)</li> </ul>	No Charge after \$45 Copayment Amount	40% of Allowable Amount after Calendar Year Deductible
<b>Ambulance Services</b>	20% of Allowable Amount after Calendar Year Deductible	
<b>Retail Health Clinic</b>	No Charge after \$25 Copayment Amount	40% of Allowable Amount after Calendar Year Deductible
<b>Telehealth</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Primary Care telehealth/telemedicine visit/consultation</li> <li>Primary Care telehealth/telemedicine visit/consultation for treatment of Behavioral Health</li> <li>Specialty telehealth/telemedicine visit/consultation</li> </ul>	No Charge after \$25 Copayment Amount  No Charge after \$25 Copayment Amount  No Charge after \$45 Copayment Amount	40% of Allowable Amount after Calendar Year Deductible  40% of Allowable Amount after Calendar Year Deductible  40% of Allowable Amount after Calendar Year Deductible
<b>Virtual Visit (MDLive)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Medical (MDLive)</li> <li>Behavioral Health (MDLive)</li> </ul>	No Charge after \$25 Virtual Visit Copayment Amount  No Charge after \$25 Virtual Visit Copayment Amount	Not Applicable  Not Applicable
<b>Preventive Care</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Routine physical examinations, well baby care, immunizations 6 years &amp; over, routine lab, x-ray, hearing exams</li> <li>Colonoscopy Professional (physician charges)</li> <li>Colonoscopy facility charges</li> <li>Immunizations Birth up to age 6</li> </ul>	No Charge	No Charge
<b>Hearing Services</b>	20% of Allowable Amount after Calendar Year Deductible	40% of Allowable Amount after Calendar Year Deductible
	1 per ear per 36-month period for hearing aids	
<b>Speech Therapy</b>	20% of Allowable Amount after Calendar Year Deductible	40% of Allowable Amount after Calendar Year Deductible
	30 visits maximum per Calendar Year. Additional visits may be authorized, if medical necessary.	

## SCHEDULE OF COVERAGE

Plan Provisions	In-Network You Pay	Non-Network You Pay
<b>Chiropractic Services</b>		
• Office visit/Office services	No Charge after \$25 PCP/\$45 Specialist Copayment Amount	40% of Allowable Amount after Calendar Year Deductible
• All other services in the outpatient setting	20% of Allowable Amount after Calendar Year Deductible	40% of Allowable Amount after Calendar Year Deductible
	20 visits maximum per Calendar Year	
<b>Physical Therapy</b>		
• Office visit/Office services	No Charge after \$25 PCP/\$45 Specialist Copayment Amount	40% of Allowable Amount after Calendar Year Deductible
• All other services in the outpatient setting	20% of Allowable Amount after Calendar Year Deductible	40% of Allowable Amount after Calendar Year Deductible
	60 visits maximum per Calendar Year. Combined with Occupational Therapy. Additional visits may be authorized, if medical necessary.	
<b>Occupational Therapy</b>		
• Office visit/Office services	No Charge after \$25 PCP/\$45 Specialist Copayment Amount	40% of Allowable Amount after Calendar Year Deductible
• All other services in the outpatient setting	20% of Allowable Amount after Calendar Year Deductible	40% of Allowable Amount after Calendar Year Deductible
	60 visits maximum per Calendar Year. Combined with Physical Therapy. Additional visits may be authorized, if medical necessary.	
<b>Vision Therapy</b>		
	20% of Allowable Amount after Calendar Year Deductible	40% of Allowable Amount after Calendar Year Deductible
<b>Acupuncture</b>		
	20% of Allowable Amount after Calendar Year Deductible	40% of Allowable Amount after Calendar Year Deductible
	10 visits maximum per Calendar Year	
<b>Breast Pumps</b>		
	20% of Allowable Amount after Calendar Year Deductible	40% of Allowable Amount after Calendar Year Deductible
<b>Lactation Support</b>		
	20% of Allowable Amount after Calendar Year Deductible	40% of Allowable Amount after Calendar Year Deductible

## SCHEDULE OF COVERAGE

Plan Provisions Blue Distinction	In-Network Blue Distinction+ Designated Center	In-Network Blue Distinction Designated Center	Non-Network Benefits
<b>Bariatric Surgery (including the diagnosis of Morbid Obesity)</b>	20% of Allowable Amount after \$200 per-admission Deductible and after Calendar Year Deductible	20% of Allowable Amount after \$200 per-admission Deductible and after Calendar Year Deductible	Not Covered



## **SCHEDULE OF COVERAGE**

### **Dependent Eligibility**

Dependent Child Age Limit to age 26.

Dependent children are eligible for Maternity Care benefits.

### **Preexisting Conditions**

Preexisting conditions are covered immediately.

## INTRODUCTION

This Plan is offered by your Employer as one of the benefits of your employment. The benefits provided are intended to assist you with many of your health care expenses for Medically Necessary services and supplies. Coverage under this Plan is provided regardless of your race, color, national origin, disability, age, sex, gender identity or sexual orientation. There are provisions throughout this Benefit Booklet that affect your health care coverage. It is important that you read the Benefit Booklet carefully so you will be aware of the benefits and requirements of this Plan.

The defined terms in this Benefit Booklet are capitalized and shown in the appropriate provision in the Benefit Booklet or in the **DEFINITIONS** section of the Benefit Booklet. Whenever these terms are used, the meaning is consistent with the definition given. Terms in italics may be section headings describing provisions or they may be defined terms.

The terms “you” and “your” as used in this Benefit Booklet refer to the Employee.

### Managed Health Care - In-Network Benefits

To receive In-Network Benefits as indicated on your Schedule of Coverage, **you must** choose Providers within the Network for all care (**other than for emergencies**). The Network has been established by BCBSTX and consists of Physicians, Specialty Care Providers, Hospitals, and other health care facilities to serve Participants throughout the Network Plan Service Area. Refer to your Provider directory or visit the BCBSTX website at [www.bcbstx.com](http://www.bcbstx.com) to make your selections. The listing may change occasionally, so make sure the Providers you select are still Network Providers. An updated directory will be available at least annually. You may access our website, [www.bcbstx.com](http://www.bcbstx.com), for the most current listing to assist you in locating a Provider.

If you choose a Network Provider, the Provider will bill the Claim Administrator - not you - for services provided.

*The Provider has agreed to accept as payment in full the least of...*

- The billed charges, or
- The Allowable Amount as determined by the Claim Administrator, or
- Other contractually determined payment amounts.

You are responsible for paying any Deductibles, Copayment Amounts, and Co-Share Amounts. You may be required to pay for limited or non-covered services. No claim forms are required.

### Managed Health Care - Non-Network Benefits

If you choose Non-Network Providers, only Non-Network Benefits will be available. If you go to a Provider outside the Network, benefits will be paid at the Non-Network Benefits level. If you choose a health care Provider outside the Network, you may have to submit claims for the services provided.

*You will be responsible for paying...*

- Billed charges above the Allowable Amount as determined by the Claim Administrator,
- Co-Share Amounts and Deductibles,
- Limited or non-covered services, and
- Failure to obtain Prior Authorization penalty.

## Important Contact Information

Resource	Contact Information	Accessible Hours
Health Advocate Helpline	1-877-278-5214	24 hours a day 7 days a week (Excluding major holidays)
Website	<a href="http://www.bcbstx.com">www.bcbstx.com</a>	24 hours a day 7 days a week

### Health Advocate Helpline

The Plan provides Health Advocates to assist Participants with understanding their benefit options, navigating the health care system and receiving general health information.

When you engage a Health Advocate they may assist Participants with the following:

- Identify your Plan Service Area
- Give you information about Network and *ParPlan* Providers
- Distribute claim forms
- Answer your questions on claims
- Assist you in identifying a Network Provider (but will not recommend specific Network Providers)
- Provide information on the features of the Plan
- Record comments about Providers
- Assistance with health care information;
- Understanding benefit options;
- Connecting with a clinical health advocate to answer specific health questions and concerns;
- Locating Network Providers for quality, cost-effective health care services;
- Assisting with submission Prior Authorization requests; and
- Assisting with engagement requirements.

The Plan does not provide medical care. Health Advocates do not replace the care of a doctor and you should consult your doctor about any medical questions or concerns.

### BCBSTX Website

Visit the BCBSTX website at [www.bcbstx.com](http://www.bcbstx.com) for information about BCBSTX, access to forms referenced in this Benefit Booklet, and much more.

## **Mental Health/Substance Use Disorder**

To satisfy Prior Authorization requirements for Participants seeking treatment for Behavioral Health Services, Mental Health Care, Serious Mental Illness, and Substance Use Disorder, you, your Behavioral Health Practitioner, or a family member may call the Health Advocate Helpline at any time, day or night.

## **Medical Prior Authorization**

To satisfy all medical Prior Authorization requirements for inpatient Hospital Admissions, Extended Care Expenses, or Home Infusion Therapy, call the Health Advocate Helpline.

## **WHO GETS BENEFITS**

### **Eligibility Requirements for Coverage**

The Eligibility Date is the date a person becomes eligible to be covered under the Plan. A person becomes eligible to be covered when the person becomes an Employee or a Dependent and is in a class eligible to be covered under the Plan as determined by your Employer or the Plan Administrator. See your Summary Plan Description for more information.

## HOW THE PLAN WORKS

### Allowable Amount

The Allowable Amount is the maximum amount of benefits the Claim Administrator will pay for Eligible Expenses you incur under the Plan. The Claim Administrator has established an Allowable Amount for Medically Necessary services, supplies, and procedures provided by Providers that have contracted with the Claim Administrator or any other Blue Cross and/or Blue Shield Plan, and Providers that have not contracted with the Claim Administrator or any other Blue Cross and/or Blue Shield Plan. When you choose to receive services, supplies, or care from a Provider that does not contract with the Claim Administrator, you will be responsible for any difference between the Claim Administrator's Allowable Amount and the amount charged by the non-contracting Provider. You will also be responsible for charges for services, supplies, and procedures limited or not covered under the Plan, any applicable Deductibles, Co-Share Amounts, and Copayment Amounts.

Review the definition of Allowable Amount in the **DEFINITIONS** section of this Benefit Booklet to understand the guidelines used by the Claim Administrator.

### Case Management

Under certain circumstances, the Plan allows the Claim Administrator the flexibility to offer benefits for expenses which are not otherwise Eligible Expenses. The Claim Administrator, at its sole discretion, may offer such benefits if:

- The Participant, their family, and the Physician agree;
- Benefits are cost effective; and
- The Claim Administrator anticipates future expenditures for Eligible Expenses which may be reduced by such benefits.

Any decision by the Claim Administrator to provide such benefits shall be made on a case-by-case basis. The case coordinator for the Claim Administrator will initiate case management in appropriate situations.

### Freedom of Choice

<i>Each time you need medical care, you can choose to:</i>		
<b>See a Network Provider</b>	<b>See an Non-Network Provider</b>	
	<b><i>ParPlan Provider (refer to ParPlan, below, for more information)</i></b>	<b><i>Non-Network Provider (not a contracting Provider)</i></b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• You receive the higher level of benefits (In-Network Benefits)</li> <li>• You are not required to file claim forms</li> <li>• You are not balance billed; Network Providers will not bill for costs exceeding the Claim Administrator's Allowable Amount for covered services</li> <li>• Your Provider will obtain Prior Authorization for necessary services</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• You receive the lower level of benefits (Non-Network Benefits)</li> <li>• You are not required to file claim forms in most cases; <i>ParPlan</i> Providers will usually file claims for you</li> <li>• You are not balance billed; <i>ParPlan</i> Providers will not bill for costs exceeding the Claim Administrator's Allowable Amount for covered services</li> <li>• In most cases, <i>ParPlan</i> Providers will obtain Prior Authorization for necessary services</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• You receive Non-Network Benefits (the lower level of benefits)</li> <li>• You are required to file your own claim forms</li> <li>• You may be billed for charges exceeding the Claim Administrator's Allowable Amount for covered services</li> <li>• You must obtain Prior Authorization for necessary services</li> </ul>

## Identification Card

The Identification Card tells Providers that you are entitled to benefits under your Employer's Health Benefit Plan. The card offers a convenient way of providing important information specific to your coverage including, but not limited to, the following:

- ***Your Subscriber identification number.*** This unique identification number is preceded by a three character alpha prefix that identifies Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Texas as your Claim Administrator.
- ***Your group number.*** This is the number assigned to identify your Employer's Health Benefit Plan with the Claim Administrator.
- ***Any Copayment Amounts that may apply to your coverage.***
- ***Important telephone numbers.***

Always remember to carry your Identification Card with you and present it to your Providers when receiving health care services or supplies.

Please remember that any time a change in your family takes place it may be necessary for a new Identification Card to be issued to you (refer to the **WHO GETS BENEFITS** section for instructions when changes are made). Upon receipt of the change in information, the Claim Administrator will provide a new Identification Card.

### ***Unauthorized, Fraudulent, Improper, or Abusive Use of Identification Cards***

1. The unauthorized, fraudulent, improper, or abusive use of Identification Cards issued to you and your covered Dependents will include, but not be limited to, the following actions, when intentional:
  - a. Use of the Identification Card prior to your Effective Date;
  - b. Use of the Identification Card after your date of termination of coverage under the Plan;
  - c. Obtaining other benefits for persons not covered under the Plan;
  - d. Obtaining other benefits that are not covered under the Plan.
2. The fraudulent or intentionally unauthorized, abusive, or other improper use of Identification Cards by any Participant can result in, but is not limited to, the following sanctions being applied to all Participants covered under your coverage:
  - a. Denial of benefits;
  - b. Cancellation of coverage under the Plan for **all** Participants under your coverage;
  - c. Limitation on the use of the Identification Card to one designated Physician, Other Provider of your choice;
  - d. Recoupment from you or any of your covered Dependents of any benefit payments made;
  - e. Pre-approval of medical services for all Participants receiving benefits under your coverage;
  - f. Notice to proper authorities of potential violations of law or professional ethics.

## Medical Necessity

All services and supplies for which benefits are available under the Plan must be Medically Necessary as determined by the Claim Administrator. Charges for services and supplies which the Claim Administrator determines are not Medically Necessary will not be eligible for benefit consideration and may not be used to satisfy Deductibles or to apply to the Medical Out-of-Pocket Maximum.

## ParPlan

When you consult a Physician or Professional Other Provider who does not participate in the Network, you should inquire if they participate in the Claim Administrator's *ParPlan*...a simple direct-payment arrangement. If the Physician or Professional Other Provider participates in the *ParPlan*, they agree to:

- File all claims for you,
- Accept the Claim Administrator's Allowable Amount determination as payment for Medically Necessary services, and
- Not bill you for services over the Allowable Amount determination.

You will receive Non-Network Benefits and be responsible for:

- Any Deductibles,
- Co-Share Amounts, and
- Services that are limited or not covered under the Plan.

**NOTE:** If you have a question regarding a Physician's or Professional Other Provider's participation in the *ParPlan*, please contact the Claim Administrator's Health Advocate Helpline.

### **Preexisting Conditions Provision**

Benefits for Eligible Expenses incurred for treatment of a preexisting condition will be available immediately with no preexisting condition Waiting Period.

### **Specialty Care Providers**

A wide range of Specialty Care Providers is included in the Network. When you need a specialist's care, In-Network Benefits will be available, but only if you use a Network Provider.

There may be occasions however, when you need the services of a Non-Network Provider. This could occur if you have a complex medical problem that cannot be taken care of by a Network Provider.

- If the services you require are not available from Network Providers, In-Network Benefits will be provided when you use Non-Network Providers.
- If you elect to see a Non-Network Provider and if the services could have been provided by a Network Provider, only Non-Network Benefits will be available.

### **Use of Non-Contracting Providers**

When you choose to receive services, supplies, or care from a Provider that does not contract with BCBSTX (a non-contracting Provider), you receive Non-Network Benefits (the lower level of benefits). Benefits for covered services will be reimbursed based on the BCBSTX non-contracting Allowable Amount, which in most cases is less than the Allowable Amount applicable for BCBSTX contracted Providers. Please see the definition of non-contracting Allowable Amount in the **DEFINITIONS** section of this Benefit Booklet. **The non-contracted Provider is not required to accept the BCBSTX non-contracting Allowable Amount as payment in full and may balance bill you for the difference between the BCBSTX non-contracting Allowable Amount and the non-contracting Provider's billed charges. You will be responsible for this balance bill amount, which may be considerable. You will also be responsible for charges for services, supplies, and procedures limited or not covered under the Plan, any applicable Deductibles, Co-Share Amounts, and Copayment Amounts.**



# UTILIZATION MANAGEMENT

## Utilization Management

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 BCBSTX medical policy and/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.

Refer to the definition of Medical Necessity or Medically Necessary in the **DEFINITIONS** section of this Benefit Booklet for additional information regarding any limitations and/or special conditions pertaining to your benefits.

## Prior Authorization Requirements

Prior Authorization establishes in advance the Medical Necessity or Experimental/Investigational nature of certain care and services covered under this Plan. It ensures that the care and services described below for which you have obtained Prior Authorization will not be denied on the basis of Medical Necessity or Experimental/Investigational. However, Prior Authorization does not guarantee payment of benefits.

Coverage is always subject to other requirements of the Plan, such as limitations and exclusions, payment of contributions, and eligibility at the time care and services are provided.

### The following types of services require Prior Authorization:

- All inpatient Hospital Admissions,
- Extended Care Expenses,
- Home Health,
- Home Infusion Therapy,
- Home hemodialysis,
- Home Hospice,
- Molecular genetic lab testing,
- Radiation therapy,
- Dialysis obtained from a Non-Network Provider,
- Transplants and transplant evaluations,
- Outpatient Surgery performed at a Hospital or Ambulatory Surgical Facility for Non-Network services only,
- Non-emergency Air Ambulance: Fixed Wing,  
Please refer to Fixed-Wing Air Ambulance definition in the **DEFINITIONS** section of this Benefit Booklet.

### Cardiac (heart related):

- Cardiology advanced imaging,
- 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,

**Orthopedic (Musculoskeletal):**

- MSK – joint and spine surgery,
- MSK – pain management,

**Pain Management:**

- Occipital nerve stimulation,

**Radiology:**

- Advanced Imaging,

**Sleep Medicine:**

- Sleep studies, Positive airway pressure (PAP) therapy and supply, Therapy compliance monitoring,

**Surgical Procedures:**

- Outpatient Surgery Jaw,
- Outpatient Breast,
- Surgical deactivation of headache trigger sites,

**Specialty Pharmacy:**

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

**Wound Care:**

- Hyperbaric oxygen (HBO2) therapy-systemic.
- All inpatient treatment of Mental Health Care/Serious Mental Illness including partial hospitalization programs and treatment received at Residential Treatment Centers,
- All inpatient treatment of Substance Use Disorder (SUD) including partial hospitalization programs and treatment received at Residential Treatment Centers, and
- If you transfer to another facility or to or from a specialty unit within the facility.
- The following outpatient treatment of Mental Health Care, Serious Mental Illness and Substance Use Disorder (SUD):
  - Psychological Testing or Neuropsychological Testing in some cases (BCBSTX will notify your Provider if Prior Authorization is required for these testing services),
  - Electroconvulsive therapy,
  - Intensive Outpatient Program, and
  - Repetitive Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation.

For specific details about the Prior Authorization requirement for the above referenced outpatient procedures/services, please call the Health Advocate at the number on the back of your Identification Card. BCBSTX reserves the right to no

longer require Prior Authorization during the Calendar Year. Updates to the list of services requiring Prior Authorization may be confirmed by calling the Health Advocate Helpline.

In-Network Benefits will be available if you use a Network Provider or Network Specialty Care Provider. In-Network Providers will obtain Prior Authorization of services for you, when required.

If you elect to use Non-Network Providers for services and supplies available In-Network, Non-Network Benefits will be paid.

However, if care is not available from Network Providers as determined by the Claim Administrator, and the Claim Administrator acknowledges your visit to a Non-Network Provider **prior to the visit**, In-Network Benefits will be paid; otherwise, Non-Network Benefits will be paid and the claim will have to be resubmitted for review and adjusted, if appropriate.

**Your Network Provider is required to obtain Prior Authorization for inpatient Hospital admissions. You are responsible for satisfying all other Prior Authorization requirements. This means that you must ensure that you, an authorized representative, your Physician, Behavioral Health Practitioner or Provider of services must comply with the guidelines below. Failure to obtain Prior Authorization of services will require additional steps and/or benefit reductions as described in the subsection entitled *Failure to Obtain Prior Authorization*.**

#### ***Prior Authorization for Inpatient Hospital Admissions***

In the case of an elective inpatient Hospital Admission, the call for Prior Authorization should be made at least two working days before you are admitted unless it would delay Emergency Care. In an emergency, Prior Authorization should take place within two working days after admission, or as soon thereafter as reasonably possible.

Your Network Provider is required to obtain Prior Authorization for any inpatient admissions. If Prior Authorization is not obtained, the Network Provider will be sanctioned based on BCBSTX's contractual agreement with the Provider, and you will be held harmless for the Provider sanction.

If the Physician or Provider of services is not a Network Provider then you, your Physician, the participating Provider of services, or an authorized representative should obtain Prior Authorization by the Plan by calling the number on the back of your Identification Card. All timelines for Prior Authorization requirements are provided in keeping with applicable state and federal regulations.

In-Network Benefits will be available if you use a Network Provider or Network Specialty Care Provider. If you elect to use Non-Network Providers for services and supplies available In-Network, Non-Network Benefits will be paid. In-Network and Non-Network Providers may obtain Prior Authorization of services for you, when required, but it is your responsibility to ensure Prior Authorization requirements are satisfied.

However, if care is not available from Network Providers as determined by BCBSTX, and BCBSTX authorizes your visit to a Non-Network Provider to be covered at the In-Network Benefit level **prior to the visit**, In-Network Benefits will be paid; otherwise, Out-of-Network Benefits will be paid.

When Prior Authorization of an inpatient Hospital Admission is obtained, a length-of-stay is assigned. If you require a longer stay, your Provider may seek an extension for the additional days. Benefits will not be available for room and board charges for medically unnecessary days. For more information regarding lengths of stay, refer to the **Length of Stay/Service Review** subsection of this Benefit Booklet.

***Prior Authorization not Required for Maternity Care and Treatment of Breast Cancer Unless Extension of Minimum Length of Stay Requested***

Your Plan is required to provide a minimum length-of-stay in a Hospital facility for the following:

- Maternity Care
  - 48 hours following an uncomplicated vaginal delivery
  - 96 hours following an uncomplicated delivery by caesarean section
- Treatment of Breast Cancer
  - 48 hours following a mastectomy
  - 24 hours following a lymph node dissection

You or your Provider will not be required to obtain Prior Authorization from BCBSTX for a length of stay less than 48 hours (or 96 hours) for Maternity Care or less than 48 hours (or 24 hours) for Treatment of Breast Cancer. If you require a longer stay, you or your Provider must seek an extension for the additional days by obtaining Prior Authorization from BCBSTX.

***Prior Authorization for Extended Care Expenses and Home Infusion Therapy***

Prior Authorization for Extended Care Expenses and Home Infusion Therapy may be obtained by having the agency or facility providing the services contact the Claim Administrator to request Prior Authorization. The request should be made:

- Prior to initiating Extended Care Expenses or Home Infusion Therapy;
- When an extension of the service is required; and
- When the treatment plan is altered.

The Claim Administrator will review the information submitted prior to the start of Extended Care Expenses or Home Infusion Therapy and will send a letter to you and the agency or facility confirming Prior Authorization or denying benefits. If Extended Care Expenses or Home Infusion Therapy is to take place in less than one week, the agency or facility should call the Claim Administrator's **Health Advocate Helpline** telephone number indicated in this Benefit Booklet or shown on your Identification Card.

If the Claim Administrator has given notification that benefits for the treatment plan requested will be denied based on information submitted, claims will be denied.

***Prior Authorization for Mental Health Care, Serious Mental Illness, and Treatment of Substance Use Disorder***

In order to receive maximum benefits, you must obtain Prior Authorization from the Plan for all inpatient treatment for Mental Health Care, Serious Mental Illness, and Substance Use Disorder. Prior Authorization is also required for certain outpatient services. Outpatient services requiring Prior Authorization include psychological testing, neuropsychological testing, repetitive transcranial magnetic stimulation, Intensive Outpatient Programs, and outpatient electroconvulsive therapy. Prior Authorization is not required for therapy visits to a Physician, Behavioral Health Practitioner and/or Professional Other Provider.

To satisfy Prior Authorization requirements, you, an authorized representative, or your Behavioral Health Practitioner must call the **Health Advocate Helpline** toll-free number indicated in this Benefit Booklet or shown on your Identification Card. The **Health Advocate Helpline** is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. All timelines for Prior Authorization requirements are provided in keeping with applicable state and federal regulations.

In-Network Benefits will be available if you use a Network Provider or Network Specialty Care Provider. If you elect to use Non-Network Providers for services and supplies available In-Network, Non-Network Benefits will be paid. In-Network and Non-Network Providers may obtain Prior Authorization of services for you, when required, but it is your responsibility to ensure Prior Authorization requirements are satisfied.

However, if care is not available from Network Providers as determined by BCBSTX, and BCBSTX authorizes your visit to a Non-Network Provider to be covered at the In-Network Benefit level **prior to the visit**, In-Network Benefits will be paid; otherwise, Non-Network Benefits will be paid.

When you obtain Prior Authorization for a treatment or service, a length of stay or length of service is assigned. If you require a longer stay or length of service, your Behavioral Health Practitioner may seek an extension for the additional days or visits. Benefits will not be available for medically unnecessary treatments or services.

## **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 under this Plan.**

Upon completion of the preadmission or emergency admission review, BCBSTX will send you a letter confirming that you or your representative called BCBSTX. A letter authorizing a length of service or length of stay will be sent to you, your Physician, Provider of services, and/or the Hospital or facility.

An extension of the length of stay/service will be based solely on whether continued Inpatient care or other health care services are Medically Necessary. If the extension is determined not to be Medically Necessary, the coverage for the length of stay/service will not be extended, except as otherwise described in the **CLAIM FILING AND APPEALS PROCEDURES** section of this Benefit Booklet.

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 BCBSTX 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, BCBSTX will make a determination on the request as soon as possible (taking into account medical exigencies) 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).

## **Recommended Clinical Review Option**

There are services that do not require a Prior Authorization that may be subject to a Post-Service Medical Necessity Review before the claim is paid. There is an option for your Provider to request a Recommended Clinical Review to determine if the service meets approved medical policy and/or level of care review criteria before services are provided to you. Once a decision has been made on the services reviewed as part of the Recommended Clinical Review process, the same services will not be reviewed for Medical Necessity after they have been performed.

To determine if a Recommended Clinical Review is available for a specific service, visit our website at [www.bcbstx.com/find-care/where-you-go-matters/utilization-management.com](http://www.bcbstx.com/find-care/where-you-go-matters/utilization-management.com) for the Recommended Clinical Review list, which is updated when new services are added or when services are removed. You can also call BCBSTX Health Advocate at the number on the back of your Identification Card. This website also includes information on which services *require* Prior Authorization before services are performed.

**In the event a Recommended Clinical Review determines the proposed services are not Medically Necessary, you have the right to file an appeal as described in the CLAIM FILING AND APPEALS PROCEDURES section. All appeal and review requirements related to Medical Necessity determinations, including independent review, apply to services where your Provider requests 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 of the 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 BCBSTX. 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 in a Recommended Clinical Review, coverage or payment can be affected for a variety of reasons. For example, you 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 your Provider or pharmacist. In addition to the written request for a Recommended Clinical Review, the 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 BCBSTX 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 your 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 performed 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 Plan. Post-Service Medical Necessity Review does not guarantee payment of benefits by BCBSTX, for instance you may become ineligible as of the date of service or your 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 your Provider or pharmacist. In addition to the written request for Post-Service Medical Necessity Review, the 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 BCBSTX to make a determination of coverage pursuant to the terms and conditions of this Plan.

## **Failure to Obtain Prior Authorization**

If Prior Authorization for inpatient Hospital Admissions, Extended Care Expense, Home Infusion Therapy, all inpatient and the above specified outpatient treatment of Mental Health Care, treatment of Serious Mental Illness, and treatment of Substance Use Disorder is not obtained:

- BCBSTX will review the Medical Necessity of your treatment or service prior to the final benefit determination.
- If BCBSTX determines the treatment or service is not Medically Necessary or is Experimental/Investigational, benefits will be reduced or denied.
- You may be responsible for a penalty in connection with the following covered services, if indicated on your Schedule of Coverage:
  - Inpatient Hospital Admission
  - Inpatient treatment of Mental Health Care, treatment of Serious Mental Illness, and treatment of Substance Use Disorder

Network Providers are responsible for satisfying the Prior Authorization requirements for any inpatient admissions. If Prior Authorization is not obtained, the Network Provider will be sanctioned based on the BCBSTX contractual agreement with the Provider and no penalty charges will be deducted.

The penalty charge will be deducted from any benefit payment which may be due for covered services.



If Prior Authorization of an inpatient Hospital Admission, Extended Care Expense, Home Infusion Therapy, any treatment of Mental Health Care, treatment of Serious Mental Illness, and treatment of Substance Use Disorder or extension for any treatment or service described above is not obtained and it is determined that the treatment, service, or extension was not Medically Necessary or was Experimental/Investigational, benefits will be reduced or denied.

### **Prior Authorization Renewal Process**

Renewal of an existing Prior Authorization issued by BCBSTX can be requested by a Physician or health care Provider up to 60 days prior to the expiration of the existing Prior Authorization.

# CLAIM FILING AND APPEALS PROCEDURES

## Claim Filing Procedures

### Filing of Claims Required

#### *Claim Forms*

When the Claim Administrator receives notice of claim, it will furnish to you, or to your Employer for delivery to you, the Hospital, or your Physician or Professional Other Provider, the claim forms that are usually furnished by it for filing Proof of Loss.

The Claim Administrator for the Plan must receive claims prepared and submitted in the proper manner and form, in the time required, and with the information requested before it can consider any claim for payment of benefits.

### Who Files Claims

Providers that contract with the Claim Administrator and some other health care Providers (such as *ParPlan* Providers) will submit your claims directly to the Claim Administrator for services provided to you or any of your covered Dependents. At the time services are provided, inquire if they will file claim forms for you. To assist Providers in filing your claims, you should carry your Identification Card with you.

#### *Contracting Providers*

When you receive treatment or care from a Provider that contracts with the Claim Administrator, you will generally not be required to file claim forms. The Provider will usually submit the claims directly to the Claim Administrator for you.

#### *Non-Contracting Providers*

When you receive treatment or care from a health care Provider that does not contract with the Claim Administrator, you may be required to file your own claim forms. Some Providers, however, will do this for you. If the Provider does not submit claims for you, refer to the subsection entitled *Participant-Filed Claims* below for instruction on how to file your own claim forms.

#### *Participant-Filed Claims - Medical Claims*

If your Provider does not submit your claims, you will need to submit them to the Claim Administrator using a Subscriber-filed claim form provided by the Plan. Your Employer should have a supply of claim forms or you can obtain copies from the BCBSTX website at [www.bcbstx.com](http://www.bcbstx.com), or by calling the Health Advocate toll-free number on your Identification Card. Follow the instructions on the reverse side of the form to complete the claim. Remember to file each Participant's expenses separately because any Copayment Amounts, Deductibles, maximum benefits, and other provisions are applied to each Participant separately. Include itemized bills from the health care Providers, labs, etc., printed on their letterhead and showing the services performed, dates of service, charges, and name of the Participant involved.

**VISIT THE BCBSTX WEBSITE FOR SUBSCRIBER CLAIM FORMS AND OTHER USEFUL INFORMATION**  
**[www.bcbstx.com](http://www.bcbstx.com)**

### Where to Mail Completed Claim Forms

#### *Medical Claims*

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Texas  
Claims Division  
P. O. Box 660044  
Dallas, TX 75266-0044



## Who Receives Payment

Benefit payments will be made directly to contracting Providers when they bill the Claim Administrator. Written agreements between the Claim Administrator and some Providers may require payment directly to them.

Any benefits payable to you, if unpaid at your death, will be paid to your surviving spouse, as beneficiary. If there is no surviving spouse, then the benefits will be paid to your estate.

Except as provided in the subsection **Assignment and Payment of Benefits**, rights and benefits under the Plan are not assignable, either before or after services and supplies are provided.

### *Benefit Payments to a Managing Conservator*

Benefits for services provided to your minor Dependent child may be paid to a third party if:

- the third party is named in a court order as managing or possessory conservator of the child; and
- the Claim Administrator has not already paid any portion of the claim.

In order for benefits to be payable to a managing or possessory conservator of a child, the managing or possessory conservator must submit to the Claim Administrator, with the claim form, proof of payment of the expenses and a certified copy of the court order naming that person the managing or possessory conservator.

The Claim Administrator for the Health Benefit Plan may deduct from its benefit payment any amounts it is owed by the recipient of the payment. Payment to you or your Provider, or deduction by the Plan from benefit payments of amounts owed to it, will be considered in satisfaction of its obligations to you under the Plan.

An *Explanation of Benefits* summary is sent to you so you will know what has been paid.

## When to Submit Claims

All claims for benefits under the Health Benefit Plan must be properly submitted to the Claim Administrator within twelve (12) months of the date you receive the services or supplies. Claims submitted and received by the Claim Administrator after that date will not be considered for payment of benefits except in the absence of legal capacity.

## Receipt of Claims by the Claim Administrator

A claim will be considered received by the Claim Administrator for processing upon actual delivery to the Administrative Office of the Claim Administrator in the proper manner and form and with all of the information required. If the claim is not complete, it may be denied or the Claim Administrator may contact either you or the Provider for the additional information.

After processing the claim, the Claim Administrator will notify the Participant by way of an *Explanation of Benefits* summary.

## Review of Claim Determinations

### **Claim Determinations**

When the Claim Administrator receives a properly submitted claim, it has authority and discretion under the Plan to interpret and determine benefits in accordance with the Health Benefit Plan provisions. The Claim Administrator will receive and review claims for benefits and will accurately process claims consistent with administrative practices and procedures established in writing between the Claim Administrator and the Plan Administrator.

You have the right to seek and obtain a full and fair review of your claim in accordance with the benefits and procedures detailed in your Health Benefit Plan.

### ***If a Claim Is Denied or Not Paid in Full***

On occasion, the Claim Administrator may deny all or part of your claim. There are a number of reasons why this may happen. We suggest that you first read the *Explanation of Benefits* summary prepared by the Claim Administrator; then review this Benefit Booklet to see whether you understand the reason for the determination. If you have additional information that you believe could change the decision, send it to the Claim Administrator and request a review of the decision as described in **Claim Appeal Procedures** below.

If the claim is denied in whole or in part, you will receive a written notice from the Claim Administrator with the following information, if applicable:

- The reasons for the denial;
- A reference to the Health Benefit Plan provisions on which the denial is based;
- A description of additional information which may be necessary to complete the claim and an explanation of why such information is necessary;
- An explanation of how you may have the claim reviewed by the Claim Administrator if you do not agree with the denial.
- An explanation of the internal review/appeals and external review processes available to you (and how to initiate an internal review or external review) and applicable time limits, information on any voluntary appeal procedures offered by the Plan, and a statement of your right, if any, to bring a civil action under Section 502(a) of ERISA following a final denial on internal review and the timeframe within which such action must be filed, for additional information, see subsection, Information Concerning Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA);

### ***How to Appeal an Adverse Benefit Determinations***

You have the right to seek and obtain a full and fair internal review of your claim and an Adverse Benefit Determination in accordance with the benefits and procedures detailed below and in your Plan.

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 a denial or partial denial of your claim, write to the Claim Administrator's Administrative Office. The Claim Administrator will need to know the reasons why you do not agree with the denial or partial denial. Send your appeal request to:  

Claim Review Section  
Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Texas  
P. O. Box 660044  
Dallas, Texas 75266-0044
  - The Claim Administrator will honor telephone requests for information. However, such inquiries will not constitute a request for review.
  - You and your authorized representative may ask to see relevant documents and may submit written issues, comments and additional medical information within 180 days after you receive notice of a denial or partial denial. The Claim Administrator will give you a written decision within 60 days after it receives your request for review.
  - If you have any questions about the claims procedures or the review procedure, write to the Claim Administrator's Administrative Office or call the Health Advocate Helpline number shown in this Benefit Booklet or on your Identification Card.
3. An explanation of the external review processes (and how to initiate 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 denial on internal review and the timeframe within which such action must be filed, for additional information see subsection, Information Concerning Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA);

### **Prior Authorization Appeal Procedures**

If you or your Physician disagree with the determination of the Prior Authorization prior to or while receiving services, you may appeal that decision by contacting the Claim Administrator's Administrative Office.

In some instances, the resolution of the appeal process will not be completed until your inpatient 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 Claim Administrator, you may request a review of that decision by having your Physician call the contact person indicated in the notification letter or by submitting a written request to:

Claim Review Section  
Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Texas  
P. O. Box 660044  
Dallas, Texas 75266-0044

Once you have requested this review, you may submit additional information and comments on your Prior Authorization decision to the Claim Administrator as long as you do so within 30 days of the date you ask for a review. Also, during this 30-day period, you may review any documents relevant to your Prior Authorization decision held by the Claim Administrator.

Within 30 days of receiving your request to 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.

### **Interpretation of Employer's Plan Provisions**

The Plan Administrator has given the Claim Administrator the final authority to establish or construe the terms and conditions of the Health Benefit Plan and the discretion to interpret and determine benefits in accordance with the Health Benefit Plan's provisions.

The Plan Administrator has all powers and authority necessary or appropriate to control and manage the operation and administration of the Health Benefit Plan, including, but not limited to, a person's eligibility to be covered under the Health Benefit Plan.

All powers to be exercised by the Claim Administrator or the Plan Administrator shall be exercised in a non-discriminatory manner and shall be applied uniformly to assure similar treatment to persons in similar circumstances.

# ELIGIBLE EXPENSES, PAYMENT OBLIGATIONS, AND BENEFITS

## Eligible Expenses

The Plan provides coverage for the following categories of Eligible Expenses:

- Inpatient Hospital Expenses
- Medical-Surgical Expenses
- Extended Care Expenses
- Special Provisions Expenses

Wherever Schedule of Coverage is mentioned, please refer to your Schedule(s) in this Benefit Booklet. Your benefits are calculated on a Calendar Year benefit period basis unless otherwise stated. At the end of a Calendar Year, a new benefit period starts for each Participant.

## Copayment Amounts

Some of the care and treatment you receive under the Plan will require that a Copayment Amount be paid at the time you receive the services. Refer to your Schedule of Coverage under “Copayment Amounts Required” for your specific Plan information.

A Copayment Amount as indicated on your Schedule of Coverage will be required for each Physician office visit charge you incur when services are received by a family practitioner, a general practitioner, an obstetrician/gynecologist, a pediatrician, an internist or a Professional Other Provider and defined in the **DEFINITIONS** section of this Benefit Booklet. A Copayment Amount is required for the initial office visit for Maternity Care, but will not be required for subsequent visits.

A different Copayment Amount as indicated on your Schedule of Coverage will be required for each Physician office visit charge you incur when services are received by a Specialty Care Provider as classified by the American Board of Medical Specialties as a Specialty Care Provider.

The following services are not payable under this Copayment Amount provision but instead are considered Medical-Surgical Expense, subject to the Deductible, if applicable, and Co-Share Amounts shown on your Schedule of Coverage:

- any services provided during the office visit or at the time of consultation (i.e., lab and x-ray services);
- surgery performed in the Physician’s office;
- physical therapy billed separately from an office visit;
- occupational modalities in conjunction with physical therapy;
- allergy testing and treatment billed separately from an office visit;
- therapeutic injections;
- any services requiring Prior Authorization;
- Certain Diagnostic Procedures;
- services provided by an Independent Lab, Imaging Center, radiologist, pathologist, and anesthesiologist;
- outpatient treatment therapies or services such as radiation therapy, chemotherapy, and renal dialysis.

A Copayment Amount will be required for each visit to an Urgent Care Center. If the services provided require a return office visit (lab services for instance) on a different day, a new Copayment Amount will be required. The following services are not payable under this Copayment Amount provision but instead are considered Medical-Surgical Expense, shown on your Schedule of Coverage:

- surgery performed in the Urgent Care center;
- physical therapy billed separately from an Urgent Care visit;
- occupational modalities in conjunction with physical therapy;
- allergy testing and treatment billed separately from an Urgent Care visit;
- therapeutic injections;
- any services requiring Prior Authorization;
- Certain Diagnostic Procedures;
- outpatient treatment therapies or services such as radiation therapy, chemotherapy, and renal dialysis.

A Copayment Amount will be required for facility charges for each Hospital outpatient emergency room visit. If admitted to the Hospital as a direct result of the emergency condition or accident, the Copayment Amount will be waived.

A Copayment Amount, if shown on your Schedule of Coverage, will be required for each visit to a Retail Health Clinic.

A Copayment Amount, if shown on your Schedule of Coverage, will be required for each Virtual Visit.

## **Deductibles**

The benefits of the Plan will be available after satisfaction of the applicable Deductibles as shown on your Schedule of Coverage. The Deductibles are explained as follows:

**Per-admission Deductible:** The per-admission Deductible shown under “Deductibles” on your Schedule of Coverage will apply to **each** inpatient Hospital Admission of a Participant.

**Calendar Year Deductible:** The individual Deductible amount shown under “Deductibles” on your Schedule of Coverage must be satisfied by each Participant under your coverage each Calendar Year. This Deductible, unless otherwise indicated, will be applied to all categories of Eligible Expenses before benefits are available under the Plan.

The following are exceptions to the Deductibles described above:

If you have several covered Dependents, all charges used to apply toward an “individual” Deductible amount will be applied toward the “family” Deductible amount shown on your Schedule of Coverage. When that family Deductible amount is reached, no further individual Deductibles will have to be satisfied for the remainder of that Calendar Year. No Participant will contribute more than the individual Deductible amount to the “family” Deductible amount.

Eligible Expenses applied toward satisfying the “individual” and “family” In-Network Deductible will only apply to the In-Network Deductible. Eligible Expenses applied toward satisfying the “individual” and “family” Non-Network Deductible will only apply to the Non-Network Deductible.

## **Medical Out-of-Pocket Maximum**

Most of your Eligible Expense payment obligations including Copayment Amounts and Deductibles are considered Co-Share Amounts and are applied to the Medical Out-of-Pocket Maximum.

Your Medical Out-of-Pocket Maximum will **not** include:

- Services, supplies, or charges limited or excluded by the Plan;
- Expenses not covered because a benefit maximum has been reached;
- Any Eligible Expenses paid by the Primary Plan when the Plan is the Secondary Plan for purposes of coordination of benefits;
- Penalties applied for failure to obtain Prior Authorization.

### ***Individual Medical Out-of-Pocket Maximum***

When the Co-Share Amount for the In-Network or Non-Network Benefits level for a Participant in a Calendar Year equals the “individual” “Medical Out-of-Pocket Maximum” shown on your Schedule of Coverage for that level, the benefit percentages automatically increase to 100% for purposes of determining the benefits available for additional Eligible Expenses incurred by that Participant for the remainder of that Calendar Year for that level.

### ***Family Medical Out-of-Pocket Maximum***

When the Co-Share Amount for the In-Network or Non-Network Benefits level for all Participants under your coverage in a Calendar Year equals the “family” “Medical Out-of-Pocket Maximum” shown on your Schedule of Coverage for that level, the benefit percentages automatically increase to 100% for purposes of determining the benefits available for additional Eligible Expenses incurred by all family Participants for the remainder of that Calendar Year for that level. No Participant will be required to contribute more than the individual Medical Out-of-Pocket Maximum to the family “Medical Out-of-Pocket Maximum.”

The following are exceptions to the Medical Out-of-Pocket Maximums described above:

There are separate Medical Out-of-Pocket Maximums for In-Network Benefits and Non-Network Benefits.

Eligible Expenses applied toward satisfying the “individual” and “family” In-Network Medical Out-of-Pocket Maximum will only apply to the In-Network Medical Out-of-Pocket Maximum. Eligible Expenses applied toward satisfying the “individual” and “family” Non-Network Medical Out-of-Pocket Maximum will only apply to the Non-Network Medical Out-of-Pocket Maximum.

Copayment Amounts for In-Network Benefits and Out-of-Network Benefits will continue to be required after the benefit percentages become 100%.

Copayment Amount for Urgent Care visits for In-Network Benefits will continue to be required after the benefit percentages become 100%.

### **Changes In Benefits**

Changes to covered benefits will apply to all services provided to each Participant under the Plan. Benefits for Eligible Expenses incurred during an admission in a Hospital or Facility Other Provider that begins before the change will be those benefits in effect on the day of admission.

## COVERED MEDICAL SERVICES

### Inpatient Hospital Expenses

The Plan provides coverage for Inpatient Hospital Expenses for you and your eligible Dependents. Each inpatient Hospital Admission requires Prior Authorization. Refer to the **UTILIZATION MANAGEMENT** section of this Benefit Booklet for additional information.

The benefit percentage of your total eligible Inpatient Hospital Expense, in excess of any Deductible, shown under “Inpatient Hospital Expenses” on your Schedule of Coverage is the Plan’s obligation. The remaining unpaid Inpatient Hospital Expense, in excess of any Deductible, is your obligation to pay. This excess amount will be applied to the Co-Share Amounts.

Services and supplies provided by a Non-Network Provider will receive In-Network Benefits when those services and supplies are not available from a Network Provider provided the Claim Administrator acknowledges your visit to a Non-Network Provider **prior** to the visit. Otherwise, Non-Network Benefits will be paid and the claim will have to be resubmitted for review and adjustment, if appropriate.

Refer to your Schedule of Coverage for information regarding Deductibles, Co-Share percentages, and penalties for failure to obtain Prior Authorization that may apply to your coverage.

### Medical-Surgical Expenses

The Plan provides coverage for Medical-Surgical Expense for you and your covered Dependents. Some services require Prior Authorization. Refer to the **UTILIZATION MANAGEMENT** section of this Benefit Booklet for more information.

Copayment Amounts must be paid to your Network Physician or other Network Providers at the time you receive services.

The benefit percentages of your total eligible Medical-Surgical Expense shown under “Medical-Surgical Expenses” on your Schedule of Coverage in excess of your Copayment Amounts, Co-Share Amounts, and any applicable Deductibles shown are the Plan’s obligation. The remaining unpaid Medical-Surgical Expense in excess of the Copayment Amounts, Co-Share Amounts, and any Deductibles is your obligation to pay.

Medical-Surgical Expense shall include:

1. Services of Physicians and Professional Other Providers.
2. Consultation services of a Physician and Professional Other Provider.
3. Services of a certified registered nurse-anesthetist (CRNA).
4. Diagnostic x-ray and laboratory procedures.
5. Radiation therapy.
6. Rental of durable medical equipment required for therapeutic use unless purchase of such equipment is required by the Plan. The term “durable medical equipment (DME)” shall not include:
  - a. Equipment primarily designed for alleviation of pain or provision of patient comfort; or
  - b. Home air fluidized bed therapy.

Examples of non-covered equipment include, but are not limited to, air conditioners, air purifiers, humidifiers, physical fitness equipment, and whirlpool bath equipment.



7. For Emergency Care, professional local ground ambulance transportation or air ambulance transportation to the nearest Hospital appropriately equipped and staffed for treatment of the Participant's condition. Non-emergency ground ambulance transportation from one acute care Hospital to another acute care Hospital for diagnostic or therapeutic services (e.g., MRI, CT scans, acute interventional cardiology, intensive care unit services, etc.) may be considered Medically Necessary when specific criteria are met. The non-emergency ground ambulance transportation to or from a Hospital or medical facility, outside of the acute care Hospital setting, may be considered Medically Necessary when the Participant's condition is such that trained ambulance attendants are required to monitor the Participant's clinical status (e.g., vital signs and oxygenation), or provide treatment such as oxygen, intravenous fluids or medications, in order to safely transport the Participant, or the Participant is confined to bed and cannot be safely transported by any other means. Non-emergency ground ambulance transportation services provided primarily for the convenience of the Participant, the Participant's family/caregivers or Physician, or the transferring facility are considered not Medically Necessary.

Non-emergency air ambulance transportation means transportation from a Hospital emergency department, health care facility, or Inpatient setting to an equivalent or higher level of acuity facility may be considered Medically Necessary when the Participant requires acute Inpatient care and services are not available at the originating facility and commercial air transport or safe discharge cannot occur. Such transfer must be to the nearest facility with the capabilities to perform the medically necessary services not available at the originating facility. Non-emergency air ambulance transportation services provided primarily for the convenience of the Participant, the Participant's family/caregivers or Physician, or the transferring facility are considered not Medically Necessary.

8. Anesthetics and its administration, when performed by someone other than the operating Physician or Professional Other Provider.
9. Oxygen and its administration provided the oxygen is actually used.
10. Blood, including cost of blood, blood plasma, and blood plasma expanders, which is not replaced by or for the Participant.
11. Prosthetic Appliances, including replacements necessitated by growth to maturity of the Participant.
12. Orthopedic braces (i.e., an orthopedic appliance used to support, align, or hold bodily parts in a correct position) and crutches, including rigid back, leg or neck braces, casts for treatment of any part of the legs, arms, shoulders, hips or back; special surgical and back corsets, Physician-prescribed, directed, or applied dressings, bandages, trusses, and splints which are custom designed for the purpose of assisting the function of a joint.
13. Home Infusion Therapy.
14. Services or supplies used by the Participant during an outpatient visit to a Hospital, a Therapeutic Center, or a Substance Use Disorder Treatment Center, or scheduled services in the outpatient treatment room of a Hospital.
15. Certain Diagnostic Procedures.
16. Outpatient Contraceptive Services and prescription contraceptive devices.
17. Telehealth Services and Telemedicine Medical Services.
18. Foot care in connection with an illness, disease, or condition, such as but not limited to peripheral neuropathy, chronic venous insufficiency, and diabetes.
19. Drugs that have not been approved by the FDA for self-administration when injected, ingested or applied in a Physician's or Professional Other Provider's office.



20. Elective Sterilizations.

21. Acupuncture.

22. Second Opinion Services at no extra cost through My Medical Ally from Alight. Contact My Medical Ally at 888-361-3944 or visit MyMedicalAlly.alight.com (Company name: ExxonMobil). See Your Summary Plan Description (SPD) for more information.

## Extended Care Expenses

The Plan also provides benefits for Extended Care Expenses for you and your covered Dependents. Certain Extended Care Expenses require Prior Authorization. Refer to the **UTILIZATION MANAGEMENT** section of this Benefit Booklet for more information.

The Plan's benefit obligation as shown on your Schedule of Coverage will be:

1. At the benefit percentage under "Extended Care Expenses," and
2. Up to the number of days or visits shown for each category of Extended Care Expenses on your Schedule of Coverage.

All payments made by the Plan, whether under the In-Network or Non-Network Benefit level, will apply toward the benefit maximums under both levels of benefits.

The benefit maximums will also include any benefits provided to a Participant for Extended Care Expenses under a Health Benefit Plan held by the Employer with the Claim Administrator immediately prior to the Participant's Effective Date of coverage under the Plan.

If shown on your Schedule of Coverage, the Calendar Year Deductible will apply. Any unpaid Extended Care Expenses in excess of the benefit maximums shown on your Schedule of Coverage will not be applied to any Medical Out-of-Pocket Maximum.

Any charges incurred as Home Health Care or home Hospice Care for drugs (including antibiotic therapy) and laboratory services will not be Extended Care Expenses but will be considered Medical-Surgical Expenses.

Services and supplies for Extended Care Expenses:

1. For Skilled Nursing Facility:
  - a. All usual nursing care by a Registered Nurse (R.N.), Advanced Practice Nurse (A.P.N.), or by a Licensed Vocational Nurse (L.V.N.);
  - b. Room and board and all routine services, supplies, and equipment provided by the Skilled Nursing Facility;
  - c. Physical, occupational, speech, and respiratory therapy services by licensed therapists.
2. For Home Health Care:
  - a. Part-time or intermittent nursing care by a Registered Nurse (R.N.), Advanced Practice Nurse (A.P.N.), or by a Licensed Vocational Nurse (L.V.N.);
  - b. Part-time or intermittent home health aide services which consist primarily of caring for the patient;
  - c. Physical, occupational, speech, and respiratory therapy services by licensed therapists;
  - d. Supplies and equipment routinely provided by the Home Health Agency;
  - e. Benefits will **not** be provided for Home Health Care for the following:
    - Food or home delivered meals;
    - Social case work or homemaker services;
    - Services provided primarily for Custodial Care;
    - Transportation services;

- Home Infusion Therapy;
- Durable medical equipment.

### 3. For Hospice Care:

#### Home Hospice Care:

- a. Part-time or intermittent nursing care by a Registered Nurse (R.N.), Advanced Practice Nurse (A.P.N.), or by a Licensed Vocational Nurse (L.V.N.);
- b. Part-time or intermittent home health aide services which consist primarily of caring for the patient;
- c. Physical, speech, and respiratory therapy services by licensed therapists;
- d. Homemaker and counseling services routinely provided by the Hospice agency, including bereavement counseling.

#### Facility Hospice Care:

- a. All usual nursing care by a Registered Nurse (R.N.), Advanced Practice Nurse (A.P.N.), or by a Licensed Vocational Nurse (L.V.N.);
- b. Room and board and all routine services, supplies, and equipment provided by the Hospice facility;
- c. Physical, speech, and respiratory therapy services by licensed therapists.

## Special Provisions Expenses

The benefits available under this **Special Provisions Expenses** subsection are generally determined on the same basis as other Inpatient Hospital Expenses, Medical-Surgical Expenses, and Extended Care Expenses, except to the extent described in each item. Benefits for Medically Necessary expenses will be determined as indicated on your Schedule(s) of Coverage. Remember that certain services require Prior Authorization and that any Copayment Amounts, Co-Share Amounts, and Deductibles shown on your Schedule(s) of Coverage will also apply. Refer to the **UTILIZATION MANAGEMENT** section of this Benefit Booklet for more information.

### *Benefits for Treatment of Complications of Pregnancy*

Benefits for Eligible Expenses incurred for treatment of Complications of Pregnancy will be determined on the same basis as treatment for any other sickness. Dependent children will be eligible for treatment of Complications of Pregnancy.

### *Benefits for Maternity Care*

Benefits for Eligible Expenses incurred for Maternity Care will be determined on the same basis as for any other treatment of sickness. A Copayment Amount will be required for the initial office visit for Maternity Care, but will not be required for subsequent visits. Dependent children will be eligible for Maternity Care benefits.

Services and supplies incurred by a Participant for delivery of a child shall be considered Maternity Care and are subject to all provisions of the Plan.

The Plan provides coverage for inpatient care for the mother and newborn child in a health care facility for a minimum of:

- 48 hours following an uncomplicated vaginal delivery; and
- 96 hours following an uncomplicated delivery by caesarean section.

If the mother or newborn is discharged before the minimum hours of coverage, the Plan provides coverage for *Postdelivery Care* for the mother and newborn. The *Postdelivery Care* may be provided at the mother's home, a health care Provider's office, or a health care facility.

***Postdelivery Care*** means postpartum health care services provided in accordance with accepted maternal and neonatal physical assessments. The term includes:

- parent education,
- assistance and training in breast-feeding and bottle feeding, and

- the performance of any necessary and appropriate clinical tests.

Charges for well-baby nursery care, including the initial examination, of a newborn child during the mother's Hospital Admission for the delivery will be considered Inpatient Hospital Expense of the child and will be subject to the benefit provisions and benefit maximums as described under **Inpatient Hospital Expenses**. Benefits will also be subject to any Deductible amounts shown on your Schedule of Coverage.

### ***Benefits for Emergency Care and Treatment of Accidental Injury***

The Plan provides coverage for Emergency Care medical emergencies wherever they occur. Examples of medical emergencies are unusual or excessive bleeding, broken bones, acute abdominal or chest pain, unconsciousness, convulsions, difficult breathing, suspected heart attack, sudden persistent pain, severe or multiple injuries or burns, and poisonings. Services provided in an emergency room, freestanding emergency room, or other comparable facility that are not Emergency Care may be excluded from Emergency Care coverage, although these services may be covered under another benefit, if applicable.

Emergency Care does not require Prior Authorization. However, if reasonably possible, contact your Network Physician or Behavioral Health Practitioner before going to the Hospital emergency room/treatment room. They can help you determine if you need Emergency Care or treatment of an Accidental Injury and recommend that care. If not reasonably possible, go to the nearest emergency facility, whether or not the facility is in the Network.

Whether you require hospitalization or not, you should notify your Network Physician or Behavioral Health Practitioner within 48 hours, or as soon as reasonably possible, of any emergency medical treatment so they can recommend the continuation of any necessary medical services.

Benefits for Eligible Expenses for Accidental Injury or Emergency Care, including Accidental Injury or Emergency Care for Behavioral Health Services, will be determined as shown on your Schedule of Coverage. Copayment Amounts will be required for facility charges for each outpatient Hospital emergency room/treatment room visit as indicated on your Schedule of Coverage. If admitted for the emergency condition immediately following the visit, the Copayment Amount will be waived and Prior Authorization of the inpatient Hospital Admission will be required.

All treatment received following the onset of an accidental injury or emergency care will be eligible for In-Network Benefits. For a non-emergency, In-Network Benefits will be available only if you use Network Providers. For a non-emergency, if you can safely be transferred to the care of a Network Provider but are treated by a Non-Network Provider, only Non-Network Benefits will be available.

### ***Benefits for Urgent Care***

Benefits for Eligible Expenses for Urgent Care will be determined as shown on your Schedule of Coverage. A Copayment Amount, in the amount indicated on your Schedule of Coverage, will be required for each Urgent Care visit. Urgent Care means the delivery of medical care in a facility dedicated to the delivery of scheduled or unscheduled, walk-in care outside of a Hospital emergency room/treatment room or physician's office. The necessary medical care is for a condition that is not life-threatening.

### ***Benefits for Retail Health Clinics***

Benefits for Eligible Expenses for Retail Health Clinics will be determined as shown on your Schedule of Coverage. Retail Clinics provide diagnosis and treatment of uncomplicated minor conditions in situations that can be handled without a traditional primary care office visit, Urgent Care visit or Emergency Care visit.

### ***Benefits for Virtual Visits***

Benefits for Eligible Expenses for Virtual Visits will be determined as shown on your Schedule of Coverage. BCBSTX provides you with access to Virtual Providers that can provide diagnosis and treatment of non-emergency medical and behavioral health conditions in situations that can be handled without a traditional primary care office visit, behavioral health office visit, Urgent Care visit or Emergency Care visit. Covered services

may be provided via consultation with a licensed medical professional through interactive audio via telephone or interactive audio-video via online portal or mobile application. For information on accessing this service, you may access the website at [www.bcbstx.com](http://www.bcbstx.com) or the Health Advocate toll-free number on the back of your Identification Card.

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.

### ***Benefits for Hearing Services***

Benefits as shown on your Schedule of Coverage are available for the services of a Physician or Professional Other Provider to restore loss of or correct a hearing function. Coverage also includes habilitation and rehabilitation services.

Any benefit payments made by the Claim Administrator for hearing aids, whether under the In-Network or Non-Network Benefits level, will apply toward the benefit visit maximum amount indicated on your Schedule of Coverage for each level of benefits.

One cochlear implant, which includes an external speech processor and controller, per impaired ear is covered. Coverage also includes related treatments such as habilitation and rehabilitation services, fitting and dispensing services and the provision of ear molds as necessary to maintain optimal fit of hearing aids. Implant components may be replaced as Medically Necessary or audilogically necessary.

### ***Benefits for Certain Therapies for Children with Developmental Delays***

Medical-Surgical Expense benefits are available to a covered Dependent child for the necessary rehabilitative and habilitative therapies in accordance with an Individualized Family Service Plan.

Such therapies include:

- occupational therapy evaluations and services;
- physical therapy evaluations and services;
- speech therapy evaluations and services; and
- dietary or nutritional evaluations.

The *Individualized Family Service Plan* must be submitted to the Claim Administrator prior to the commencement of services and when the Individualized Family Service Plan is altered.

Once the child reaches the age of three, when services under the *Individualized Family Service Plan* are completed, Eligible Expenses, as otherwise covered under this Plan, will be available. All contractual provisions of this Plan will apply, including but not limited to, defined terms, limitations and exclusions, and benefit maximums.

*Developmental Delay* means a significant variation in normal development as measured by appropriate diagnostic instruments and procedures, in one or more of the following areas:

- Cognitive development;
- Physical development;
- Communication development;
- Social or emotional development; or
- Adaptive development.

*Individualized Family Service Plan* means an initial and ongoing treatment plan.

### ***Benefits for Screening Tests for Hearing Impairment***

Benefits are available for Eligible Expenses incurred by a covered Dependent child:

- For a screening test for hearing loss from birth through the date the child is 30 days old; and
- Necessary diagnostic follow-up care related to the screening tests from birth through the date the child is 24 months.

Deductibles indicated on your Schedule of Coverage will not apply to this provision.

### ***Benefits for Cosmetic, Reconstructive, or Plastic Surgery***

The following Eligible Expenses described below for Cosmetic, Reconstructive, or Plastic Surgery will be the same as for treatment of any other sickness as shown on your Schedule of Coverage:

- Treatment provided for the correction of defects incurred in an Accidental Injury sustained by the Participant; or
- Treatment provided for reconstructive surgery following cancer surgery; or
- Surgery performed on a newborn child for the treatment or correction of a congenital defect; or
- Surgery performed on a covered Dependent child (other than a newborn child) under the age of 19 for the treatment or correction of a congenital defect other than conditions of the breast; or
- Services and supplies for reduction mammoplasty when Medically Necessary and in accordance with the medical policy guidelines of the Claim Administrator; or
- Reconstruction of the breast on which mastectomy has been performed; surgery and reconstruction of the other breast to achieve a symmetrical appearance; and prostheses and treatment of physical complications, including lymphedemas, at all stages of the mastectomy; or
- Reconstructive surgery performed on a covered Dependent child under the age of 19 due to craniofacial abnormalities to improve the function of, or attempt to create a normal appearance of an abnormal structure caused by congenital defects, developmental deformities, trauma, tumors, infections, or disease.

### ***Benefits for Dental Services***

Benefits for Eligible Expenses incurred by a Participant will be provided on the same basis as for treatment of any other sickness as shown on your Schedule of Coverage only for the following:

- Covered Oral Surgery;
- Services provided to a newborn child which are necessary for treatment or correction of a congenital defect; or
- The correction of damage caused solely by Accidental Injury, and such injury resulting from domestic violence or a medical condition, to healthy, un-restored natural teeth and supporting tissues. An injury sustained as a result of biting or chewing shall not be considered an Accidental Injury.

Any other dental services, except as excluded in the **MEDICAL LIMITATIONS AND EXCLUSIONS** section of this Benefit Booklet, for which a Participant incurs Inpatient Hospital Expenses for a Medically Necessary inpatient Hospital Admission, will be determined as described in **Benefits for Inpatient Hospital Expenses**.

### ***Benefits for Organ and Tissue Transplants***

1. Subject to the conditions described below, benefits for covered services and supplies provided to a Participant by a Hospital, Physician, or Other Provider related to an organ or tissue transplant will be determined as follows, but only if all the following conditions are met:
  - a. The transplant procedure is not Experimental/Investigational in nature; and
  - b. Donated human organs or tissue or an FDA-approved artificial device are used; and
  - c. The recipient is a Participant under the Plan; and
  - d. The transplant procedure obtains Prior Authorization as required under the Plan; and
  - e. The Participant meets all of the criteria established by the Claim Administrator in pertinent written medical policies; and
  - f. The Participant meets all of the protocols established by the Hospital in which the transplant is performed.

Covered services and supplies “related to” an organ or tissue transplant include, but are not limited to, x-rays, laboratory testing, chemotherapy, radiation therapy, procurement of organs or tissues from a living or deceased donor, and complications arising from such transplant.

2. Benefits are available and will be determined on the same basis as any other sickness when the transplant procedure is considered Medically Necessary and meets all of the conditions cited above.

Benefits will be available for:

- a. A recipient who is covered under this Plan; and
  - b. A donor who is a Participant under this Plan.
3. Covered services and supplies include services and supplies provided for the:
  - a. Evaluation of organs or tissues including, but not limited to, the determination of tissue matches; and
  - b. Donor search and acceptability testing of potential live donors; and
  - c. Removal of organs or tissues from living or deceased donors; and
  - d. Transportation and short-term storage of donated organs or tissues; and
  - e. Living and/or travel expenses of the recipient or a live donor; and
  - f. Transplant travel benefit is limited to \$10,000 per occurrence. Recipient must reside more than 50 miles from the transplant facility.
4. No benefits are available for a Participant for the following services or supplies:
  - a. Expenses related to maintenance of life of a donor for purposes of organ or tissue donation;
  - b. Purchase of the organ or tissue; or
  - c. Organs or tissue (xenograft) obtained from another species.
5. Prior Authorization is required for any organ or tissue transplant. Review the **UTILIZATION MANAGEMENT** section in this Benefit Booklet for more specific information about Prior Authorization.
  - a. Such specific Prior Authorization is required even if the patient is already a patient in a Hospital under another Prior Authorization.
  - b. At the time of Prior Authorization, the Claim Administrator will assign a length-of-stay for the admission. Upon request, the length-of-stay may be extended if the Claim Administrator determines that an extension is Medically Necessary.
6. No benefits are available for any organ or tissue transplant procedure (or the services performed in preparation for, or in conjunction with, such a procedure) which the Claim Administrator considers to be Experimental/Investigational.



### ***Benefits for Treatment of Acquired Brain Injury***

Benefits for Eligible Expenses incurred for Medically Necessary treatment of an Acquired Brain Injury will be determined on the same basis as treatment for any other physical condition. Eligible Expenses include the following *services* as a result of and related to an Acquired Brain Injury:

- Cognitive communication therapy - *Services* designed to address modalities of comprehension and expression, including understanding, reading, writing, and verbal expression of information;
- Cognitive rehabilitation therapy - *Services* designed to address therapeutic cognitive activities, based on an assessment and understanding of the individual's brain-behavioral deficits;
- Community reintegration services - *Services* that facilitate the continuum of care as an affected individual transitions into the community;
- Neurobehavioral testing - An evaluation of the history of neurological and psychiatric difficulty, current symptoms, current mental status, and pre-morbid history, including the identification of problematic behavior and the relationship between behavior and the variables that control behavior. This may include interviews of the individual, family, or others;
- Neurobehavioral treatment - Interventions that focus on behavior and the variables that control behavior;
- Neurocognitive rehabilitation - *Services* designed to assist cognitively impaired individuals to compensate for deficits in cognitive functioning by rebuilding cognitive skills and/or developing compensatory strategies and techniques;
- Neurocognitive therapy - *Services* designed to address neurological deficits in informational processing and to facilitate the development of higher level cognitive abilities;
- Neurofeedback therapy - *Services* that utilizes operant conditioning learning procedure based on electroencephalography (EEG) parameters, and which are designed to result in improved mental performance and behavior, and stabilized mood;
- Neurophysiological testing - An evaluation of the functions of the nervous system;
- Neurophysiological treatment - Interventions that focus on the functions of the nervous system;
- Neuropsychological testing - The administering of a comprehensive battery of tests to evaluate neurocognitive, behavioral, and emotional strengths and weaknesses and their relationship to normal and abnormal central nervous system functioning;
- Neuropsychological treatment - Interventions designed to improve or minimize deficits in behavioral and cognitive processes;
- Post-acute transition services - *Services* that facilitate the continuum of care beyond the initial neurological insult through rehabilitation and community reintegration;
- Psychophysiological testing - An evaluation of the interrelationships between the nervous system and other bodily organs and behavior;
- Psychophysiological treatment - Interventions designed to alleviate or decrease abnormal physiological responses of the nervous system due to behavioral or emotional factors;
- Remediation - The process(es) of restoring or improving a specific function.

*Service* means the work of testing, treatment, and providing therapies to an individual with an Acquired Brain Injury.

*Therapy* means the scheduled remedial treatment provided through direct interaction with the individual to improve a pathological condition resulting from an Acquired Brain Injury.

Treatment for an Acquired Brain Injury may be provided at a Hospital, an acute or post-acute rehabilitation hospital, an assisted living facility or any other facility at which appropriate services or therapies may be provided.



### ***Benefits for Treatment of Diabetes***

Benefits are available and will be determined on the same basis as any other sickness for those Medically Necessary items for *Diabetes Equipment* and *Diabetes Supplies* (for which a Physician or Professional Other Provider has written an order) and *Diabetic Management Services/Diabetes Self-Management Training*. Such items, when obtained for a *Qualified Participant*, shall include but not be limited to the following:

#### ***1. Diabetes Equipment***

- a. Blood glucose monitors (including noninvasive glucose monitors and monitors for the blind);
- b. Insulin pumps (both external and implantable) and associated appurtenances, which include:
  - Insulin infusion devices,
  - Batteries,
  - Skin preparation items,
  - Adhesive supplies,
  - Infusion sets,
  - Insulin cartridges,
  - Durable and disposable devices to assist in the injection of insulin, and
  - Other required disposable supplies; and
- c. Podiatric appliances, including up to two pairs of therapeutic footwear per Calendar Year, for the prevention of complications associated with diabetes.

#### ***2. Diabetes Supplies***

- a. Test strips specified for use with a corresponding blood glucose monitor,
  - b. Visual reading and urine test strips and tablets for glucose, ketones, and protein,
  - c. Lancets and lancet devices,
  - d. Insulin and insulin analog preparations,
  - e. Injection aids, including devices used to assist with insulin injection and needleless systems,
  - f. Biohazard disposable containers,
  - g. Insulin syringes,
  - h. Prescriptive and non-prescriptive oral agents for controlling blood sugar levels, and
  - i. Glucagon emergency kits.
3. Repairs and necessary maintenance of insulin pumps not otherwise provided for under the manufacturer's warranty or purchase agreement, rental fees for pumps during the repair and necessary maintenance of insulin pumps, neither of which shall exceed the purchase price of a similar replacement pump.
  4. As new or improved treatment and monitoring equipment or supplies become available and are approved by the U. S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), such equipment or supplies may be covered if determined to be Medically Necessary and appropriate by the treating Physician or Professional Other Provider who issues the written order for the supplies or equipment.
  5. Medical-Surgical Expense provided for the nutritional, educational, and psychosocial treatment of the *Qualified Participant*. Such *Diabetic Management Services/Diabetes Self-Management Training* for which a Physician or Professional Other Provider has written an order to the Participant or caretaker of the Participant is limited to the following when rendered by or under the direction of a Physician.

Initial and follow-up instruction concerning:

- a. The physical cause and process of diabetes;
- b. Nutrition, exercise, medications, monitoring of laboratory values and the interaction of these in the effective self-management of diabetes;
- c. Prevention and treatment of special health problems for the diabetic patient;
- d. Adjustment to lifestyle modifications; and
- e. Family involvement in the care and treatment of the diabetic patient. The family will be included in certain sessions of instruction for the patient.

*Diabetes Self-Management Training* for the *Qualified Participant* will include the development of an individualized management plan that is created for and in collaboration with the *Qualified Participant* (and/or their family) to

understand the care and management of diabetes, including nutritional counseling and proper use of *Diabetes Equipment* and *Diabetes Supplies*.

A *Qualified Participant* means an individual eligible for coverage under this Plan who has been diagnosed with (a) insulin dependent or non-insulin dependent diabetes, (b) elevated blood glucose levels induced by pregnancy, or (c) another medical condition associated with elevated blood glucose levels.

#### ***Benefits for Physical Therapy***

Benefits for Medical-Surgical Expenses incurred for Physical Therapy are available and will be determined up to the visit maximum benefit amount shown on your Schedule of Coverage.

All benefit payments made by the Claim Administrator for Physical Therapy, whether under the In-Network or Non-Network Benefits level, will apply toward the benefit visit maximum amount shown on your Schedule of Coverage.

#### ***Benefits for Speech Therapy***

Benefits for Medical-Surgical Expenses incurred for Speech Therapy are available as shown on your Schedule of Coverage.

All benefit payments made by the Claim Administrator for Speech Therapy, whether under the In-Network or Non-Network Benefits level, will apply toward the benefit visit maximum amount shown on your Schedule of Coverage.

#### ***Benefits for Occupational Therapy***

Benefits for Medical-Surgical Expenses incurred for Occupational Therapy are available as shown on your Schedule of Coverage.

All benefit payments made by the Claim Administrator for Occupational Therapy, whether under the In-Network or Non-Network Benefits level, will apply toward the benefit visit maximum amount shown on your Schedule of Coverage.

#### ***Benefits for Vision Therapy***

Benefits for Medical-Surgical Expenses incurred for Vision Therapy are available as shown on your Schedule of Coverage.

#### ***Benefits for Chiropractic Services***

Benefits for Medical-Surgical Expenses incurred for Chiropractic Services are available and will be determined up to the maximum benefit amount shown on your Schedule of Coverage. NOTE: A *Calendar Year maximum on medical services, such as routine office visits provided by a chiropractor, will not apply.*

All benefit payments made by the Claim Administrator for Chiropractic Services, whether under the In-Network or Non-Network Benefits level, will apply toward the benefit maximum under each level of benefits.

#### ***Benefits for Routine Patient Costs for Participants in Approved Clinical Trials***

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

#### ***Benefits for Certain Tests for Detection of Prostate Cancer***

Benefits are available as shown on the Schedule of Coverage for an annual medically recognized diagnostic physical examination for the detection of prostate cancer and a prostate-specific antigen test used for the detection of prostate cancer for each male under the Plan who is at least:

- 50 years of age and asymptomatic; or
- 40 years of age with a family history of prostate cancer or another prostate cancer risk factor.

### ***Benefits for Routine Exams and Immunizations***

Benefits for routine exams are available for the following as indicated on your Schedule of Coverage:

- well-baby care (after the newborn's initial examination and discharge from the Hospital);
- routine annual physical examination, including routine lab and x-ray;
- annual hearing examinations, except for benefits as provided under ***Benefits for Screening Tests for Hearing Impairment***;
- immunizations for Participants age six and over.

Benefits for childhood immunizations will be provided as described in ***Benefits for Childhood Immunizations*** for children under the age of six. Benefits are not available for Inpatient Hospital Expense or Medical-Surgical Expenses for routine physical examinations performed on an inpatient basis, except for the initial examination of a newborn child.

Injections for allergies are not considered immunizations under this benefit provision.

### ***Benefits for Mammography Screening***

Benefits are available for a screening by low-dose mammography for the presence of occult breast cancer for a Participant, as shown on your Schedule of Coverage, except that benefits will not be available for more than one routine mammography screening each Calendar Year. Low-dose mammography includes digital mammography or breast tomosynthesis.

### ***Benefits for Detection and Prevention of Osteoporosis***

If a Participant is a *Qualified Individual*, benefits are available for medically accepted bone mass measurement for the detection of low bone mass and to determine a Participant's risk of osteoporosis and fractures associated with osteoporosis, as shown on your Schedule of Coverage.

*Qualified Individual means:*

1. A postmenopausal woman not receiving estrogen replacement therapy;
2. An individual with:
  - vertebral abnormalities,
  - primary hyperparathyroidism, or
  - a history of bone fractures; or
3. An individual who is:
  - receiving long-term glucocorticoid therapy, or
  - being monitored to assess the response to or efficacy of an approved osteoporosis drug therapy.

### ***Benefits for Tests for Detection of Colorectal Cancer***

Benefits are available for a diagnostic, medically recognized screening examination for the detection of colorectal cancer, for Participants who are 45 years of age or older and who are at normal risk for developing colon cancer, include:

- A fecal occult blood test performed annually and a flexible sigmoidoscopy performed every five years; or
- A colonoscopy performed every ten years.

Benefits will be provided for Physician Services, as shown on your Schedule of Coverage.

Benefits will be provided for outpatient facilities and anesthesia charges at the applicable Co-Share Amount after the Deductible as shown on your Schedule of Coverage.

Benefits will be provided for Physician services when billed with a medical diagnosis at the applicable Co-Share Amount after the Deductible.

### ***Benefits for Certain Tests for Detection of Human Papillomavirus and Cervical Cancer***

Benefits are available for certain tests for detection of Human Papillomavirus and Cervical Cancer for each woman enrolled in the Plan who is 18 years of age or older, for an annual medically recognized diagnostic examination for the early detection of cervical cancer, as shown on your Schedule of Coverage. Coverage includes, at a minimum, a conventional Pap smear screening or a screening using liquid-based cytology methods as approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration alone or in combination with a test approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration for the detection of the human papillomavirus.

### ***Benefits for Childhood Immunizations***

Benefits for Medical-Surgical Expenses incurred by a Dependent child for childhood immunizations from birth through the date the child turns six years of age will be determined at 100% of the Allowable Amount. Deductibles, Copayment Amounts, and Co-Share Amounts will not be applicable.

Benefits are available for:

- Diphtheria,
- Haemophilus influenzae type b,
- Hepatitis B,
- Measles,
- Mumps,
- Pertussis,
- Polio,
- Rubella,
- Tetanus,
- Varicella, and
- Any other immunization that is required by law for the child.

Injections for allergies are not considered immunizations under this benefit provision.

### ***Travel Benefits***

You will be reimbursed for travel expenses for transportation and lodging that you incur for travel that is necessary to obtain any covered medical or behavioral health service rendered by a Network Provider if there is no Network Provider able to perform that service located within 100 miles of your home address (such benefits referred to herein as "Travel Benefits"). Coverage is available for you and up to one companion, or, if the person receiving the covered medical or behavioral health service is under age 18, up to two companions. Reimbursement for lodging is limited to \$50 per night for you and an additional \$50 per night for each permitted companion. To obtain reimbursement, you will need to submit a form, which includes receipts and supporting documentation of your expenses. Meals are not reimbursable. Travel Benefits are limited to a cap of \$10,000 per occurrence. Reimbursement is subject to the service, travel, and reimbursement being in accordance with all applicable laws or regulations.

## Behavioral Health Services

### *Benefits for Mental Health Care, Treatment of Serious Mental Illness and Treatment of Substance Use Disorder*

Benefits for Eligible Expenses incurred for Mental Health Care, treatment of Serious Mental Illness and treatment of Substance Use Disorder will be the same as for treatment of any other sickness. Refer to the **UTILIZATION MANAGEMENT** section to determine what services require Prior Authorization.

Any Eligible Expenses incurred for the services of a Psychiatric Day Treatment Facility, a Crisis Stabilization Unit or Facility, a Residential Treatment Center, or a Residential Treatment Center for Children and Adolescents for Medically Necessary Mental Health Care or treatment of Serious Mental Illness in lieu of inpatient Hospital services will, for the purpose of this benefit, be considered **Inpatient Hospital Expenses**.

Inpatient treatment of Substance Use Disorder must be provided in a Substance Use Disorder Treatment Center or Hospital. Benefits for the medical management of acute life-threatening intoxication (toxicity) in a Hospital will be available on the same basis as for sickness generally as described under **Inpatient Hospital Expense**.

Mental Health Care provided as part of the Medically Necessary treatment of Substance Use Disorder will be considered for benefit purposes to be treatment of Substance Use Disorder until completion of Substance Use Disorder treatments. (Mental Health Care treatment after completion of Substance Use Disorder treatments will be considered Mental Health Care.)

Benefits for Eligible Expenses incurred for family and marriage counseling are covered under this Plan.

## Blue Distinction® and Blue Distinction Specialty Care Program

Blue Distinction® (“Blue Distinction”) is a national designation awarded by Blue Cross and Blue Shield Plans to health care Providers. The Blue Distinction Specialty Care program includes two levels of designation: Blue Distinction Centers (BDC) and Blue Distinction Centers+ (BDC+). The Blue Distinction Specialty Care program focuses on BDC and BDC+ providers that excel in providing safe, effective treatment for specialty care needs.

### Blue Distinction Centers

The Blue Distinction designation uses nationally consistent criteria to designate high-performing providers based on objective, evidence-based selection criteria. The Blue Distinction Specialty Care program’s purpose is to assist you in finding BDC and BDC+ providers that have met overall quality measures for patient safety and outcomes, fewer medical complications, lower readmission rates, and higher survival rates in the administration of specialty care.

Blue Distinction Centers provide care in the following specialty care areas:

- Cardiac Care
- Cellular Immunotherapy (CAR-T)
- Fertility Care\*
- Substance Use Treatment and Recovery
- Cancer Care
- Gene Therapy
- Spine Surgery
- Bariatric Surgery
- Knee and Hip Replacement Surgery
- Maternity Care
- Transplants (stem cell/bone marrow, solid organ (heart, liver, lung, kidney) and combination solid organ (heart/lung, liver/kidney, pancreas/kidney))

\* BDC and BDC+ Fertility Care programs are currently supported by plans with Fertility Care programs at the professional level.

## **Mandatory Blue Distinction Centers and Blue Distinction Centers+ Specialty Care Product**

The Mandatory BDC and BDC+ Specialty Care product requires you to obtain Bariatric services at a Blue Distinction Center and/or Blue Distinction Center+ in order to obtain maximum benefits. If you choose to utilize a Non-Blue Distinction Center and/or Non-Blue Distinction Center+ you will be responsible for 100% of costs associated with any specialty care received at such facility.

For additional information regarding Blue Distinction Centers for specialty care, please contact a Customer Service Representative at the toll-free telephone number shown on your Identification Card or visit the following website: [www.bcbs.com/why-bcbs/blue-distinction](http://www.bcbs.com/why-bcbs/blue-distinction).

## MEDICAL LIMITATIONS AND EXCLUSIONS

The benefits as described in this Benefit Booklet are not available for:

1. Any services or supplies which are not Medically Necessary and essential to the diagnosis or direct care and treatment of a sickness, injury, condition, disease, or bodily malfunction.
2. Any Experimental/Investigational services and supplies.
3. Any portion of a charge for a service or supply that is in excess of the Allowable Amount as determined by the Claim Administrator.
4. Any services or supplies provided in connection with an occupational sickness or an injury sustained in the scope of and in the course of any employment whether or not benefits are, or could upon proper claim be, provided under the Workers' Compensation law.
5. Any services or supplies for which benefits are, or could upon proper claim be, provided under any present or future laws enacted by the Legislature of any state, or by the Congress of the United States, or any laws, regulations or established procedures of any county or municipality, provided, however, that this exclusion shall not be applicable to any coverage held by the Participant for hospitalization and/or medical-surgical expenses which is written as a part of or in conjunction with any automobile casualty insurance policy.
6. Any services or supplies for which a Participant is not required to make payment or for which a Participant would have no legal obligation to pay in the absence of this or any similar coverage, except services or supplies for treatment of mental illness or mental retardation provided by a United States of America tax supported institution.
7. Any services or supplies provided by a person who is related to the Participant by blood or marriage.
8. Any services or supplies provided for injuries sustained:
  - as a result of war, declared or undeclared, or any act of war; or
  - while on active or reserve duty in the armed forces of any country or international authority.
9. Any charges:
  - resulting from the failure to keep a scheduled visit with a Physician or Professional Other Provider; or
  - for completion of any insurance forms; or
  - for acquisition of medical records.
10. Room and board charges incurred during a Hospital Admission for diagnostic or evaluation procedures unless the tests could not have been performed on an outpatient basis without adversely affecting the Participant's physical condition or the quality of medical care provided.
11. Any services or supplies provided before the patient is covered as a Participant hereunder or any services or supplies provided after the termination of the Participant's coverage.
12. Any services or supplies provided for Dietary and Nutritional Services, except as may be provided under the Plan for:
  - an inpatient nutritional assessment program provided in and by a Hospital and approved by the Claim Administrator; or
  - ***Benefits for Treatment of Diabetes*** as described in **Special Provisions Expenses**; or
  - ***Benefits for Certain Therapies for Children with Developmental Delays*** as described in **Special Provisions Expenses**.



13. Any services or supplies provided for Custodial Care.
14. Any non-surgical (dental restorations, orthodontics, or physical therapy) or non-diagnostic services provided for the treatment of the temporomandibular joint (including the jaw and craniomandibular joint) and all adjacent or related muscles.
15. Any items of Medical-Surgical Expenses incurred for dental care and treatments, dental surgery, or dental appliances, except as provided for in the ***Benefits for Dental Services*** provision in the **Special Provisions Expenses** portion of this Benefit Booklet.
16. Any services or supplies provided for Cosmetic, Reconstructive, or Plastic Surgery, except as provided for in the ***Benefits for Cosmetic, Reconstructive, or Plastic Surgery*** provision in the **Special Provisions Expenses** portion of this Benefit Booklet.
17. Any services or supplies provided for:
  - treatment of myopia and other errors of refraction, including refractive surgery; or
  - orthoptics or visual training; or
  - eyeglasses or contact lenses, provided that intraocular lenses shall be specific exceptions to this exclusion; or
  - examinations for the prescription or fitting of eyeglasses or contact lenses, except as may be provided under the ***Benefits for Routine Exams and Immunizations*** provision in the **Special Provisions Expenses** portion of this Benefit Booklet; or
  - restoration of loss or correction to an impaired speech or hearing function, except as may be provided under the ***Benefits for Speech and Hearing Services*** provision in the **Special Provisions Expenses** portion of this Benefit Booklet.
18. Any occupational therapy services which do not consist of traditional physical therapy modalities and which are not part of an active multi-disciplinary physical rehabilitation program designed to restore lost or impaired body function, except as may be provided under the ***Benefits for Physical Therapy*** provision in the **Special Provisions Expenses** portion of this Benefit Booklet.
19. Travel or ambulance services because it is more convenient for the patient than other modes of transportation whether or not recommended by a Physician or Professional Other Provider.
20. Any services or supplies provided primarily for:
  - Environmental Sensitivity;
  - Clinical Ecology or any similar treatment not recognized as safe and effective by the American Academy of Allergists and Immunologists; or
  - inpatient allergy testing or treatment.
21. Any services or supplies provided as, or in conjunction with, chelation therapy, except for treatment of acute metal poisoning.
22. Any services or supplies provided for, in preparation for, or in conjunction with:
  - sterilization reversal (male or female);
  - sexual dysfunctions;
  - in vitro fertilization; and
  - promotion of fertility through extra-coital reproductive technologies including, but not limited to, artificial insemination, intrauterine insemination, super ovulation uterine capacitation enhancement, direct intra-peritoneal insemination, trans-uterine tubal insemination, gamete intra-fallopian transfer, pronuclear oocyte stage transfer, zygote intra-fallopian transfer, and tubal embryo transfer.
23. Any services or supplies in connection with routine foot care, including the removal of warts, corns, or calluses, or the cutting and trimming of toenails in the absence of severe systemic disease.

24. Any services or supplies in connection with foot care for flat feet, fallen arches, and chronic foot strain.
25. Any prescription antiseptic or fluoride mouthwashes, mouth rinses, or topical oral solutions or preparations.
26. Services or supplies for smoking cessation programs and the treatment of nicotine addiction.
27. Any services or supplies provided for the following treatment modalities:
  - intersegmental traction;
  - surface EMGs;
  - spinal manipulation under anesthesia; and
  - muscle testing through computerized kinesiology machines such as Isostation, Digital Myograph and Dynatron.
28. Any services or supplies furnished by a Contracting Facility for which such facility had not been specifically approved to furnish under a written contract or agreement with the Claim Administrator will be paid at the Non-Network benefit level.
29. Any items that include, but are not limited to, an orthodontic or other dental appliance; splints or bandages provided by a Physician in a non-Hospital setting or purchased “over-the-counter” for support of strains and sprains; orthopedic shoes which are a separable part of a covered brace, specially ordered, custom-made or built-up shoes, cast shoes, shoe inserts designed to support the arch or affect changes in the foot or foot alignment, arch supports, elastic stockings and garter belts.

NOTE: This exclusion does not apply to podiatric appliances when provided as Diabetic Equipment.

30. Any benefits in excess of any specified dollar, day/visit, or Calendar Year maximums.
31. Any services and supplies provided to a Participant incurred outside the United States if the Participant traveled to the location for the purposes of receiving medical services, supplies, or drugs.
32. Donor expenses for a Participant in connection with an organ and tissue transplant if the recipient is not covered under this Plan.
33. Replacement Prosthetic Appliances when it is necessitated by misuse or loss by the Participant.
34. Any outpatient prescription or nonprescription drugs.
35. Self-administered drugs dispensed or administered by a Physician in their office.
36. Any drugs and medicines purchased for use outside a Hospital which require a written prescription for purchase other than injectable drugs not approved by the FDA for self-administration that are administered by or under the direct supervision of a Physician or Professional Other Provider.
37. Any services or supplies provided for reduction of obesity or weight, including surgical procedures, even if the Participant has other health conditions which might be helped by a reduction of obesity or weight.
38. Biofeedback (except for an Acquired Brain Injury diagnosis) or other behavior modification services.
39. Any services or supplies not specifically defined as Eligible Expenses in this Plan.
  - services in connection with providing the non-covered service;
  - hospitalization required to perform the non-covered service; or
  - services that are usually provided following the non-covered service, such as follow up care or therapy after surgery.

40. Any services or supplies for elective abortions.
41. Cannabis. 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.
42. Early detection test for cardiovascular disease.

## DEFINITIONS

*The definitions used in this Benefit Booklet apply to all coverage unless otherwise indicated.*

**Accidental Injury** means accidental bodily injury resulting, directly and independently of all other causes, in initial necessary care provided by a Physician or Professional Other Provider.

**Acquired Brain Injury** means a neurological insult to the brain, which is not hereditary, congenital, or degenerative. The injury to the brain has occurred after birth and results in a change in neuronal activity, which results in an impairment of physical functioning, sensory processing, cognition, or psychosocial behavior.

**Allowable Amount** means the maximum amount determined by the Claim Administrator (BCBSTX) to be eligible for consideration of payment for a particular service, supply, or procedure.

- ***For Hospitals and Facility Other Providers, Physicians, and Professional Other Providers contracting with the Claim Administrator in Texas or any other Blue Cross and Blue Shield Plan*** - The Allowable Amount is based on the terms of the Provider contract and the payment methodology in effect on the date of service. The payment methodology used may include diagnosis-related groups (DRG), fee schedule, package pricing, global pricing, per diems, case-rates, discounts, or other payment methodologies.
- ***For Hospitals and Facility Other Providers, Physicians, Professional Other Providers, and any other provider not contracting with the Claim Administrator in Texas*** - The Allowable Amount will be the lesser of: (i) the Provider's billed charges, or; (ii) the BCBSTX non-contracting Allowable Amount. Except as otherwise provided in this section, the non-contracting Allowable Amount is developed from base Medicare Participating reimbursements adjusted by a predetermined factor established by the Claim Administrator. Such factor shall be not less than 75% and will exclude any Medicare adjustment(s) which is/are based on information on the claim.

Notwithstanding the preceding sentence, the non-contracting Allowable Amount for Home Health Care is developed from base Medicare national per visit amounts for low utilization payment adjustment, or LUPA, episodes by Home Health discipline type adjusted for duration and adjusted by a predetermined factor established by the Claim Administrator. Such factor shall be not less than 75% and shall be updated on a periodic basis.

When a Medicare reimbursement rate is not available or is unable to be determined based on the information submitted on the claim, the Allowable Amount for non-contracting Providers will represent an average contract rate in aggregate for Network Providers adjusted by a predetermined factor established by the Claim Administrator. Such factor shall be not less than 75% and shall be updated not less than every two years.

The Claim Administrator will utilize the same claim processing rules and/or edits that it utilizes in processing Network Provider claims for processing claims submitted by non-contracted Providers which may also alter the Allowable Amount 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 Allowable Amount 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 and graduate medical education payments.

Any change to the Medicare reimbursement amount will be implemented by the Claim Administrator within ninety (90) days after the effective date that such change is implemented by the Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services, or its successor.

The non-contracting Allowable Amount does not equate to the Provider's billed charges and Participants receiving services from a non-contracted Provider will be responsible for the difference between the non-contracting Allowable Amount and the non-contracted Provider's billed charge, and this difference may be considerable. To find out the BCBSTX non-contracting Allowable Amount for a particular service, Participants may call a health advocate at the number on the back of your BCBSTX Identification Card.

- ***For multiple surgeries*** - The Allowable Amount for all surgical procedures performed on the same patient on the same day will be the amount for the single procedure with the highest Allowable Amount plus a determined percentage of the Allowable Amount for each of the other covered procedures performed.

- ***For procedures, services, or supplies provided to Medicare recipients*** - The Allowable Amount will not exceed Medicare's limiting charge.

**Average Wholesale Price** means any one of the recognized published averages of the prices charged by wholesalers in the United States for the drug products they sell to a Pharmacy.

**Behavioral Health Practitioner** means a Physician or Professional Other Provider who renders services for Mental Health Care, Serious Mental Illness or Substance Use Disorder, only as listed in this Benefit Booklet.

**Blue Distinction Centers (BDC)** means a health care Provider, Hospital or medical facility recognized for their expertise in delivering specialty care. Please see the subsection entitled **Blue Distinction Centers** for more information.

**Blue Distinction Centers+ (BDC+)** means a health care Provider, Hospital or medical facility recognized for their expertise and efficiency in delivering specialty care. Please see the subsection entitled **Blue Distinction Centers** for more information.

**Blue Distinction Centers (BDC) and Blue Distinction Centers+ (BDC+) Benefit Differential Product** means your employer has chosen to provide a lower out-of-pocket cost when you utilize a BDC or BDC+ designated provider for certain specialty care procedures and treatment.

**Calendar Year** means the period commencing on January 1 and ending on the next succeeding December 31, inclusive.

**Care Coordination** means organized, information-driven patient care activities intended to facilitate the appropriate responses to Covered Person's healthcare needs across the continuum of care.

**Care Coordinator Fee** means a fixed amount paid by a Blue Cross and/or Blue Shield Plan to providers periodically for Care Coordination under a Value-Based Program.

**Certain Diagnostic Procedures** means:

- Bone Scan
- Cardiac Stress Test
- CT Scan (with or without contrast)
- MRI (Magnetic Resonance Imaging)
- Myelogram
- PET Scan (Positron Emission Tomography)

**Chiropractic Services** means any services or supplies provided by or under the direction of a Doctor of Chiropractic.

**Claim Administrator** means Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Texas, a Division of Health Care Service Corporation. The Claim Administrator assumed only the authority and discretion as given by the employer to interpret the Plan provisions and benefit determinations.

**Clinical Ecology** means the inpatient or outpatient diagnosis or treatment of allergic symptoms by:

1. Cytotoxicity testing (testing the result of food or inhalant by whether or not it reduces or kills white blood cells);
2. Urine auto injection (injecting one's own urine into the tissue of the body);
3. Skin irritation by Rinkel method;
4. Subcutaneous provocative and neutralization testing (injecting the patient with allergen); or
5. Sublingual provocative testing (droplets of allergenic extracts are placed in mouth).

**Complications of Pregnancy** means:

1. Conditions (when the pregnancy is not terminated) whose diagnoses are distinct from pregnancy but are adversely affected by pregnancy or are caused by pregnancy, such as acute nephritis, nephrosis, cardiac decompensation, missed abortion, and similar medical and surgical conditions of comparable severity, but *shall not include* false labor, occasional spotting, Physician-prescribed rest during the period of pregnancy, morning sickness, hyperemesis gravidarum, pre-eclampsia, and similar conditions associated with the management of a difficult pregnancy not constituting a nosologically distinct complication of pregnancy, and
2. Non-elective cesarean section, termination of ectopic pregnancy, and spontaneous termination of pregnancy occurring during a period of gestation in which a viable birth is not possible.

**Contracting Facility** means a Hospital, a Facility Other Provider, or any other facility or institution with which the Claim Administrator has executed a written contract for the provision of care, services, or supplies furnished within the scope of its license for benefits available under the Plan. A Contracting Facility shall also include a Hospital or Facility Other Provider located outside the State of Texas, and with which any other Blue Cross Plan has executed such a written contract; provided, however, any such facility that fails to satisfy each and every requirement contained in the definition of such institution or facility as provided in the Plan shall be deemed a Non-Contracting Facility regardless of the existence of a written contract with another Blue Cross Plan.

**Copayment Amount** means the payment, as expressed in dollars, that must be made by or on behalf of a Participant for certain services at the time they are provided.

**Co-Share Amount** means the dollar amount of Eligible Expenses including Deductible(s) and Copayment Amounts incurred by a Participant during a Calendar Year that exceeds benefits provided under the Plan. Refer to **Out-of-Pocket Maximum** in **ELIGIBLE EXPENSES, PAYMENT OBLIGATIONS, AND BENEFITS** of the Benefit Booklet for additional information.

**Cosmetic, Reconstructive, or Plastic Surgery** means surgery that:

1. Can be expected or is intended to improve the physical appearance of a Participant; or
2. Is performed for psychological purposes; or
3. Restores form but does not correct or materially restore a bodily function.

**Covered Oral Surgery** means maxillofacial surgical procedures limited to:

1. Excision of non-dental related neoplasms, including benign tumors and cysts and all malignant and premalignant lesions and growths;
2. Surgical, appliances and diagnostic (including X-ray, CT, MRI) treatment of conditions affecting the temporomandibular joint (including the jaw and the craniomandibular joint) as a result of an accident, a trauma, a congenital defect, a developmental defect, or a pathology;
3. Incision and drainage of facial abscess; and
4. Surgical procedures involving salivary glands and ducts and non-dental related procedures of the accessory sinuses.

**Crisis Stabilization Unit or Facility** means an institution which is appropriately licensed and accredited as a Crisis Stabilization Unit or Facility for the provision of Mental Health Care and Serious Mental Illness services to persons who are demonstrating an acute demonstrable psychiatric crisis of moderate to severe proportions.

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



**Deductible** means the dollar amount of Eligible Expenses that must be incurred by a Participant before benefits under the Plan will be available.

**Dependent** means your spouse as defined by applicable law or any unmarried *child* covered under the Plan who is:

1. Under the limiting age shown on your Schedule of Coverage;
2. A *child* of any age who is medically certified as disabled and dependent on the parent for support and maintenance (provided they were covered prior to reaching the Dependent limiting age).

*Child* means:

- a. Your natural child; or
- b. Your legally adopted child, including a child for whom the Participant is a party in a suit in which the adoption of the child is sought; or
- c. Your stepchild; or
- d. An eligible foster child; or
- e. A child of your child who is your dependent for federal income tax purposes at the time application of coverage of the child of your child is made; or
- f. A child for whom a Participant has received a court order requiring that Participant to have financial responsibility for providing health insurance; or
- g. A child not listed above:
  - (1) whose primary residence is your household; and
  - (2) to whom you are legal guardian or related by blood or marriage; and
  - (3) who is dependent upon you for more than one-half of their support as defined by the Internal Revenue Code of the United States.

For purposes of this Plan, the term *Dependent* will also include those individuals who no longer meet the definition of a Dependent, but are beneficiaries under the Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act (COBRA).

**Dietary and Nutritional Services** means the education, counseling, or training of a Participant (including printed material) regarding:

1. Diet;
2. Regulation or management of diet; or
3. The assessment or management of nutrition.

**Durable Medical Equipment Provider** means a Provider that provides therapeutic supplies and rehabilitative equipment and is accredited by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations.

**Effective Date** means the date the coverage for a Participant actually begins. It may be different from the Eligibility Date.

**Eligibility Date** means the date the Participant satisfies the definition of either “Employee” or “Dependent”, as determined by your Employer or the Plan Administrator, and is in a class eligible for coverage under the Plan as described in the **WHO GETS BENEFITS** section of this Benefit Booklet.

**Eligible Expenses** mean Inpatient Hospital Expenses, Medical-Surgical Expenses, Extended Care Expenses, and **Special Provisions Expenses** as described in this Benefit Booklet.



**Emergency Care** means health care services provided in a Hospital emergency facility (emergency room) or comparable facility to evaluate and stabilize medical conditions of a recent onset and severity, including but not limited to severe pain, that would lead a prudent layperson, possessing an average knowledge of medicine and health, to believe that the person's condition, sickness, or injury is of such a nature that failure to get immediate care could result in:

1. placing the patient's health in serious jeopardy;
2. serious impairment of bodily functions;
3. serious dysfunction of any bodily organ or part;
4. serious disfigurement; or
5. in the case of a pregnant woman, serious jeopardy to the health of the fetus.

**Employee** means a person who:

1. Regularly provides personal services at the Employee's usual and customary place of employment with the Employer; and
2. Works a specified number of hours per week or month as required by the Employer; and
3. Is recorded as an Employee on the payroll records of the Employer; and
4. Is compensated for services by salary or wages. If applicable to this group, proprietors, partners, corporate officers and directors need not be compensated for services by salary or wages.

For purposes of this plan, the term *Employee* will also include those individuals who are no longer an Employee of the Employer, but who are participants covered under the Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act (COBRA).

In addition, the term *Employee* will include a retired Employee who meets all the criteria established by the Employer in order to be eligible for continued coverage under this Plan after retirement. Such criteria has been established by the Employer on a basis that precludes individual selection.

**Employer** means the person, firm, or institution named on this Benefit Booklet.

**Environmental Sensitivity** means the inpatient or outpatient treatment of allergic symptoms by:

1. Controlled environment; or
2. Sanitizing the surroundings, removal of toxic materials; or
3. Use of special non-organic, non-repetitive diet techniques.

**Experimental/Investigational** means the use of any treatment, procedure, facility, equipment, drug, device, or supply not accepted as *standard medical treatment* of the condition being treated or any of such items requiring Federal or other governmental agency approval 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, 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 Claim Administrator for the Plan 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-financed programs in making its determination.

Although a Physician or Professional Other 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 within this definition. Treatment provided as part of a clinical trial or a research study is Experimental/Investigational.

**Extended Care Expenses** means the Allowable Amount of charges incurred for those Medically Necessary services and supplies provided by a Skilled Nursing Facility, a Home Health Agency, or a Hospice as described in the **Extended Care Expenses** portion of this Benefit Booklet.

**Fixed-Wing Air Ambulance** means a specially equipped airplane used for ambulance transport.

**Group Health Plan (GHP)** as applied to this Benefit Booklet means a self-funded employee welfare benefit plan. For additional information, refer to the definition of Plan Administrator.

**Health Benefit Plan** means a group, blanket, or franchise insurance policy, a certificate issued under a group policy, a group hospital service contract, or a group subscriber contract or evidence of coverage issued by a Health Maintenance Organization that provides benefits for health care services. The term does not include:

1. Accident only or disability income insurance, or a combination of accident-only and disability income insurance;
2. Credit-only insurance;
3. Disability insurance coverage;
4. Coverage for a specified disease or illness;
5. Medicare services under a federal contract;
6. Medicare supplement and Medicare Select policies regulated in accordance with federal law;
7. Long-term care coverage or benefits, home health care coverage or benefits, nursing home care coverage or benefits, community-based care coverage or benefits, or any combination of those coverages or benefits;
8. Coverage that provides limited-scope dental or vision benefits;
9. Coverage provided by a single service health maintenance organization;
10. Coverage issued as a supplement to liability insurance;
11. Workers' compensation or similar insurance;
12. Automobile medical payment insurance coverage;
13. Jointly managed trusts authorized under 29 U.S.C. Section 141, et seq., that;
  - contain a plan of benefits for employees;
  - is negotiated in a collective bargaining agreement governing wages, hours, and working conditions of the employees; and
  - is authorized under 29 U.S.C. Section 157;
14. Hospital indemnity or other fixed indemnity insurance;
15. Reinsurance contracts issued on a stop-loss, quota-share, or similar basis;
16. Short-term major medical contracts;
17. Liability insurance, including general liability insurance and automobile liability insurance;
18. Other coverage that is:
  - similar to the coverage described by this subdivision under which benefits for medical care are secondary or incidental to other insurance benefits; and
  - specified in federal regulations;
19. Coverage for onsite medical clinics; or
20. Coverage that provides other limited benefits specified by federal regulations.

**Health Care Practitioner** means an Advanced Practice Nurse, Doctor of Medicine, Doctor of Dentistry, Physician Assistant, Doctor of Osteopathy, Doctor of Podiatry, or other licensed person with prescription authority.

**HIPAA** means the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996.

**Home Health Agency** means a business that provides Home Health Care and is licensed, approved, or certified by the appropriate agency of the state in which it is located or is certified by Medicare as a supplier of Home Health Care.

**Home Health Care** means the health care services for which benefits are provided under the Plan when such services are provided during a visit by a Home Health Agency to patients confined at home due to a sickness or injury requiring skilled health services on an intermittent, part-time basis.

**Home Infusion Therapy** means the administration of fluids, nutrition, or medication (including all additives and chemotherapy) by intravenous or gastrointestinal (enteral) infusion or by intravenous injection in the home setting. Home Infusion Therapy shall include:

1. Drugs and IV solutions;
2. Pharmacy compounding and dispensing services;
3. All equipment and ancillary supplies necessitated by the defined therapy;
4. Delivery services;
5. Patient and family education; and
6. Nursing services.

Over-the-counter products which do not require a Physician's or Professional Other Provider's prescription, including but not limited to standard nutritional formulations used for enteral nutrition therapy, are not included within this definition.

**Home Infusion Therapy Provider** means an entity that is duly licensed by the appropriate state agency to provide Home Infusion Therapy.

**Hospice** means a facility or agency primarily engaged in providing skilled nursing services and other therapeutic services for terminally ill patients and which is:

1. Licensed in accordance with state law (where the state law provides for such licensing); or
2. Certified by Medicare as a supplier of Hospice Care.

**Hospice Care** means services for which benefits are provided under the Plan when provided by a Hospice to patients confined at home or in a Hospice facility due to a terminal sickness or terminal injury requiring skilled health care services.

**Hospital** means a short-term acute care facility which:

1. Is duly licensed as a Hospital by the state in which it is located and meets the standards established for such licensing, and is either accredited by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations or is certified as a Hospital provider under Medicare;
2. Is primarily engaged in providing inpatient diagnostic and therapeutic services for the diagnosis, treatment, and care of injured and sick persons by or under the supervision of Physicians or Behavioral Health Practitioners for compensation from its patients;
3. Has organized departments of medicine and major surgery, either on its premises or in facilities available to the Hospital on a contractual prearranged basis, and maintains clinical records on all patients;
4. Provides 24-hour nursing services by or under the supervision of a Registered Nurse; and
5. Has in effect a Hospital Utilization Review Plan.

**Hospital Admission** means the period between the time of a Participant's entry into a Hospital or a Substance Use Disorder Treatment Center as a *Bed patient* and the time of discontinuance of bed-patient care or discharge by the admitting Physician, Behavioral Health Practitioner or Professional Other Provider, whichever first occurs. The day of entry, but not the day of discharge or departure, shall be considered in determining the length of a Hospital Admission. If a Participant is admitted to and discharged from a Hospital within a 24 hour period but is confined as a *Bed patient* in a bed accommodation during the period of time the Participant is confined in the Hospital, the admission shall be considered a Hospital Admission by the Claim Administrator.

*Bed patient* means confinement in a bed accommodation of a Substance Use Disorder Treatment Center on a 24-hour basis or in a bed accommodation located in a portion of a Hospital which is designed, staffed, and operated to provide acute, short-term Hospital care on a 24-hour basis; the term does not include confinement in a portion of the Hospital (other than a Substance Use Disorder Treatment Center) designed, staffed, and operated to provide long-term institutional care on a residential basis.

**Identification Card** means the card issued to the Employee by the Claim Administrator of the Plan indicating pertinent information applicable to their coverage.

**Imaging Center** means a Provider that can furnish technical or total services with respect to diagnostic imaging services and is licensed through the *Department of State Health Services Certificate of Equipment Registration and/or Department of State Health Services Radioactive Materials License*.

**Independent Laboratory** means a Medicare certified laboratory that provides technical and professional anatomical and/or clinical laboratory services.

**In-Network Benefits** means the benefits available under the Plan for services and supplies that are provided by a Network Provider or an Non-Network Provider when acknowledged by the Claim Administrator.

**Inpatient Hospital Expense** means the Allowable Amount incurred for the Medically Necessary items of service or supply listed below for the care of a Participant, provided that such items are:

1. Furnished at the direction or prescription of a Physician, Behavioral Health Practitioner or Professional Other Provider; and
2. Provided by a Hospital or a Substance Use Disorder Treatment Center; and
3. Furnished to and used by the Participant during an inpatient Hospital Admission.

An expense shall be deemed to have been incurred on the date of provision of the service for which the charge is made.

Inpatient Hospital Expense shall include:

1. Room accommodation charges. If the Participant is in a private room, the amount of the room charge in excess of the Hospital's average semiprivate room charge *is not* an Eligible Expense.
2. All other usual Hospital services, including drugs and medications, which are Medically Necessary and consistent with the condition of the Participant. Personal items *are not* an Eligible Expense.

Medically Necessary Mental Health Care or treatment of Serious Mental Illness in a Psychiatric Day Treatment Facility, a Crisis Stabilization Unit or Facility, Residential Treatment Center, or a Residential Treatment Center for Children and Adolescents, in lieu of hospitalization, shall be Inpatient Hospital Expense.

**Intensive Outpatient Program** means a freestanding or Hospital-based program that provides services for at least three hours per day, two or more days per week, to treat mental illness, drug addiction, substance abuse or alcoholism, or specializes in the treatment or co-occurring mental illness with drug addiction, substance abuse or alcoholism. These programs offer integrated and aligned assessment, treatment and discharge planning services for treatment of severe or complex co-occurring conditions which make it unlikely that the Participants will benefit from programs that focus solely on mental illness conditions.

**Late Enrollee** means any Employee or Dependent eligible for enrollment who requests enrollment in an Employer's Health Benefit Plan (1) after the expiration of the initial enrollment period established under the terms of the first plan for which that Participant was eligible through the Employer, (2) after the expiration of an Open Enrollment Period, or (3) after the expiration of a special enrollment period.

An Employee or a Dependent is *not* a Late Enrollee if:

1. The individual:
  - a. Was covered under another Health Benefit Plan or self-funded Health Benefit Plan at the time the individual was eligible to enroll; and
  - b. Declines in writing, at the time of initial eligibility, stating that coverage under another Health Benefit Plan or self-funded Health Benefit Plan was the reason for declining enrollment; and
  - c. Has lost coverage under another Health Benefit Plan or self-funded Health Benefit Plan as a result of:
    - (1) termination of employment;
    - (2) reduction in the number of hours of employment;
    - (3) termination of the other plan's coverage;
    - (4) termination of contributions toward the premium made by the Employer;
    - (5) COBRA coverage has been exhausted;
    - (6) cessation of Dependent status;
    - (7) the Plan no longer offers any benefits to the class of similarly situated individuals that include the individual; or
    - (8) in the case of coverage offered through an HMO, the individual no longer resides, lives, or works in the service area of the HMO and no other benefit option is available; and
  - d. Requests enrollment not later than the 31st day after the date on which coverage under the other Health Benefit Plan or self-funded Health Benefit Plan terminates or in the event of the attainment of a lifetime limit on all benefits, the individual must request to enroll not later than 31 days after a claim is denied due to the attainment of a lifetime limit on all benefits.
2. The request for enrollment is made by the individual within the 60th day after the date on which coverage under Medicaid or CHIP terminates.
3. The individual is employed by an Employer who offers multiple Health Benefit Plans and the individual elects a different Health Benefit Plan during an Open Enrollment Period.
4. A court has ordered coverage to be provided for a spouse under a covered Employee's plan and the request for enrollment is made not later than the 31st day after the date on which the court order is issued.
5. A court has ordered coverage to be provided for a child under a covered Employee's plan and the request for enrollment is made not later than the 31st day after the date on which the Employer receives notice of the court order.
6. A Dependent child is not a Late Enrollee if the child:
  - a. Was covered under Medicaid or the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) at the time the child was eligible to enroll;
  - b. The employee declined coverage for the child in writing, stating that coverage under Medicaid or CHIP was the reason for declining coverage;
  - c. The child has lost coverage under Medicaid or CHIP; and
  - d. The request for enrollment is made within the 60th day after the date on which coverage under Medicaid or CHIP terminates.

**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.

**Managed Care** means a type of health care focused on helping to reduce costs while delivering the appropriate quality services to the Participant.

**Marriage and Family Therapy** means the provision of professional therapy services to individuals, families, or married couples, singly or in groups, and involves the professional application of family systems theories and techniques in the delivery of therapy services to those persons. The term includes the evaluation and remediation of cognitive, affective, behavioral, or relational dysfunction within the context of marriage or family systems.



**Maternity Care** means care and services provided for treatment of the condition of pregnancy, other than Complications of Pregnancy.

**Medical Out-of-Pocket Maximum** means, if “Individual only” coverage is elected, the cumulative dollar amount of Eligible Expenses, including the Calendar Year Deductible, incurred by the Employee during a Calendar Year. If “Family” coverage is elected, Medical Out-of-Pocket Maximum means the cumulative dollar amount of Eligible Expenses, including the Calendar Year Deductible, incurred by the family during a Calendar Year.

**Medical Social Services** means those social services relating to the treatment of a Participant’s medical condition. Such services include, but are not limited to assessment of the:

1. Social and emotional factors related to the Participant’s sickness, need for care, response to treatment, and adjustment to care; and
2. Relationship of the Participant’s medical and nursing requirements to the home situation, financial resources, and available community resources.

**Medical-Surgical Expenses** means the Allowable Amount for those charges incurred for the Medically Necessary items of service or supply listed below for the care of a Participant, provided such items are:

1. Furnished by or at the direction or prescription of a Physician, Behavioral Health Practitioner or Professional Other Provider; and
2. Not included as an item of Inpatient Hospital Expense or Extended Care Expense in the Plan.

A service or supply is furnished at the direction of a Physician, Behavioral Health Practitioner or Professional Other Provider if the listed service or supply is:

1. Provided by a person employed by the directing Physician, Behavioral Health Practitioner or Professional Other Provider; and
2. Provided at the usual place of business of the directing Physician, Behavioral Health Practitioner or Professional Other Provider; and
3. Billed to the patient by the directing Physician, Behavioral Health Practitioner or Professional Other Provider.

An expense shall have been incurred on the date of provision of the service for which the charge is made.

**Medically Necessary** or **Medical Necessity** means those services or supplies covered under the Plan which are:

1. Essential to, consistent with, and provided for the diagnosis or the direct care and treatment of the condition, sickness, disease, injury, or bodily malfunction; and
2. Provided in accordance with and are consistent with generally accepted standards of medical practice in the United States; and
3. Not primarily for the convenience of the Participant, their Physician, Behavioral Health Practitioner, the Hospital, or the Other Provider; and
4. The most economical supplies or levels of service that are appropriate for the safe and effective treatment of the Participant. When applied to hospitalization, this further means that the Participant requires acute care as a bed patient due to the nature of the services provided or the Participant’s condition, and the Participant cannot receive safe or adequate care as an outpatient. BCBSTX does not determine course of treatment or whether particular health care services are received. The decision regarding the course of treatment and receipt of particular health care services is a matter entirely between the Participant, their Physician, Behavioral Health Practitioner, the Hospital, or the Other Provider.

The medical staff of the Claim Administrator shall determine whether a service or supply is Medically Necessary under the Plan and will consider the views of the state and national medical communities, the guidelines and practices of Medicare, Medicaid, or other government-financed programs, and peer reviewed literature. Although a Physician, Behavioral Health Practitioner or Professional Other Provider may have prescribed treatment, such treatment may not be Medically Necessary within this definition.

**Mental Health Care** means any one or more of the following:

1. The diagnosis or treatment of a mental disease, disorder, or condition listed in the *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders of the American Psychiatric Association*, as revised, or any other diagnostic coding system as used by the Claim Administrator, whether or not the cause of the disease, disorder, or condition is physical, chemical, or mental in nature or origin;
2. The diagnosis or treatment of any symptom, condition, disease, or disorder by a Physician, Behavioral Health Practitioner or Professional Other Provider (or by any person working under the direction or supervision of a Physician, Behavioral Health Practitioner or Professional Other Provider) when the Eligible Expense is:
  - a. Individual, group, family, or conjoint psychotherapy,
  - b. Counseling,
  - c. Psychoanalysis,
  - d. Psychological testing and assessment,
  - e. The administration or monitoring of psychotropic drugs, or
  - f. Hospital visits or consultations in a facility listed in subsection 5, below;
3. Electroconvulsive treatment;
4. Psychotropic drugs;
5. Any of the services listed in subsections 1 through 4, above, performed in or by a Hospital, Facility Other Provider, or other licensed facility or unit providing such care.

**Negotiated National Account Arrangement** means an agreement negotiated between one or more Blue Cross and/or Blue Shield Plans for any national account that is not delivered through the BlueCard Program.

**Network** means identified Physicians, Behavioral Health Practitioner, Professional Other Providers, Hospitals, and other facilities that have entered into agreements with BCBSTX (and in some instances with other participating Blue Cross and/or Blue Shield Plans) for participation in a Managed Care arrangement.

**Network Provider** means a Hospital, Physician, Behavioral Health Practitioner, or Other Provider who has entered into an agreement with BCBSTX (and in some instances with other participating Blue Cross and/or Blue Shield Plans) to participate as a Managed Care Provider.

**Neuropsychological Testing** means the administering of a comprehensive battery of tests to evaluate neurocognitive, behavioral, and emotional strengths and weaknesses and their relationship to normal and abnormal central nervous system functioning.

**Non-Contracting Facility** means a Hospital, a Facility Other Provider, or any other facility or institution which has not executed a written contract with BCBSTX for the provision of care, services, or supplies for which benefits are provided by the Plan. Any Hospital, Facility Other Provider, facility, or institution with a written contract with BCBSTX which has expired or has been canceled is a Non-Contracting Facility.

**Non-Network Benefits** means the benefits available under the Plan for services and supplies that are provided by a Non-Network Provider.

**Non-Network Provider** means a Hospital, Physician, Behavioral Health Practitioner, or Other Provider who has not entered into an agreement with BCBSTX (or other participating Blue Cross and/or Blue Shield Plan) as a Managed Care Provider.

**Open Enrollment Period** means the 31-day period preceding the next Plan Anniversary Date during which Employees and Dependents may enroll for coverage.

**Other Provider** means a person or entity, other than a Hospital or Physician, that is licensed where required to furnish to a Participant an item of service or supply described herein as Eligible Expenses. Other Provider shall include:



1. **Facility Other Provider** - an institution or entity, only as listed:
  - a. Substance Use Disorder Treatment Center
  - b. Crisis Stabilization Unit or Facility
  - c. Durable Medical Equipment Provider
  - d. Home Health Agency
  - e. Home Infusion Therapy Provider
  - f. Hospice
  - g. Imaging Center
  - h. Independent Laboratory
  - i. Prosthetics/Orthotics Provider
  - j. Psychiatric Day Treatment Facility
  - k. Renal Dialysis Center
  - l. Residential Treatment Center for Children and Adolescents
  - m. Skilled Nursing Facility
  - n. Therapeutic Center
2. **Professional Other Provider** - a person or practitioner, when acting within the scope of their license and who is appropriately certified, only as listed:
  - a. Advanced Practice Nurse
  - b. Doctor of Chiropractic
  - c. Doctor of Dentistry
  - d. Doctor of Optometry
  - e. Doctor of Podiatry
  - f. Doctor in Psychology
  - g. Licensed Acupuncturist
  - h. Licensed Audiologist
  - i. Licensed Substance Use Disorder Counselor
  - j. Licensed Dietitian
  - k. Licensed Hearing Instrument Fitter and Dispenser
  - l. Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist
  - m. Licensed Clinical Social Worker
  - n. Licensed Occupational Therapist
  - o. Licensed Physical Therapist
  - p. Licensed Professional Counselor
  - q. Licensed Speech-Language Pathologist
  - r. Licensed Surgical Assistant
  - s. Nurse First Assistant
  - t. Physician Assistant
  - u. Psychological Associates who work under the supervision of a Doctor in Psychology

In states where there is a licensure requirement, other Providers must be licensed by the appropriate state administrative agency.

**Outpatient Contraceptive Services** means a consultation, examination, procedure, or medical service that is provided on an outpatient basis and that is related to the use of a drug or device intended to prevent pregnancy.

**Participant** means an Employee or Dependent or a retired Employee whose coverage has become effective under this Plan.

**Physical Therapy** means those modalities, procedures, tests, and measurements listed in the *Physicians' Current Procedural Terminology Manual* (Procedure Codes 97010-97799), whether the service or supply is provided by a Physician or Professional Other Provider, and includes, but is not limited to, physical therapy, occupational therapy, hot or cold packs, whirlpool, diathermy, electrical stimulation, massage, ultrasound, manipulation, muscle or strength testing, and orthotics or prosthetic training.

**Physician** means a person, when acting within the scope of their license, who is a Doctor of Medicine or Doctor of Osteopathy.

**Plan** means a program of health and welfare benefits established for the benefit of its Participants whether the plan is subject to the rules and regulations of the Employee's Retirement and Income Security Act (ERISA) or, for government and/or church plans, where compliance is voluntary.

**Plan Administrator** means a named administrator of the Group Health Plan (GHP), as that term is used under ERISA, having fiduciary responsibility for its operation. BCBSTX is not the Plan Administrator of Employer's employee welfare benefit plan as defined under ERISA.

**Plan Anniversary Date** means the day, month, and year of the 12-month period following the Plan Effective Date and corresponding date in each year thereafter for as long as this Benefit Booklet is in force.

**Plan Effective Date** means the date on which coverage for the Employer's Plan begins with the Claim Administrator.

**Plan Month** means each succeeding calendar month period, beginning on the Plan Effective Date.

**Plan Service Area** means the geographical area(s) or areas in which a Network of Providers is offered and available and is used to determine eligibility for **Managed Health Care Plan** benefits.

**Post-Service Medical Necessity Review** means the process of determining coverage after treatment has already occurred and is based on Medical Necessity guidelines. Can also be referred to as a retrospective review or post-service claims request.

**Primary Care Copayment Amount** means the payment, as expressed in dollars, that must be made by or on behalf of a Participant for each office visit charge you incur when services are rendered by a family practitioner, an obstetrician/gynecologist, a pediatrician, Behavioral Health Practitioner, an internist, and a Physician Assistant or Advanced Practice Nurse who works under the supervision of one of these listed Physicians.

**Primary Care Provider** means a Physician or Professional Other Provider who has entered into an agreement with Claim Administrator (and in some instances with other participating Blue Cross and/or Blue Shield Plans) to participate as a Managed Care Provider of a family practitioner, obstetrician/gynecologist, pediatrician, Behavioral Health Practitioner, an internist or a Physician Assistant or Advanced Practice Nurse who works under the supervision of one of these.

**Prior Authorization** means the process that determines in advance the Medical Necessity or Experimental/Investigational nature of certain care and services under this Plan.

**Proof of Loss** means written evidence of a claim including:

1. The form on which the claim is made;
2. Bills and statements reflecting services and items furnished to a Participant and amounts charged for those services and items that are covered by the claim; and
3. Correct diagnosis code(s) and procedure code(s) for the services and items.

**Prosthetic Appliances** means artificial devices including limbs or eyes, braces or similar prosthetic or orthopedic devices, which replace all or part of an absent body organ (including contiguous tissue) or replace all or part of the function of a permanently inoperative or malfunctioning body organ (excluding dental appliances and the replacement of cataract lenses). For purposes of this definition, a wig or hairpiece is not considered a Prosthetic Appliance.

**Prosthetics/Orthotics Provider** means a certified prosthetist that supplies both standard and customized prostheses and orthotic supplies.

**Provider** means a Hospital, Physician, Behavioral Health Practitioner, Other Provider, or any other person, company, or institution furnishing to a Participant an item of service or supply listed as Eligible Expenses.

**Provider Incentive** means an additional amount of compensation paid to a healthcare 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 covered persons.

**Psychiatric Day Treatment Facility** means an institution which is appropriately licensed and is accredited by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations as a Psychiatric Day Treatment Facility for the provision of Mental Health Care and Serious Mental Illness services to Participants for periods of time not to exceed eight hours in any 24-hour period. Any treatment in a Psychiatric Day Treatment Facility must be certified in writing by the attending Physician or Behavioral Health Practitioner to be in lieu of hospitalization.

**Recommended Clinical Review** means an optional voluntary review of a Provider's recommended medical procedure, treatment or test, that does not require Prior Authorization, to make sure it meets approved Blue Cross and Blue Shield medical policy guidelines and Medical Necessity requirements.

**Renal Dialysis Center** means a facility which is Medicare certified as an end-stage renal disease facility providing staff assisted dialysis and training for home and self-dialysis.

**Research Institution** means an institution or Provider (person or entity) conducting a phase I, phase II, phase III, or phase IV clinical trial.

**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 (AAAHHC), 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.

**Residential Treatment Center for Children and Adolescents** means a child-care institution which is appropriately licensed and accredited by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations or the American Association of Psychiatric Services for Children as a residential treatment center for the provisions of Mental Health Care and Serious Mental Illness services for emotionally disturbed children and adolescents.

**Retail Health Clinic** means a Provider that provides treatment of uncomplicated minor illnesses. Retail Health Clinics are typically located in retail stores and are typically staffed by Advanced Practice Nurses or Physician Assistants.

**Routine Patient Care Costs** means the costs of any Medically Necessary health care service for which benefits are provided under the Plan, without regard to whether the Participant is participating in a clinical trial.

Routine Patient Care Costs do not include:

1. The cost of an investigational new drug or device that is not approved for any indication by the United States Food and Drug Administration, including a drug or device that is the subject of the clinical trial;
2. The cost of a service that is not a health care service, regardless of whether the service is required in connection with participation in a clinical trial;
3. The cost of a service that is clearly inconsistent with widely accepted and established standards of care for a particular diagnosis;
4. A cost associated with managing a clinical trial; or

5. The cost of a health care service that is specifically excluded from coverage under the Plan.

**Serious Mental Illness** means the following psychiatric illnesses defined by the *American Psychiatric Association in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual (DSM)*:

1. Bipolar disorders (hypomanic, manic, depressive, and mixed);
2. Depression in childhood and adolescence;
3. Major depressive disorders (single episode or recurrent);
4. Obsessive-compulsive disorders;
5. Paranoid and other psychotic disorders;
6. Pervasive developmental disorders;
7. Schizo-affective disorders (bipolar or depressive); and
8. Schizophrenia.

**Skilled Nursing Facility** means a facility primarily engaged in providing skilled nursing services and other therapeutic services and which is:

1. Licensed in accordance with state law (where the state law provides for licensing of such facility); or
2. Medicare or Medicaid eligible as a supplier of skilled inpatient nursing care.

**Specialty Care Provider** means a Physician or Professional Other Provider who has entered into an agreement with Claim Administrator (and in some instances with other participating Blue Cross and/or Blue Shield Plans) to participate as a Managed Care Provider of specialty services with the exception of a family practitioner, obstetrician/gynecologist, pediatrician, Behavioral Health Practitioner, an internist or a Physician Assistant or Advanced Practice Nurse who works under the supervision of one of these.

**Specialty Copayment Amount** means the payment, as expressed in dollars, that must be made by or on behalf of a Participant for each office visit charge you incur when services are rendered by a Specialty Care Provider.

**Substance Use Disorder** means the abuse of or psychological or physical dependence on or addiction to alcohol or a controlled substance.

**Substance Use Disorder Treatment Center** means a facility which provides a program for the treatment of Substance Use Disorder pursuant to a written treatment plan approved and monitored by a Behavioral Health Practitioner and which facility is also:

1. Affiliated with a Hospital under a contractual agreement with an established system for patient referral; or
2. Accredited as such a facility by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations; or
3. Licensed as a Substance Use Disorder treatment program by the Texas Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse; or
4. Licensed, certified, or approved as a Substance Use Disorder treatment program or center by any other state agency having legal authority to so license, certify, or approve.

**Telehealth Service** means a health service, other than a Telemedicine Medical Service, delivered by a health professional licensed, certified, or otherwise entitled to practice in Texas and acting within the scope of the health care professional's license, certification, or entitlement to a patient at a different physical location than the health professional using telecommunications or information technology.

**Telemedicine Medical Service** means a health care service delivered by a Physician licensed in Texas, or a health professional acting under the delegation and supervision of a Physician licensed in Texas state, and acting within the scope of the Physician's or health professional's license to a patient at a different physical location than the Physician or health professional using telecommunications or information technology.

**Therapeutic Center** means an institution which is appropriately licensed, certified, or approved by the state in which it is located and which is:

1. An ambulatory (day) surgery facility;

2. A freestanding radiation therapy center; or
3. A freestanding birthing center.

**Value-Based Program** means an outcome-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 that has entered into a contractual agreement with BCBSTX 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).

**Virtual Visits** means services provided for the treatment of non-emergency medical and behavioral health conditions as described in *Benefits for Virtual Visits* provision.

**Waiting Period** means a period established by an Employer that must pass before an individual who is a potential enrollee in a Health Benefit Plan is eligible to be covered for benefits.

## **GENERAL PROVISIONS**

### **Agent**

The Employer is not the agent of the Claim Administrator.

### **Amendments**

The Plan may be amended or changed at any time by agreement between the Employer and the Claim Administrator.

### **The Claim Administrator's Ownership Interests**

The Claim Administrator or its subsidiaries or affiliates may have ownership interests in certain Providers who provide covered services to Participants, and/or vendors or other third parties who provide covered services related to the benefits and requirements of this Plan or provide services to certain Providers.

### **Assignment and Payment of Benefits**

Rights and benefits under the Plan shall not be assignable, either before or after services and supplies are provided.

In the absence of a written agreement with a Provider, the Claim Administrator reserves the right to make benefit payments to the Provider or the Employee, as the Claim Administrator elects. Payment to either party discharges the Plan's responsibility to the Employee or Dependents for benefits available under the Plan.

### **Claims Liability**

BCBSTX, in its role as Claim Administrator, provides administrative claims payment services only and does not assume any financial risk or obligation with respect to claims.

### **Disclosure Authorization**

If you file a claim for benefits, it will be necessary that you authorize any health care Provider, insurance carrier, or other entity to furnish the Claim Administrator all information and records or copies of records relating to the diagnosis, treatment, or care of any individual included under your coverage. If you file claims for benefits, you and your Dependents will be considered to have waived all requirements forbidding the disclosure of this information and records.

### **Medicare**

Special rules apply when you are covered by this Plan and by Medicare. Generally, this Plan is a Primary Plan if you are an active Employee, and Medicare is a Primary Plan if you are a retired Employee.

### **Participant/Provider Relationship**

The choice of a health care Provider should be made solely by you or your Dependents. The Claim Administrator does not furnish services or supplies but only makes payment for Eligible Expenses incurred by Participants. The Claim Administrator is not liable for any act or omission by any health care Provider. The Claim Administrator does not have any responsibility for a health care Provider's failure or refusal to provide services or supplies to you or your Dependents. Care and treatment received are subject to the rules and regulations of the health care Provider selected and are available only for sickness or injury treatment acceptable to the health care Provider.

The Claim Administrator, Network Providers, and/or other contracting Providers are independent contractors with respect to each other. The Claim Administrator in no way controls, influences, or participates in the health care treatment decisions entered into by said Providers. The Claim Administrator does not furnish medical, surgical, hospitalization, or similar services or supplies, or practice medicine or treat patients. The Providers, their employees,



their agents, their ostensible agents, and/or their representatives do not act on behalf of BCBSTX nor are they employees of BCBSTX.

## **Overpayment**

If your Group Health 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 Health 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 Network Providers or Non-Network Providers.

If no refund is received, your Group Health 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:

1. Any future benefit payment made to any person or entity under this Benefit Booklet, whether for the same or a different Participant; or
2. 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 Network Provider; or
3. 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 Network Provider; or
4. Any future benefit payment, or other payment, made to any person or entity; or
5. Any future payment owed to one or more Network Providers.

Further, the Claim Administrator has the right to reduce your Group Health Plan’s payment to a Network Provider by the amount necessary to recover another Blue Cross and Blue Shield’s plan or policy Overpayment to the same Network Provider and to remit the recovered amount to the other Blue Cross and Blue Shield plan or policy.

## **Rescission**

Rescission is the cancellation or discontinuance of coverage that has retroactive effect. Your coverage may not be rescinded unless you or a person seeking coverage on your behalf performs an act, practice or omission that constitutes fraud, or makes an intentional misrepresentation of material fact. A cancellation or discontinuance of coverage that has only prospective effect is not a rescission. A retroactive cancellation or discontinuance of coverage based on a failure to timely pay required premiums or contributions toward the cost of coverage (including COBRA premiums) is not a rescission. You will be given 30 days advance notice of rescission. A rescission is considered an Adverse Benefit Determination for which you may seek internal review and external review.

## **Subrogation**

If the Plan pays or provides benefits for you or your Dependents, the Plan is subrogated to all rights of recovery which you or your Dependent have in contract, tort, or otherwise against any person, organization, or insurer for the amount of benefits the Plan has paid or provided. That means the Plan may use your rights to recover money through judgment, settlement, or otherwise from any person, organization, or insurer.

For the purposes of this provision, *subrogation* means the substitution of one person or entity (the Plan) in the place of another (you or your Dependent) with reference to a lawful claim, demand or right, so that the person who is substituted succeeds to the rights of the other in relation to the debt or claim, and its rights or remedies.

## ***Right of Reimbursement***

In jurisdictions where subrogation rights are not recognized, or where subrogation rights are precluded by factual circumstances, the Plan will have a right of reimbursement.



If you or your Dependent recover money from any person, organization, or insurer for an injury or condition for which the Plan paid benefits, you or your Dependent agree to reimburse the Plan from the recovered money for the amount of benefits paid or provided by the Plan. That means you or your Dependent will pay to the Plan the amount of money recovered by you through judgment, settlement or otherwise from the third party or their insurer, as well as from any person, organization or insurer, up to the amount of benefits paid or provided by the Plan.

### ***Right to Recovery by Subrogation or Reimbursement***

You or your Dependent agree to promptly furnish to the Plan all information which you have concerning your rights of recovery from any person, organization, or insurer and to fully assist and cooperate with the Plan in protecting and obtaining its reimbursement and subrogation rights. You, your Dependent or your attorney will notify the Plan before settling any claim or suit so as to enable us to enforce our rights by participating in the settlement of the claim or suit. You or your Dependent further agree not to allow the reimbursement and subrogation rights of the Plan to be limited or harmed by any acts or failure to act on your part.

## **Maintenance of Benefits**

The availability of benefits specified in This Plan is subject to Maintenance of Benefits (MOB) as described below. This MOB provision applies to This Plan when a Participant has health care coverage under more than one Plan.

If this MOB provision applies, the order of benefit determination rules should be looked at first. Those rules determine whether the benefits of This Plan are determined before or after those of another Plan. The benefits of This Plan shall not be reduced when This Plan determines its benefits before another Plan; but may be reduced when another Plan determines its benefits first.

### ***Maintenance of Benefits – Definitions***

1. **Plan** means any group insurance or group-type coverage, whether insured or uninsured.

This includes:

- a. group or blanket insurance;
- b. franchise insurance that terminates upon cessation of employment;
- c. group hospital or medical service plans and other group prepayment coverage;
- d. any coverage under labor-management trustee arrangements, union welfare arrangements, or employer organization arrangements;
- e. governmental plans, or coverage required or provided by law.

*Plan* does *not* include:

- a. any coverage held by the Participant for hospitalization and/or medical-surgical expenses which is written as a part of or in conjunction with any automobile casualty insurance policy;
- b. a policy of health insurance that is individually underwritten and individually issued;
- c. school accident type coverage; or
- d. a state plan under Medicaid (Title XIX, Grants to States for Medical Assistance Programs, of the United States Social Security Act, as amended).

Each contract or other arrangement for coverage is a separate Plan. Also, if an arrangement has two parts and MOB rules apply only to one of the two, each of the parts is a separate Plan.

2. **This Plan** means the part of this Benefit Booklet that provides benefits for expenses.

3. **Primary Plan/Secondary Plan**

The order of benefit determination rules state whether This Plan is a Primary Plan or Secondary Plan covering the Participant. A *Primary Plan* is a Plan whose benefits are determined before those of the other Plan and without considering the other Plan's benefit. A *Secondary Plan* is a Plan whose benefits are determined after those of a Primary Plan and may be reduced because of the other Plan's benefits.

When there are more than two Plans covering the Participant, This Plan may be a Primary Plan as to one or more other Plans, and may be a Secondary Plan as to a different Plan or Plans.

4. **Allowable Expense** means a necessary, reasonable, and customary item of expense for health care when the item of expense is covered at least in part by This Plan.
5. **We or Us** means Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Texas.

### ***Order of Benefit Determination Rules***

#### **1. General Information**

- a. When there is a basis for a claim under This Plan and another Plan, This Plan is a Secondary Plan which has its benefits determined after those of the other Plan, unless (a) the other Plan has rules that take into consideration the benefits of other plans when determining its benefits, and (b) both those rules and This Plan's rules require that This Plan's benefits be determined before those of the other Plan.
- b. If this Benefit Booklet contains any dental or vision benefits, the benefits provided by the health portion of This Plan will be the Secondary Plan.

#### **2. Rules**

This Plan determines its order of benefits using the first of the following rules which applies:

- a. ***Non-Dependent/Dependent.*** The benefits of the Plan which covers the Participant as an Employee, member or subscriber are determined before those of the Plan which covers the Participant as a Dependent. However, if the Participant is also a Medicare beneficiary, and as a result of the rule established by Title XVIII of the Social Security Act and implementing regulations, Medicare is:
  - (1) secondary to the Plan covering the Participant as a Dependent and
  - (2) primary to the Plan covering the Participant as other than a Dependent (e.g., a retired Employee), then the benefits of the Plan covering the Participant as a Dependent are determined before those of the Plan covering that Participant other than a Dependent.
- b. ***Dependent Child/Parents Not Separated or Divorced.*** Except as stated in Paragraph c below, when This Plan and another Plan cover the same child as a Dependent of different parents:
  - (1) The benefits of the Plan of the parent whose birthday falls earlier in a Calendar Year are determined before those of the Plan of the parent whose birthday falls later in that Calendar Year; but
  - (2) If both parents have the same birthday, the benefits of the Plan which covered one parent longer are determined before those of the Plan which covered the other parent for a shorter period of time.

However, if the other Plan does not have the rule described in this Paragraph b, but instead has a rule based on gender of the parent, and if, as a result, the Plans do not agree on the order of benefits, the rule in the other Plan will determine the order of benefits.

- c. ***Dependent Child/Parents Separated or Divorced.*** If two or more Plans cover a Participant as a Dependent child of divorced or separated parents, benefits for the child are determined in this order:
  - (1) First, the Plan of the parent with custody of the child;
  - (2) Then, the Plan of the spouse of the parent with custody, if applicable;
  - (3) Finally, the Plan of the parent not having custody of the child.

However, if the specific terms of a court decree state that one of the parents is responsible for the health care expense of the child, and the entity obligated to pay or provide the benefits of the Plan of that parent has actual knowledge of those terms, the benefits of that Plan are determined first. The Plan of the other parent shall be the Secondary Plan. This paragraph does not apply with respect to any Calendar Year during which any benefits are actually paid or provided before the entity has that actual knowledge.

- d. **Joint Custody.** If the specific terms of a court decree state that the parents shall share joint custody, without stating that one of the parents is responsible for the health care expenses of the child, the Plans covering the child shall follow the order of benefit determination rules outlined in Paragraph b.
- e. **Active/Inactive Employee.** The benefits of a Plan which covers a Participant as an Employee who is neither laid off nor retired are determined before those of a Plan which covers that Participant as a laid off or retired Employee. The same would hold true if a Participant is a Dependent of a person covered as a retired Employee and an Employee. If the other Plan does not have this rule, and if, as a result, the Plans do not agree on the order of benefits, this Paragraph e does not apply.
- f. **Continuation Coverage.** If a Participant whose coverage is provided under a right of continuation pursuant to federal or state law is also covered under another Plan, the following shall be the order of benefit determination:
  - (1) First, the benefits of a Plan covering the Participant as an Employee, member or subscriber (or as that Participant's Dependent);
  - (2) Second, the benefits under the continuation coverage.If the other Plan does not have this rule, and if, as a result, the Plans do not agree on the order of benefits this Paragraph f does not apply.
- g. **Longer/Shorter Length of Coverage.** If none of the above rules determine the order of benefits, the benefits of the Plan which covered an Employee, member or subscriber longer are determined before those of the Plan which covered that Participant for the shorter period of time.

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

#### **1. When This Section Applies**

This section applies when This Plan is the Secondary Plan in accordance with the order of benefits determination outlined above. In that event, the benefits of This Plan may be reduced under this section.

#### **2. Reduction in this Plan's Benefits**

When This Plan is the Secondary Plan, This Plan will first calculate its benefit for Allowable Expenses as if it were the Primary Plan, then, if the benefit payable by the Primary Plan for those expenses (whether or not claim is made):

- a. equals or exceeds the benefit that would have been payable by This Plan if it had been the Primary Plan, no benefit will be paid by This Plan; or
- b. is less than the amount of benefit that would have been payable by This Plan if it had been the Primary Plan, the benefit payable by This Plan will be (i) the amount that would have been payable by This Plan if it had been the Primary Plan, reduced by (ii) the amount payable by the Primary Plan.

**NOTE:** This Maintenance of Benefits provision may result in unreimbursed patient out-of-pocket expenses despite coverage under two or more Plans.

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

We assume no obligation to discover the existence of another Plan, or the benefits available under the other Plan, if discovered. We have the right to decide what information we need to apply these MOB rules. We may get needed information from or release information to any other organization or person without telling, or getting the consent of, any person. Each person claiming benefits under This Plan must give us any information concerning the existence of other Plans, the benefits thereof, and any other information needed to pay the claim.

### ***Facility of Payment***

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

### ***Right to Recovery***

If the amount of the payments We make is more than We should have paid under this MOB provision, We may recover the excess from one or more of:

1. the persons We have paid or for whom We have paid; or
2. insurance companies; or
3. Hospitals, Physicians, or Other Providers; or
4. any other person or organization.

## **Termination of Coverage**

### ***Termination of Individual Coverage***

Coverage under the Plan for you and/or your Dependents will automatically terminate when:

1. Your contribution for coverage under the Plan is not received timely by the Plan Administrator; or
2. You no longer satisfy the definition of an Employee as defined in this Benefit Booklet, including termination of employment; or
3. The Plan is terminated or the Plan is amended, at the direction of the Plan Administrator, to terminate the coverage of the class of Employees to which you belong; or
4. A Dependent ceases to be a Dependent as defined in the Plan.

However, when any of these events occur, you and/or your Dependents may be eligible for continued coverage. See your Summary Plan Description for more information.

The Claim Administrator may refuse to renew the coverage of an eligible Employee or Dependent for fraud or intentional misrepresentation of a material fact by that individual.

Coverage for a child of any age who is medically certified as *Disabled* and dependent on the parent will not terminate upon reaching the limiting age shown in your Schedule of Coverage if the child continues to be both:

1. *Disabled*, and
2. Dependent upon you for more than one-half of their support as defined by the Internal Revenue Code of the United States.

*Disabled* means any medically determinable physical or mental condition that prevents the child from engaging in self-sustaining employment. The child must be covered under the Plan and the disability must begin before the child attains the limiting age. You must submit satisfactory proof of the disability and dependency through your Plan Administrator to the Claim Administrator prior to the child's attainment of the limiting age. As a condition to the continued coverage of a child as a *Disabled* Dependent beyond the limiting age, the Claim Administrator may require periodic certification of the child's physical or mental condition but not more frequently than annually after the two-year period following the child's attainment of the limiting age.

### ***Termination of the Group***

The coverage of all Participants will terminate if the group is terminated in accordance with the terms of the Plan.

## **Value Based Design Programs**

BCBSTX 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 differential in

premiums, a differential in medical, prescription drug or equipment Copayment Amounts, Co-Share Amounts, Deductibles or costs, or a combination of these incentives or disincentives for participation in any such program offered or administered by BCBSTX or an entity chosen by BCBSTX to administer such program. In addition, discount or incentive programs for various health or wellness-related, insurance-related or other items and services may be available from time to time. Such programs may be discontinued without notice.

Individuals in wellness programs who are unable to participate in these incentives or disincentives due to an adverse health factor shall not be penalized based upon an adverse health status and, unless otherwise permitted by law, BCBSTX will allow a reasonable alternative to any individual for whom it is unreasonably difficult, due to a medical condition, to satisfy otherwise applicable wellness program standards.

Contact BCBSTX for additional information regarding any value based programs offered by BCBSTX.

# AMENDMENTS





## **BENEFIT BOOKLET AMENDMENT 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 Health Benefit Plan occurring on or after January 1, 2022.

The terms of this Amendment supersede the terms of the Plan to which this Amendment is attached and becomes a part of the Plan. Unless otherwise required by Federal or Texas law, in the event of a conflict between the terms on this Amendment and the terms of the Plan, the terms on this Amendment apply. For purposes of this Amendment, references to you and your mean any member, including Participant and Dependents.

The Plan is hereby amended as indicated below:

The revisions to your Plan made by this Amendment are based upon new federal requirements contained in the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021. This includes requirements outlined in the No Surprises Act, a federal law enacted in 2020. These new requirements may impact your benefits.

### **I. Protections from Unexpected Costs for Medical Services from Providers who do not participate in your Network.**

Your policy contains provisions related to protection from surprise balance billing under Texas law. The federal laws provide additional financial protections for you when you receive some types of care from Providers who do not participate in your Network. If you receive the types of care listed below, your In-Network cost-sharing levels will apply to any In-Network Deductible and Out-of-Pocket Maximums. Additionally, for services below that are governed by federal law (instead of state law), your cost-share amount may be calculated on an amount that generally represents the median payment rate that BCBSTX has negotiated with contracting Providers for similar services in the area.

- Emergency care from facilities or Providers who do not participate in your network; and
- Care furnished by non-contracting Providers during your visit to a Network facility; and
- Air ambulance services from non-contracting Providers if the services would be covered with a contracting Provider.

Non-contracting Providers may not bill you for more than your Deductible, Co-Share Amounts or Copayment Amounts for these types of services. There are limited instances when a non-contracting Provider of the care listed above may send you a bill for up to the amount of that Provider's billed charges. You are only responsible for payment of the non-contracting Provider's billed charges if, in advance of receiving services, you signed a written notice form that complies with applicable state and/or federal law.

The requirements of federal law that impact your costs for care from non-contracting Providers may not apply in all cases. Sometimes, Texas law provisions relating to balance billing prohibitions may apply. **You may contact BCBSTX at the number of the back of your Identification Card with questions about claims or bills you have received from Providers.**

To the extent state and 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.

# NOTICES



## NOTICE

### Other Blue Cross and Blue Shield Plans Separate Financial Arrangements with Providers

#### Out-of-Area Services

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Texas (BCBSTX) has a variety of relationships with other Blue Cross and/or Blue Shield Licensees referred to generally as “Inter-Plan Programs.” Whenever you obtain healthcare services outside of BCBSTX service area, the claims for these services may be processed through one of these Inter-Plan Programs, which includes the BlueCard Program, and may include negotiated National Account arrangements available between BCBSTX and other Blue Cross and Blue Shield Licensees.

Typically, when accessing care outside our service area, you will obtain care from healthcare Providers that have a contractual agreement (i.e., are “participating Providers”) with the local Blue Cross and/or Blue Shield Licensee in that other geographic area (“Host Blue”). In some instances, you may obtain care from non-participating healthcare Providers. Our payment practices in both instances are described below.

#### A. BlueCard® Program

Under the BlueCard® Program, when you access covered healthcare services within the geographic area served by a Host Blue, we will remain responsible for fulfilling our contractual obligations. However, the Host Blue is responsible for contracting with and generally handling all interactions with its participating healthcare 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 Participant will be held harmless for the Provider sanction.

Whenever you access covered healthcare services outside BCBSTX’s service area and the claim is processed through the BlueCard Program, the amount you pay for covered healthcare services is calculated based on the lower of:

- The billed covered charges for your covered services; or
- The negotiated price that the Host Blue makes available to us.

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, going forward, also take into account adjustments to correct for over- or underestimation of modifications of past pricing for the types of transaction modifications noted above. However, such adjustments will not affect the price we use for your claim because they will not be applied retroactively to claims already paid.

Federal law or the laws in a small number of states may require the Host Blue to add a surcharge to your calculation. If federal law or any state laws mandate other liability calculation methods, including a surcharge, we would then calculate your liability for any covered healthcare services according to applicable law.

#### B. Negotiated (non-BlueCard Program) National Account Arrangements

As an alternative to the BlueCard Program, your claims for covered healthcare services may be processed through a negotiated National Account arrangement with a Host Blue.

The amount you pay for covered healthcare services under this arrangement will be calculated based on the lower of either billed covered charges or negotiated price (Refer to the description of negotiated price under Section A., BlueCard Program) made available to us by the Host Blue.

## NOTICE

### C. Non-Participating Healthcare Providers Outside BCBSTX Service Area

#### 1. In General

When Covered Services are provided outside of the Plan's service area by non-participating healthcare Providers, the amount(s) you pay for such services will be calculated using the methodology described in the Benefit Booklet for non-participating healthcare Providers located inside our service area. You may be responsible for the difference between the amount that the non-participating healthcare Provider bills and the payment the Plan will make for the Covered Services as set forth in this paragraph. Federal or state law, as applicable, will govern payments for Non-network emergency services.

#### 2. Exceptions

In some exception cases, the Plan may, but is not required to, in its sole and absolute discretion negotiate a payment with such non-participating healthcare Provider on an exception basis. If a negotiated payment is not available, then the Plan may make a payment based on the lesser of:

- a. the amount calculated using the methodology described in the Benefit Booklet for non-participating healthcare Providers located inside your service area (and described in Section C(a)(1) above); or
- b. The following:
  1. for professional Providers, an amount equal to the greater of the minimum amount required in the methodology described in the Benefit Booklet for non-participating healthcare Providers located inside your service area; or an amount based on publicly available Provider reimbursement data for the same or similar professional services, adjusted for geographical differences where applicable, or
  2. for Hospital or facility Providers, an amount equal to the greater of the minimum amount required in the methodology described in the Benefit Booklet for non-participating healthcare Providers located inside your service area; or an amount based on publicly available data reflecting the approximate costs that Hospitals or facilities have 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 healthcare Provider bills and the payment Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Texas will make for the Covered Services as set forth in this paragraph.

### D. 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 bear any portion of the Provider Incentives, risk-sharing, and/or Care Coordinator Fees of such arrangement, except when a Host Blue passes these fees to Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Texas through average pricing or fee schedule incentive adjustments.

Under the Agreement, Employer has with Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Texas, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Texas and Employer will not impose cost sharing for Care Coordinator Fees.

### E. Blue Cross Blue Shield Global Core Program

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 the Blue Cross Blue Shield Global Core Program when accessing Covered Services. The Blue Cross Blue Shield Global Core Program is unlike the BlueCard Program available in the BlueCard service area in certain ways. For instance, although the Blue Cross Blue Shield Global Core Program 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,

## NOTICE

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, Co-Share Amounts, 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 Plan 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 Plan, the service center or online at [www.bcbsglobalcore.com](http://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.



## **NOTICE**

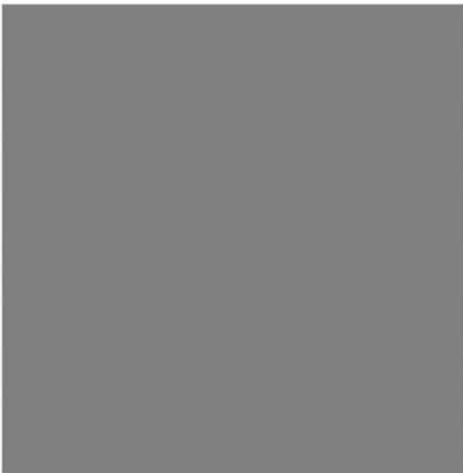
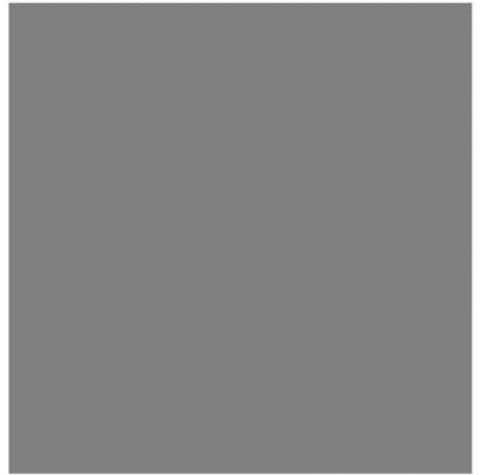
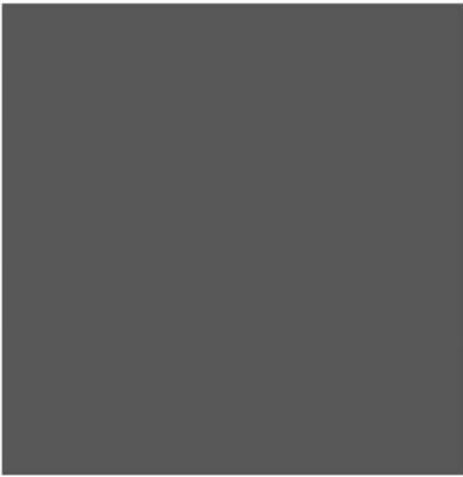
ALTHOUGH HEALTH CARE SERVICES MAY BE OR HAVE BEEN PROVIDED TO YOU AT A HEALTH CARE FACILITY THAT IS A MEMBER OF THE PROVIDER NETWORK USED BY YOUR HEALTH BENEFIT PLAN, OTHER PROFESSIONAL SERVICES MAY BE OR HAVE BEEN PROVIDED AT OR THROUGH THE FACILITY BY PHYSICIANS AND OTHER HEALTH CARE PRACTITIONERS WHO ARE NOT MEMBERS OF THAT NETWORK. YOU MAY BE RESPONSIBLE FOR PAYMENT OF ALL OR PART OF THE FEES FOR THOSE PROFESSIONAL SERVICES THAT ARE NOT PAID OR COVERED BY YOUR HEALTH BENEFIT PLAN.

## NOTICE

This group health plan believes this plan is a “grandfathered health plan” under the Affordable Care Act. As permitted by the Affordable Care Act, a grandfathered health plan can preserve certain basic health coverage that was already in effect when that law was enacted. Being a grandfathered health plan means that your plan may not include certain consumer protections of the Affordable Care Act that apply to other plans, for example, the requirement for the provision of preventive health services without any cost sharing. However, grandfathered health plans must comply with certain other consumer protections in the Affordable Care Act, for example, the elimination of lifetime limits on benefits.

Questions regarding which protections apply and which protections do not apply to a grandfathered health plan and what might cause a plan to change from grandfathered health plan status can be directed to your Employer or the Plan Administrator.

If your group health plan is subject to the Employee Retirement Income Security Act (ERISA), you may also contact the Employee Benefits Security Administration, U.S. Department of Labor at 1-866-444-3272 or [www.dol.gov/ebsa/healthreform](http://www.dol.gov/ebsa/healthreform). This website has a table summarizing which protections do and do not apply to grandfathered health plans. For nonfederal governmental plans, inquiries may be directed to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services at [www.healthreform.gov](http://www.healthreform.gov).



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