

# ***Group Name Not Found a PPO Product, on the Preferred-Care Blue Network***

---

*Offered by Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas City*

**Health Benefits Certificate for:**  
**Group Name Not Found**

**Group No: SAMPLE**  
**PBK00000 PBK10000**

**Contract Effective Date: January 1, 2023**

The Certificate describes the Benefits for Health Care Services covered by Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas City and the extent to which Benefits may be limited.



## **Kansas City**

An Independent Licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association

2301 Main . P.O. Box 419169 . Kansas City, MO 64141-6169

## Discrimination is Against the Law

Blue KC complies with applicable Federal civil rights laws and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, or sex. Blue KC does not exclude people or treat them differently because of race, color, national origin, age, disability, or sex.

Blue KC:

- Provides free aids and services to people with disabilities to communicate effectively with us, such as:
  - Qualified sign language interpreters
  - Written information in other formats (large print, audio, accessible electronic formats, other formats)
- Provides free language services to people whose primary language is not English, such as:
  - Qualified interpreters
  - Information written in other languages

If you need these services, contact Customer Service, 844-395-7126 (Toll free), [languagehelp@bluekc.com](mailto:languagehelp@bluekc.com).

If you believe that Blue KC has failed to provide these services or discriminated in another way on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, or sex, you can file a grievance with: the Appeals Department, PO Box 419169, Kansas City, MO 64141-6169, 816-395-3537, TTY: 816-842-5607, [APPEALS@bluekc.com](mailto:APPEALS@bluekc.com). You can file a grievance in person or by mail, or email. If you need help filing a grievance, Denise Soliz, Appeals Supervisor is available to help you. You can also file a civil rights complaint with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office for Civil Rights electronically through the Office for Civil Rights Complaint Portal, available at <https://ocrportal.hhs.gov/ocr/portal/lobby.jsf>, or by mail or phone at:

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
200 Independence Avenue, SW  
Room 509F, HHH Building  
Washington, D.C. 20201  
1-800-368-1019, 800-537-7697 (TDD)

Complaint forms are available at <http://www.hhs.gov/ocr/office/file/index.html>.

If you, or someone you're helping, has questions about Blue KC, you have the right to get help and information in your language at no cost. To talk to an interpreter, call 1-844-395-7126.

Spanish: Si usted, o alguien a quien usted está ayudando, tiene preguntas acerca de Blue KC, tiene derecho a obtener ayuda e información en su idioma sin costo alguno. Para hablar con un intérprete, llame al 1-888-989-8842

Chinese: 如果您, 或是您正在協助的對象, 有關於 Blue KC 方面的問題, 您有權利免費以您的母語得到幫助和訊息。洽詢一位翻譯員, 請撥電話 1-844-395-7126。

Vietnamese: Nếu quý vị, hay người mà quý vị đang giúp đỡ, có câu hỏi về Blue KC, quý vị sẽ có quyền được giúp và có thêm thông tin bằng ngôn ngữ của mình miễn phí. Để nói chuyện với một thông dịch viên, xin gọi 1-844-395-7126

German: Falls Sie oder jemand, dem Sie helfen, Fragen zum Blue KC haben, haben Sie das Recht, kostenlose Hilfe und Informationen in Ihrer Sprache zu erhalten. Um mit einem Dolmetscher zu sprechen, rufen Sie bitte die Nummer 1-844-395-7126 an.

Korean: 만약 귀하 또는 귀하가 돕고 있는 어떤 사람이 [Blue KC]에 관해서 질문이 있다면 귀하는 그러한 도움과 정보를 귀하의 언어로 비용 부담없이 얻을 수 있는 권리가 있습니다. 그렇게 통역사와 얘기하기 위해서는 1-844-395-7126 로 전화하십시오.

Serbo-Croatian: Ukoliko Vi ili neko kome Vi pomažete ima pitanje o Blue KC, imate pravo da besplatno dobijete pomoć i informacije na Vašem jeziku. Da biste razgovarali sa prevodiocem, nazovite 1-844-395-7126.

Arabic:

إن كان لديك أو لدى شخص تساعد أسئلة بخصوص Blue KC ، ف لديك الحق في الحصول على المساعدة والمعلومات الضرورية بلغتك من دون أية تكلفة. للتحدث مع مترجم اتصل بـ 1-844-395-7126.

Russian: Если у вас или лица, которому вы помогаете, имеются вопросы по поводу Blue KC, то вы имеете право на бесплатное получение помощи и информации на вашем языке. Для разговора с переводчиком позвоните по телефону 1-844-395-7126.

French: Si vous, ou quelqu'un que vous êtes en train d'aider, a des questions à propos de Blue KC, vous avez le droit d'obtenir de l'aide et l'information dans votre langue à aucun coût. Pour parler à un interprète, appelez 1-844-395-7126.

Tagalog: Kung ikaw, o ang iyong tinutulungan, ay may mga katanungan tungkol sa Blue KC, may karapatan ka na makakuha ng tulong at impormasyon sa iyong wika ng walang gastos. Upang makausap ang isang tagasalin, tumawag sa 1-844-395-7126.

Laotian: ຖ້າ ທ່ານ, ຫຼື ຄົນ ທ່ານ ກໍ່ ລ້ຽງ ອົງ ອ, ມີ ຄຳ ຖາມ ກ່ຽວ ກັບ Blue KC, ທ່ານ ມີ ສິດ ທີ່ ທ່ານ ຈະ ໄດ້ ຮັບ ການ ຊ່ວຍ ອຸດ ຈະ ຂໍ ມູນ ຂໍ ຈາກ ສາ ນ ທີ່ ບໍ່ ມີ ພາ ສາ ຂອງ ທ່ານ ບໍ່ ມີ ຄ່າ ຈ້າ ຈ້າ ຈ. ການ ໂອ້ ລົມ ກັບ ນາຍ ພາ ສາ, ໃຫ້ ໂທ ຫາ 1-844-395-7126.

Pennsylvanian Dutch: Wann du hoscht en Froog, odder ebber, wu du helfscht, hot en Froog baut Blue KC, hoscht du es Recht fer Hilf un Information in deinre eegne Schprooch griege, un die Hilf koschtet nix. Wann du mit me Interpreter schwetze witt, kannscht du 1-844-395-7126 uffrufe.

Persian:

اگر شما، یا کسی که شما به او کمک میکنید، سوال در مورد Blue KC، داشته باشید حق این را دارید که کمک اطلاعات به زبان خود را به طور رایگان دریافت نمایید. تماس حاصل نمایید 1-844-395-7126.

Cushite: Isin yookan namni biraa isin deeggartan Blue KC irratti gaaffii yo qabaattan, kaffaltii irraa bilisa haala ta'een afaan keessaniin odeeffannoo argachuu fi deeggarsa argachuuf mirga ni qabdu. Nama isiniif ibsu argachuuf, lakkoofsa bilbilaa 1-844-395-7126 tiin bilbilaa.

Portuguese: Se você, ou alguém a quem você está ajudando, tem perguntas sobre o Blue KC, você tem o direito de obter ajuda e informação em seu idioma e sem custos. Para falar com um intérprete, ligue para 1-844-395-7126

For TTY services, please call 1-816-842-5607



## TABLE OF CONTENTS

### *Page*

SECTION A. DEFINITIONS.....	5
SECTION B. ELIGIBILITY, ENROLLMENT AND EFFECTIVE DATE.....	20
SECTION C. COVERED SERVICES .....	28
SECTION D. EXCLUSIONS AND LIMITATIONS .....	60
SECTION E. HOW TO FILE A CLAIM.....	66
SECTION F. COORDINATION OF BENEFITS (COB).....	69
SECTION G. PREMIUM PAYMENT, GRACE PERIOD AND CHANGES .....	75
SECTION H. TERMINATION AND EXTENSION OF COVERAGE.....	77
SECTION I. CONTINUATION AND CONVERSION .....	79
SECTION J. GENERAL INFORMATION .....	89
SECTION K. UTILIZATION REVIEW.....	97
SECTION L. COMPLAINT AND GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES.....	100

**Amendments/Riders, if any, are located in the back of this Contract.**

## SECTION A. DEFINITIONS

---

This section explains the meaning of some of the more important words used in the Contract. Please read this section carefully. It will help You to understand the rest of the Contract. All of these defined words are capitalized when used in the Contract.

**Accidental Injury** Means accidental bodily injury sustained by a Covered Person which is the direct result of an accident, independent of disease or bodily infirmity or any other cause.

**Admission** Begins the first day a Covered Person becomes a registered Hospital bed patient or a Skilled Nursing Facility patient and continues until he is discharged.

**Adverse Determination** Means a determination by Us that a proposed or delivered Health Care Service which would otherwise be covered under the Contract is not or was not Medically Necessary or the health care treatment has been determined to be Experimental/Investigative and:

- a. The requested service is provided in a manner that leaves the Covered Person with a financial obligation to the provider or providers of such service; or
- b. The Adverse Determination is the reason for the Covered Person not receiving the requested services.

**Allowable Charge** Means the dollar amount upon which Benefits will be determined. Any amounts for Covered Services (other than Copayments) a Covered Person is required to pay will be based on this Allowable Charge. Benefit limits, if any, will also be based on this Allowable Charge. The Allowable Charge may vary depending upon whether or not the provider has a contract with Us to participate in the Preferred-Care Blue network and the terms of such contract. Providers are identified as In-Network and Out-of-Network.

**The Covered Person may be responsible for the difference between the amount that the Out-of-Network Provider bills and the payment We will make for the Covered Services as set forth in this paragraph. This practice is called balance billing, and the difference can be significant.**

Unless otherwise specified, the following explains what the Allowable Charge is for different providers:

- a. For Hospitals, other institutional health care facilities, Physicians or suppliers of medical goods and services which are In-Network Providers-

The Allowable Charge is the lesser of:

- (1) The amount the provider has agreed to accept as payment in full as of the date of service; or
  - (2) The provider's billed charges.
- b. For non-Emergency Services provided by Hospitals, other institutional health care facilities, Physicians or suppliers of medical goods and services which are Out-of-Network Providers inside Our Service Area-

The Allowable Charge is the lesser of:

- (1) The amount the provider has agreed to accept as payment in full as of the date of service; or
  - (2) An amount that is based on 100% of the Medicare fee schedule. This percentage will be periodically evaluated and adjusted if deemed appropriate by Blue KC. If the fee schedule does not include a specific code for the service provided, Blue KC will apply the same methodology used to establish an Allowable Charge for an Out-of-Network Participating Provider; or
  - (3) The provider's billed charges.
- c. For Emergency Services provided by Hospitals, other institutional health care facilities, Physicians or suppliers of medical goods and services which are Out-of-Network Providers inside Our Service Area-

The Allowable Charge is the greater of:

- (1) The median amount with in-network providers or
- (2) An amount that is based on 100% of the Medicare fee schedule. This percentage will be periodically evaluated and adjusted if deemed appropriate by Blue KC. If the fee schedule does not include a specific code for the service provided, Blue KC will apply the same methodology used to establish an Allowable Charge for an Out-of-Network Provider.

- d. For Ambulance services provided by Out-of-Network inside Our Service Area –

The Allowable Charge is the lesser of:

- (1) The amount the provider has agreed to accept as payment in full as of the date of service; or
- (2) An amount that is based on 150% of the Medicare fee schedule. This percentage will be periodically evaluated and adjusted if deemed appropriate by Blue KC. If the fee schedule does not include a specific code for the service provided, Blue KC will apply the same methodology used to establish an Allowable Charge for an Out-of-Network Provider; or
- (3) The provider's billed charges.

- e. For Participating pharmacies-

The Allowable Charge is the lesser of:

- (1) The amount the pharmacy has agreed to accept as payment in full as of the date of service; or
- (2) The Usual and Customary Charge

For purposes of this paragraph, Usual and Customary Charge means the amount that the participating pharmacy would have charged You if You were a cash paying customer. Such amount includes all applicable discounts, including, without limitation, senior citizen's discounts, coupon discounts, non-insurance discounts, or other special discounts offered to attract customers.

- f. For Non-Participating pharmacies –

The Allowable Charge is the provider's billed charges

- g. For pediatric vision eyewear provided by In-Network, Out-of-Network, or Non-Participating Providers –

The Allowable Charge is the lesser of:

- (1) The amount the provider has agreed to accept as payment in full as of the date of service; or
- (2) The provider's billed charges; or

(3) \$130 per set of eyeglass frames and any additional lens services/features or \$300 for an annual supply of contact lenses provided in lieu of eyeglasses.

<b>Ambulance</b>	Means a vehicle designed and operated to provide medical services and that is licensed by state and local laws.
<b>Ambulatory Review</b>	Means Utilization Review of Health Care Services performed or provided in an outpatient setting.
<b>Annual Enrollment Period</b>	Means a period of time mutually agreed upon by the Employer and Us during which eligible persons who have not enrolled with Us may do so.
<b>Authorized Representative</b>	Means an individual (including a provider) whom a Covered Person designates, in writing, to act on his or her behalf to file a claim for benefits or to appeal an Adverse Determination.
<b>Benefits</b>	Means the amount of Allowable Charges We pay for Covered Services after the Cost-Sharing requirements have been met.
<b>Benefit Schedule</b>	Means a listing of certain Covered Services specifying Copayments, Coinsurance, Deductibles and visit limitations under the Contract.
<b>Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas City</b>	Means the company legally responsible for providing the Benefits under the Contract. Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas City is referred to as "We," "Us" and "Our."
<b>Total Care Program</b>	Means an outcomes-based payment arrangement and/or coordinated care model facilitated with one or more providers in Our Service Area participating in certain health care delivery programs that is evaluated against cost and quality metrics/factors and is reflected in provider payment, which is specific to the provider and may or may not be directly related to Employer, any Covered Person, or any other group or individual. Inside Our Service Area, BDTC Providers are accredited as a level 2 or level 3 patient-centered medical home by the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA). BDTC Providers are specifically recognized by Us as such in the provider directory.
<b>Calendar Year</b>	Means January 1 through December 31 of the same year.
<b>Calendar Year Maximum</b>	<p>Means a maximum dollar amount, or a maximum number of days, visits or sessions for which Benefits for Covered Services are provided for a Covered Person in any one Calendar Year. Once a Calendar Year Maximum for a specific Covered Service is met, no more Benefits for such Covered Services will be provided during the same Calendar Year.</p> <p>If the Contract replaces any health plan issued by Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas City under which a Covered Person was covered, then this maximum will be reduced by the amount of Benefits a Covered Person received through the previous plan(s) during that Calendar Year.</p>

<b>Case Management</b>	Means a method of review whereby a Covered Person's health, or catastrophic or complex health problem or general health is evaluated and a plan of care is developed and implemented which meets that Covered Person's particular needs and is the most cost-effective.
<b>Certificate</b>	Means this booklet and any amendments and/or riders.
<b>Certification</b>	Means a determination by Us that an Admission, availability of care, continued stay or other Health Care Service has been reviewed and, based on the information provided, satisfies Our requirements for Medical Necessity, appropriateness, health care setting, level of care and effectiveness.
<b>Claim</b>	Means a request for: (1) services that require Prior Authorization made in accordance with the procedures outlined in the Utilization Review Section; (2) payment for Covered Services rendered in accordance with the procedures outlined in the How to File a Claim Section; or (3) an appeal of a benefit determination ("Grievance") made in accordance with the procedures outlined in the Complaint and Grievance Procedures Section.
<b>Coinsurance</b>	Means the percentage of an Allowable Charge that You must pay for a Covered Service.
<b>Complications of Pregnancy</b>	Means non-routine care (medical or surgical) required due to medical complications occurring as a result of or during the pregnancy. This does not include the actual obstetrical procedure itself which is defined as a normal delivery, cesarean section, or elective pregnancy termination.
<b>Concurrent Review</b>	Means Utilization Review conducted during a patient's Hospital stay or course of treatment.
<b>Confinement</b>	Means an uninterrupted stay following formal Admission to a Hospital or Skilled Nursing Facility. It starts with the Admission and ends the day the Covered Person is discharged from the Hospital or Skilled Nursing Facility.
<b>Contract</b>	Means the agreement between the Employer and Us that contains all of the terms of coverage. The Contract includes the Certificate, the Employer application, the Employee application, and any amendments/riders.
<b>Copayment</b>	Means the dollar amount of a charge that a Covered Person must pay for certain Covered Services.

<b>Cost-Sharing</b>	Means the applicable Copayment, Coinsurance, or Deductible that must be paid by the Covered Person for a Covered Service. Cost-Sharing does not include Premiums, amounts incurred for Non-Covered Services, or any amount above the Allowable Charge.
<b>Covered Person</b>	Means the Employee or any of the Employee's Dependents whose coverage is in effect under the Contract.
<b>Covered Services</b>	Means services, supplies, equipment and care specifically listed in the "Covered Services" section of the Contract.
<b>Custodial Care</b>	Means care furnished mainly to train or assist in personal hygiene or other activities of normal daily living such as dressing, feeding, and walking, rather than to provide medical treatment.
<b>Deductible</b>	<p>Means the portion of Allowable Charges for Covered Services You must pay each Calendar Year before We will provide Benefits unless otherwise specified. The application of the Deductible during any Calendar Year will be based upon the date when Covered Services were actually received. Except as specifically provided, each Covered Person must satisfy a Deductible each Calendar Year before Benefits will be paid.</p> <p>Applicable Cost Sharing amounts paid for or reimbursed by pharmaceutical manufacturers, for Specialty prescription Drugs processed under Your Outpatient Prescription Drug Benefit, do not accumulate toward Your Deductible. This includes payments made through any discount programs, coupon programs, or similar arrangements.</p> <p>If the Contract replaces the Employer's previous plan which provided similar coverage, a credit will be applied to the Deductible required by this Certificate, but only for the following conditions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Credit will be available only to those Covered Persons who were covered by the former plan on the day immediately prior to the Effective Date of the Contract when the Effective Date of the Contract is other than January 1; and</li> <li>Credit will be limited to the charges for Covered Services that applied to the Deductible and were received within the 90 day period prior to the Effective Date of the Contract.</li> </ol>
<b>Dependent</b>	Means a person in the Employee's family who meets the Dependent eligibility requirements of the "Eligibility, Enrollment and Effective Date" section of the Contract.
<b>Delegate</b>	Means an entity that We have contracted with to help Us administer Benefits, such as Our pharmacy benefit manager ("PBM"), behavioral health manager (currently New Directions Behavioral Health), or a company performing Utilization Review services for Us

<b>Designated Chronic Care Management Vendor</b>	Means a chronic care management vendor that has contracted with Us to provide chronic care management services to Covered Persons as indicated in the Benefit Schedule.
<b>Designated Telehealth Vendor</b>	Means a telehealth vendor that has contracted with Us to provide telehealth services to Covered Persons as indicated in the Benefit Schedule.
<b>Discharge Planning</b>	Means the formal process for determining, prior to discharge from a facility, the coordination and management of the care that a patient receives following discharge from a facility.
<b>Due Date</b>	Means the first day of each month when Premiums are due and payable.
<b>Effective Date</b>	Means the date coverage begins for a Covered Person under the Contract.
<b>Emergency Medical Condition</b>	<p>Means a medical condition manifesting itself by an unexpected onset of symptoms of sufficient severity (including severe pain) so that a prudent layperson, who possesses an average knowledge of health and medicine, could reasonably expect the absence of immediate medical attention to result in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Serious impairment to a bodily function;</li> <li>b. Serious dysfunction of any bodily organ or part; or</li> <li>c. Placing the health of the individual (or, with respect to a pregnant woman, the health of the woman or her unborn child) in serious jeopardy.</li> </ul>
<b>Emergency Services</b>	Means Ambulance services and health care items and services furnished or required to evaluate and treat an Emergency Medical Condition, as directed or ordered by a Physician.
<b>Employee</b>	Means an eligible Employee of the Employer as provided in the Contract.
<b>Employer</b>	Means the business organization or legal entity to which the Contract is issued.
<b>Experimental/ Investigative Services</b>	<p>We will use the following criteria to determine whether drugs, devices and medical treatment or procedures and Related Services and Supplies are Experimental or Investigative.</p> <p>A drug, device or medical treatment or procedure is Experimental or Investigative if:</p>

- a. The drug or device cannot be lawfully marketed without approval of the United States Food and Drug Administration and approval for marketing has not been given at the time the drug or device is furnished; or
- b. Reliable evidence shows that the drug, device or medical treatment or procedure:
  - (1) Is provided as part of a Phase I or Phase II clinical trial, as the experimental or research arm of a Phase III clinical trial, or in any other manner that is intended to evaluate the maximum tolerated dose, safety, toxicity, or efficacy as its objective;
  - (2) Is provided pursuant to a written protocol or other document that lists an evaluation of its safety, toxicity, or efficacy as its objective; or
  - (3) Is Experimental/Investigative per the informed consent document utilized with the drug, device or medical treatment.
- c. The national Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association's uniform medical policy (as amended from time to time) has determined the device or medical treatment or procedure ("technology") is investigational based on the following criteria:
  - (1) Final approval from the appropriate governmental regulatory bodies has not been received; or
  - (2) Scientific evidence does not permit conclusions concerning the effect of the technology on health outcomes; or
  - (3) The technology does not improve the net health outcome; or
  - (4) The technology is not as beneficial as established alternatives; or
  - (5) The improvement is not attainable outside the investigational settings; or
- d. To the extent paragraphs a., b., and c. above do not apply, the drug, device, medical treatment, or procedure and Related Services and Supplies will still be considered Experimental or Investigative if:
  - (1) We, utilizing additional authoritative sources of information and expertise, have determined that the technology does not meet the criteria listed in paragraph c. 1-5 above; or

- (2) There is not sufficient evidence based peer reviewed studies published in medical literature to establish the safety and efficacy of the technology.

"Related Services and Supplies" for the purposes of this definition shall mean any service or supply that We determine is primarily related to the application or usage of a drug, device, medical treatment or procedure that is Experimental or Investigative.

**Health Care Service**

Means a service for the diagnosis, prevention, treatment, cure or relief of a health condition, illness, injury or disease.

**Home Health Agency**

Means an organization or entity that is licensed to provide Health Care Services in the home.

**Hospice**

Means an organization or entity that furnishes medical services and supplies only to patients who are considered to be Terminally Ill.

**Hospital**

Means a facility that:

- a. Operates pursuant to law;
- b. Provides 24-hour nursing services by Registered Nurses on duty or call; and
- c. Provides Health Care Services on an inpatient basis for the care and treatment of injured or sick individuals through medical, diagnostic and surgical facilities by or under the supervision of a Physician or a staff of Physicians.

Hospitals are classified as follows:

- a. In-Network Provider Hospital. See definition of In-Network Provider.
- b. Out-of-Network Provider Hospital. An Out-of-Network Hospital may or may not be a Participating Provider. See definition of Out-of-Network Provider.
- c. Participating Provider Hospital means a Hospital that contracts with Us or any Blue Cross and/or Blue Shield Plan to provide the Hospital services described in the Contract and accepts the Allowable Charge as full payment for Covered Services except for Copayments, Coinsurance and Deductibles, if any. A Participating Provider Hospital may or may not be an In-Network Provider Hospital.
- d. Non-Participating Provider Hospital means a Hospital that does not have a Participating Provider Hospital contract with Us.

Hospital does not include residential or nonresidential treatment facilities; health resorts; nursing homes; Christian Science sanatoria; institutions for exceptional children; Skilled Nursing Facilities; places that are primarily for the care of convalescents; clinics; Physicians' offices; private homes; ambulatory surgical centers; or Hospices.

We have the right to determine whether a facility is a Hospital.

**Immediate Family Member**

Means a parent, spouse, child, or sibling and such person's spouse.

**Initial Enrollment Period**

Means the period of time during which a person is first eligible to enroll under the Contract. It starts on the date of the person's initial date of eligibility and ends 31 days later.

**In-Network Provider**

Means a Hospital, Physician, Total Care Program or other provider of medical services and supplies participating under a contract with Us through a Preferred Provider Organization (PPO) as named in the provider directory.

Such In-Network Provider will bill Us directly for Covered Services You receive. However, You are responsible for amounts incurred for Non-Covered Services, amounts in excess of any Benefit limits of the Contract, and any applicable Cost-Sharing.

**Late Enrollee**

Means a person who requests Coverage under the Contract following his Initial Enrollment Period and who does not qualify to enroll under a Special Enrollment Period, unless either of the following apply:

- a. The Employer offers multiple health benefit plans and the person elects a different health benefit plan during an Annual Enrollment Period; or
- b. A court ordered coverage to be provided for a minor child.

**Medically Necessary (Medical Necessity)**

Means services and supplies which We, utilizing additional authoritative sources of information and expertise, determine are essential to the health of a Covered Person and are:

- a. Appropriate and necessary for the symptoms, diagnosis and treatment of a medical or surgical condition;
- b. In accordance with Our local medical policies and the medical policies of Our Delegates;
- c. Not primarily for the convenience of the Covered Person, nor the Covered Person's family, Physician or another provider;
- d. Consistent with the attainment of reasonably achievable outcomes; and

- e. Reasonably calculated to result in the improvement of the Covered Person's physiological and psychological functioning.
- f. If more than one service or supply would meet the requirements a through e above, furnished in the most cost-effective manner which may be provided safely and effectively to the Covered Person.

Our determinations regarding Medical Necessity, just like any other determination, may be appealed pursuant to the grievance procedure.

<b>Medicare</b>	Means Part A or Part B of the insurance program established by Title XVIII, of the United States Social Security Act, as amended.
<b>Mental Illness and Substance Abuse</b>	Means any disorder as such terms are defined in the American Psychiatric Association Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM-IV, 1994)
<b>Minimum Essential Coverage</b>	Means one of the following: (1) medical coverage under a specified government sponsored program (e.g. Medicare, Medicaid, CHIP, etc.); (2) medical coverage under an eligible employer-sponsored plan; (3) medical coverage under a health plan offered in the individual market within a State (excluding short-term limited duration policies); (4) coverage under a grandfathered health plan; or (5) other medical coverage that the Secretary of Health and Human Services, in coordination with the Secretary of the Treasury Department, recognizes for purposes of section 5000A(f).
<b>Non-Participating Provider</b>	Means a provider who does not meet the definition of a Participating Provider.
<b>Organ Transplant</b>	Means surgically removing an organ or tissue from one person (donor) and placing it in another person (recipient) or returning the organ or tissue from the donor to the donor (same person), an autologous organ transplant.
<b>Out-of-Network Provider</b>	Means a Hospital, Physician or other provider of medical services and supplies that does not have a contract to provide services at negotiated rates for Your coverage under an In-Network Provider contract with Us.
<b>Out-of-Pocket Maximum</b>	Means the total amount of Cost-Sharing a Covered Person must pay each Calendar Year before amounts incurred for Covered Services will be paid in full. The Out-of-Pocket Maximum does not include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Any amount that is above the Allowable Charge;</li> <li>b. Any amount that exceeds a specific maximum for Benefits;</li> <li>c. Any amount for Covered Services incurred in a Non-Participating</li> </ul>

outpatient facility or a Non-Participating Provider Hospital in Our Service Area, except for Emergency Services;

- d. Any amount for Covered Services incurred at a non-Designated Transplant Provider for an Organ Transplant.

Amounts You pay for non-Covered Services and for services that are denied by Us as not Medically Necessary will not apply to the Out-of-Pocket Maximum.

Applicable Cost-sharing amounts paid for or reimbursed by pharmaceutical manufacturers, for Specialty Prescription Drugs processed under Your Outpatient Prescription Drug Benefit, do not accumulate toward Your Deductible or Out-of-Pocket Maximum. This includes payments made through any discount programs, coupon programs, or similar arrangements.

**Participating Provider**

Means a Hospital, health care facility, Physician, Total Care Program or other provider of medical care or supplies, which has entered into a contract that defines the method We will use to determine the Allowable Charges for Covered Services. Participating Providers have agreed to accept Our Allowable Charge as payment in full for Covered Services. However, You are responsible for amounts incurred for Non-Covered Services, amounts in excess of any Benefit limits of the Contract, and any applicable Cost-Sharing.

**Physician**

Means anyone qualified and licensed to practice medicine and surgery by the state in which services are rendered who has the degree of Doctor of Medicine or Doctor of Osteopathy. Physician also means Doctors of Dentistry and Podiatry as well as Optometrists, Chiropractors and Psychologists when they are acting within the scope of their license.

By use of this term and when We are required by law, We recognize and accept, to the extent of Our obligations under the Contract, other practitioners of medical care and treatment when the services performed are within the lawful scope of the practitioner's license and are provided pursuant to applicable laws.

**Physician Extender**

Means a Nurse Practitioner, Physician Assistant, Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist, or Mid-wife.

Services received from a Physician Extender will be subject to the Cost-Sharing applicable to the place of service where the service was rendered (e.g. services provided in a Specialist's office will be subject to the Cost-Sharing for a Specialist).

**Post-Service Claim**

Means a request for payment for Health Care Services rendered.

**Pre-Service Claim**

Means a request for Health Care Services that require Prior Authorization.

<b>Premiums</b>	Means the amount paid on a periodic basis for Your coverage under the Contract.
<b>Primary Care Physician (PCP)</b>	Means an internist, family practitioner, general practitioner or pediatrician. This includes an internist, family practitioner, general practitioner, or pediatrician designated as a Total Care Program.
<b>Prior Authorization or Prior Authorized</b>	Means the procedure whereby We determine: (a) based on medically recognized criteria, whether or not an Admission to a Hospital as an inpatient is reasonable for the type of services to be received; or, (b) whether any service to be performed is reasonable and Medically Necessary for the condition being treated and the type of services to be provided.
<b>Prospective Review</b>	Means Utilization Review conducted prior to an Admission or a course of treatment.
<b>Reinstatement</b>	Means restoring a Contract that has been terminated (for example, because of nonpayment of Premiums).
<b>Rescission</b>	Means a retroactive cancellation or discontinuance of coverage under a health benefit plan, unless the cancellation or discontinuance of coverage is effective retroactively to the extent it is attributable to a failure to timely pay required premiums or contributions towards the cost of coverage or the date of termination of employment due to a delay in administrative record-keeping. A Rescission qualifies as an Adverse Determination.
<b>Retrospective Review</b>	Means Utilization Review of Medical Necessity that is conducted after services have been provided to a patient, but does not include the review of a claim that is limited to an evaluation of reimbursement levels, veracity of documentation, accuracy of coding or adjudication for payment.
<b>Second Opinion</b>	Means an opportunity or requirement to obtain a clinical evaluation by a provider other than the one originally making a recommendation for a proposed health service to assess the clinical necessity and appropriateness of the initial proposed Health Care Services.
<b>Service Area</b>	(Sometimes referred to as “Our Service Area”) means the geographic area served by Us. Contact Us to determine the geographic area We serve. Our Service Area includes the following counties in Kansas: Johnson and Wyandotte. Our Service Area includes the following counties in Missouri: Clay, Jackson, Platte, Andrew, Atchison, Bates, Benton, Buchanan, Caldwell, Carroll, Cass, Clinton, Daviess, DeKalb, Gentry, Grundy, Harrison, Henry, Holt, Johnson, Lafayette, Livingston, Mercer, Nodaway, Pettis, Ray, Saint Clair, Saline, Vernon, and Worth.

<b>Skilled Nursing Facility</b>	<p>Means a facility that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Operates pursuant to law;</li> <li>b. Provides 24-hour nursing services by Registered Nurses on duty or on call; and</li> <li>c. Provides convalescent and long-term illness care with continuous nursing and other Health Care Services by, or under the supervision of, a staff of one or more Physicians and registered nurses.</li> </ul> <p>The Skilled Nursing Facility may be operated either independently or as part of an accredited general Hospital.</p> <p>Skilled Nursing Facility also means an extended care facility, convalescent care facility, intermediate care facility or long-term illness facility.</p> <p>Skilled Nursing Facilities are classified as follows:</p> <p>Participating Provider Skilled Nursing Facility means a Skilled Nursing Facility that contracts with Us or any Blue Cross and/or Blue Shield Plan to provide the Skilled Nursing Facility Covered Services, if any, described in the Contract and accepts the Allowable Charge as full payment for Covered Services.</p> <p>Non-Participating Provider Skilled Nursing Facility means a Skilled Nursing Facility which does not have a contract with Us or any Blue Cross and/or Blue Shield Plan.</p>
<b>Special Enrollment Period</b>	<p>Means a period of time during which a new Dependent may enroll in coverage. It also means a period of time during which an individual who did not enroll in coverage during the individual's Initial Enrollment Period may be eligible to enroll for coverage.</p>
<b>Specialist</b>	<p>Means Doctors of Medicine (M.D.), Doctors of Osteopathy (D.O.), except Primary Care Physicians, and other medical practitioners when the services performed are within the lawful scope of the practitioner's license, including, but not limited to, optometrists, chiropractors and psychologists.</p>
<b>Stabilize</b>	<p>Means with respect to an Emergency Medical Condition, that no material deterioration of the condition is likely to result or occur before an individual may be transferred.</p>
<b>Terminally Ill</b>	<p>Refers to a Covered Person that a Physician has certified has 6 months or less to live.</p>
<b>Utilization Review</b>	<p>Means a set of formal techniques designed to monitor the use of, or evaluate the clinical necessity, appropriateness, efficacy, or efficiency of,</p>

Health Care Services, procedures, or settings. Techniques may include Ambulatory Review, Prospective Review, Second Opinion, Certification, Concurrent Review, Case Management, Discharge Planning or Retrospective Review. Utilization Review shall not include elective requests for clarification of coverage.

**Waiting Period**

Means the length of time an Employee must continuously work for the Employer before he is eligible to enroll for coverage under the Contract. No Waiting Period shall be greater than 90 calendar days

**We, Us, Our**

Means Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas City, the company legally responsible for providing the Benefits for Covered Services under the Contract, either acting on its own or through one of its Delegates, such as its pharmacy benefit manager (“PBM”), behavioral health manager (currently New Directions Behavioral Health), or a company performing Utilization Review services for Us.

**You, Your**

Refers to the Covered Person.

## SECTION B. ELIGIBILITY, ENROLLMENT AND EFFECTIVE DATE

---

- 1. Employee Eligibility** To be eligible to enroll as an Employee, a person must be:
- a. In an eligible class of Employees listed in the Contract and satisfy any Waiting Periods required by the Employer; and
  - b. A legal alien residing in the United States or a United States citizen.
- 

- 2. Dependent Eligibility** To be eligible to enroll as a Dependent, a person must be:
- a. The Employee's legal spouse;
  - b. The Employee's or Employee's legal spouse's child. Such child includes:
    - 1) a child by birth;
    - 2) an adopted child;
    - 3) a child under the age of 18 who has been placed with the Employee for the purpose of adoption for whom the Employee has a legal obligation to support; or
    - 4) a child under the age of 18 who has been placed under the Employee's legal guardianship.

Coverage for a Dependent child under this section will apply without regard to whether such child (defined above) is: married, a tax dependent of the Employee or Employee's spouse, a student, actively employed, or residing with or receiving financial support from the Employee or Employee's legal spouse.

Coverage will be provided until the end of the Calendar Year in which such child reaches the Dependent limiting age; or

- c. The Employee's or Employee's legal spouse's unmarried Dependent child (defined above) who has reached the limiting age but who cannot support himself because of a physical or mental handicap. The Dependent's handicap must have started before the end of the Calendar Year in which the Dependent reached the limiting age and the Dependent must have been continuously covered by Us or a prior health plan at the time of reaching the limiting age.

We must receive satisfactory proof of the Dependent's handicap within 31 days before the child reaches the Dependent limiting age, or within

31 days after the Dependent is enrolled for coverage under the Contract to continue coverage beyond the Dependent limiting age.

For disabled dependents, if the Social Security Administration (“SSA”) determines that such dependent is totally disabled, then such determination will be accepted as proof for a disabled dependent without further review. For disabled dependents with no SSA determination, or a determination of partial disability, an affidavit is required to be submitted as proof of the disability. The affidavit includes a physician attestation regarding the health of the dependent, as well as criteria regarding the duration of the disability and ability of the dependent to be gainfully employed.

The Employee is responsible for ensuring Dependent information is current. If necessary Dependent information is not in Our files, claims will be rejected for such individuals.

Dependents will not be eligible for coverage unless the Employee is covered under the Contract.

---

### **3. Enrollment**

#### **a. Annual Enrollment Period**

If an Employee has elected coverage under another health plan offered by his Employer, such Employee and his Dependents will not be eligible for coverage under this Contract unless they enroll during the Annual Enrollment Period. During the Employer's designated Annual Enrollment Period, an individual who is eligible for coverage as an Employee or Dependent may apply for coverage by submitting to Us a completed Employee application. A Late Enrollee may enroll for coverage during an Annual Enrollment Period.

#### **b. Initial Enrollment Period for a Newly Eligible Employee**

A person who first becomes eligible as an Employee may enroll by submitting to Us a completed Employee application and any Premium due within 31 days of becoming eligible. If a new Employee and/or his Dependent(s) does not enroll within 31 days of becoming eligible, the Employee and/or his Dependent(s) will be considered a Late Enrollee(s).

#### **c. Special Enrollment Periods**

##### **(1) New Dependents:**

If a new Dependent is acquired by an Employee due to marriage, birth of a child, adoption of a child, or placement for adoption of a child, the new Dependent and/or an Employee who previously declined coverage may enroll during this Special Enrollment Period.

To enroll during this Special Enrollment Period, an Employee must submit to Us a completed Employee application and any additional Premium due within 31 days after the date of marriage, birth, adoption, or placement for adoption. Documentation verifying the event must be provided, if requested.

Notwithstanding the above paragraph, if the Employee previously has elected Dependent coverage and such coverage is in effect on the date of the newborn child's birth, then the Employee's newborn child will be covered automatically for 31 days from the moment of birth. No additional Premium will be assessed for coverage for these 31 days. If additional Premium is due, the Employee must submit to Us a completed Employee application requesting coverage for such newborn to be added within 31 days of the child's birth in order to continue such child's coverage beyond the initial 31 days. Additional Premium may be due upon adding the child after the initial 31 days. Coverage for such newborn will be subject to all of the terms and conditions of the Contract.

If You notify Us by calling the telephone number on Your ID card of the birth either verbally or in writing within 31 days of the date of birth, We must:

- (i) Provide the Employee with forms and instructions; and
- (ii) Allow an additional 10 days from the date on which enrollment forms and instructions were provided for the Employee to complete and return the enrollment materials for the newborn.

If a child placed for adoption is not legally adopted, coverage for such child will end the earlier of the date on which the Employee's legal support obligation for the child ends or 280 days after such child's date of placement.

If the new Dependent does not enroll within 31 days of becoming eligible, then the Dependent will be considered a Late Enrollee.

(2) Loss of Minimum Essential Coverage:

If the Employee and/or his Dependents had Minimum Essential Coverage under another health plan and are no longer eligible for such coverage, the Employee and/or his Dependents may enroll during the Special Enrollment Period provided such loss of coverage was not due to failure to pay premiums for the coverage or Rescission.

Unless otherwise specified, the Employee must submit to Us a completed Employee application and any additional Premium due within 31 days after the loss of such other coverage and provide

appropriate documentation verifying the loss of such other coverage, if requested.

If the Employee and/or Dependent lost Medicaid or CHIP coverage, the Employee must submit to Us a completed Employee application and any additional Premium due within 60 days after the loss of such coverage and provide appropriate documentation verifying the loss of such coverage, if requested.

(3) Eligibility for Government Assistance:

If an Employee and/or his Dependent become eligible for premium assistance under Medicaid or CHIP and the coverage provided under the Contract is not a high deductible health plan as defined under IRS Code §223, the eligible Employee and/or his eligible Dependents may enroll during this Special Enrollment Period, even if coverage was previously declined. To enroll during this Special Enrollment Period, an Employee must submit to Us a completed Employee application and any additional Premium due within 60 days after eligibility is determined and provide appropriate documentation verifying the eligibility, if requested. The Employee and/or his Dependents may enroll in any health benefit plan offered by his Employer subject to any qualified employer coverage requirements under the premium assistance rules for Medicaid or CHIP.

(4) Error in Enrollment

If the Employee and/or his Dependents enroll or fail to enroll due to an error, misrepresentation, or inaction by Us or a governmental entity, the eligible Employee and/or his eligible Dependents may enroll during this Special Enrollment Period. To enroll during this Special Enrollment Period, an Employee must submit to Us a completed Employee application and any additional Premium due within 31 days of becoming aware of the error.

(5) Material Violation of Contract

If an Employee and/or his Dependents adequately demonstrate that We or another entity substantially violated a material provision of the health benefit contract in which he is enrolled, the eligible Employee and/or his eligible Dependents may enroll during this Special Enrollment Period. To enroll during this Special Enrollment Period, an Employee must submit to Us a completed Employee application and any additional Premium due within 31 days of becoming aware of the violation.

(6) Permanent Move

If a Employee and/or his Dependents gain access to coverage as the result of a permanent move, the eligible Employee and/or his eligible Dependents may enroll during this Special Enrollment Period. To enroll during this Special Enrollment Period, a Employee must submit to Us a completed Employee application and any additional Premium due within 31 days after the permanent move.

**d. Guardianship**

A child placed with an Employee for guardianship may enroll by submitting to Us a completed Employee application, a copy of the court order awarding guardianship, and any additional Premium due within 31 days of the effective date of the court order. If the Employee does not enroll the child within 31 days of the date of the court order awarding guardianship, then the child will be considered a Late Enrollee.

**e. Qualified Medical Child Support Order**

If a Qualified Medical Child Support Order is issued, We must receive a completed Employee application and any additional Premium due within 31 days of the date of the court order. If the child is not enrolled within 31 days of the date of the court order, then the child will be considered a Late Enrollee.

**f. Employee Application**

Employees must fully and accurately complete and sign the Employee application. Coverage for all Covered Persons may become null and void from inception if it is determined that You intentionally misrepresented material facts or committed fraud.

---

**4. Effective Date of Coverage**

Coverage is effective at 12:01 a.m. on the following specified dates subject to all of the terms and conditions of the Contract and the payment of applicable Premium, as follows:

**a. Annual Enrollment Period**

If You are eligible for coverage on the Effective Date of the Contract, Your coverage will become effective on that date.

If You enroll during any subsequent Annual Enrollment Period, the Effective Date of coverage is the Contract anniversary date.

**b. Initial Enrollment Period for a Newly Eligible Employee**

The Effective Date of coverage of a person who first becomes eligible as an Employee will be the first day of the month following satisfaction of

the Waiting Period, if any. If an Employee has Dependents on the date the Employee's coverage becomes effective, coverage for those Dependents will begin on the Employee's coverage Effective Date, provided the Employee requested coverage for the Dependents on the Employee application when the Employee enrolled.

### **c. Special Enrollment Period**

(1) New Dependents: If an individual enrolls during a Special Enrollment Period due to acquiring a new Dependent, coverage is effective as follows:

(a) In the case of marriage, no later than the first day of the month following enrollment..

(b) In the case of the birth of a child, the date of such birth

(c) In the case of adoption of a child, the earlier of:

(i) the moment of birth for a newborn child if a petition for adoption was filed within 31 days of the birth of the child;

(ii) the date the petition for adoption was filed; or

(iii) on the child's date of placement. Date of placement means the date You assume the legal obligation for total or partial support of the child to be adopted in connection with formal adoption proceedings.

(2) Loss of Minimum Essential Coverage:

If an individual enrolls under the Special Enrollment Period due to a loss of Minimum Essential Coverage, coverage is effective no later than the first day of the month following enrollment.

(3) Eligibility for Premium Assistance under Medicaid or CHIP

If an individual enrolls under the Special Enrollment Period due to becoming eligible or ineligible for government assistance, coverage is effective on the first day of the month following enrollment if enrollment occurs between the first and fifteenth of the month or the first day of the second month following enrollment if enrollment occurs between the sixteenth and the last day of the month.

(4) Error in Enrollment

If an individual enrolls under the Special Enrollment Period due to an error in enrollment, coverage is effective on the first day of the

month following enrollment if enrollment occurs between the first and fifteenth of the month or the first day of the second month following enrollment if enrollment occurs between the sixteenth and the last day of the month.

**(5) Material Violation of Contract**

If an individual enrolls under the Special Enrollment Period due to a material violation of contract, coverage is effective on the first day of the month following enrollment if enrollment occurs between the first and fifteenth of the month or the first day of the second month following enrollment if enrollment occurs between the sixteenth and the last day of the month.

**(6) Permanent Move**

If an individual enrolls under the Special Enrollment Period due to a permanent move, coverage is effective on the first day of the month following enrollment if enrollment occurs between the first and fifteenth of the month or the first day of the second month following enrollment if enrollment occurs between the sixteenth and the last day of the month.

**d. Late Enrollees**

The Effective Date of coverage for an individual who is a Late Enrollee is the next Contract anniversary date.

**e. Guardianship**

In the case of a child placed for guardianship, the Effective Date of coverage is the date the court order awarding guardianship is legally effective.

**f. Qualified Medical Child Support Order**

Notwithstanding any provision in the Contract to the contrary, children who are the subject of a "Qualified Medical Child Support Order" will be eligible for coverage in accordance with such order, provided the order is "qualified" in accordance with Section 609 of ERISA.

In the event a medical child support order is received, the Employer will:

- (1) Promptly notify the participant and each alternate recipient of such order and the procedures for determining whether an order is a Qualified Medical Child Support Order;

- (2) Within a reasonable period after receipt of such order, determine whether such order is a Qualified Medical Child Support Order and notify the participant and each alternate recipient of such determination; and
- (3) Permit an alternate recipient to designate a representative for receipt of copies of notices that are sent to the alternate recipient with respect to a medical child support order.

Coverage for such child will be provided in accordance with the requirements of the order, applicable federal laws, and all other terms and conditions of the Contract.

**g. Extension of Benefits from Prior Plan**

If You are covered under an extension of benefits under a prior plan, coverage under the Contract will become effective in accordance with the above provisions and coverage under the Contract will be primary. Services or supplies that are covered, or required to be covered, under an extension of benefits provision under the prior plan will be covered under the Contract subject to the Contract's Covered Services section and Coordination of Benefits section.

## SECTION C. COVERED SERVICES

---

This section describes the Benefits for Covered Services available under the Contract. All Covered Services are subject to the conditions, limitations and exclusions of the Contract.

### Covered Services

Covered Services under the Contract are set forth in this section. All Covered Services are subject to Cost-Sharing requirements and the limitations and exclusions of the Contract.

The specified services and supplies will be Covered Services only if they are:

- a. Incurred for a Covered Person while coverage is effective;
- b. Performed, prescribed or ordered by a licensed Provider Physician;
- c. Medically Necessary for the treatment of Your injury or illness, except for specifically listed routine preventive or diagnostic services;
- d. Not excluded under the Contract; and
- e. Received in accordance with the requirements of the Contract.

Covered Services do not include any services or supplies received from a provider in a country where the terms of any sanction, embargo, boycott, Executive Order, or other legislative or regulatory action taken by the Congress, President or an administrative agency of the United States would prohibit payment or reimbursement by Us for such services.

### Benefits

We provide Benefits for Covered Services in excess of the Cost Sharing. All Covered Services are subject to the maximums and other limits and conditions specified in the Contract.

Benefits are different depending on whether Covered Services are received from an In-Network Provider or an Out-of-Network Provider. Benefits for Covered Services will be greater if Covered Services are received from In-Network Providers. **It is Your responsibility to ensure that You use In-Network Providers to receive the maximum Benefits.** Failure to do so will increase Your financial responsibility.

### Deductible

The Deductible is applied each Calendar Year. Except as specifically provided, the Calendar Year Deductible must be satisfied before We will provide Benefits for Covered Services. After a combination of covered family members have satisfied the family Deductible for a Calendar Year, the Deductible will be considered satisfied for all covered family members. No Covered Person is allowed to contribute more than his own individual Deductible to the family Deductible per Calendar Year.

You must satisfy the Deductible requirement for services received from In-Network Providers and a separate Deductible [requirement](#) for services received from Out-of-Network Providers. Amounts You pay towards satisfaction of the Deductible requirement for Emergency Services will apply to Your In-Network Provider Deductible regardless of whether services are received from an In-Network or Out-of-Network Provider.

## **Copayments**

Copayments are a specified amount that You must pay each time You receive a service of a particular type or in a designated setting. Whenever a Copayment applies toward a Covered Service, the Deductible does not apply, except as specified in the Benefit Schedule.

Copayments, if any, are indicated in the Benefit Schedule.

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

After a combination of covered family members have satisfied the family Out-of-Pocket Maximum, the Out-of-Pocket Maximum will be considered satisfied for all covered family members.

You will have an Out-of-Pocket Maximum for services received from In-Network Providers and a separate Out-of-Pocket Maximum for services received from Out-of-Network Providers. Cost-Sharing for services provided by In-Network Providers will apply to Your In-Network Provider Out-of-Pocket Maximum. Cost-Sharing for services provided by Out-of-Network Providers will apply to Your Out-of-Network Provider Out-of-Pocket Maximum. The only exception is for Cost-Sharing for Emergency Services, which will apply to Your In-Network Provider Out-of-Pocket Maximum regardless of whether services are received from an In-Network or Out-of-Network Provider.

Expenses that do not apply toward the Out-of-Pocket Maximum are indicated in the Out-of-Pocket Maximum definition.

## **Prior Authorization**

**Services that must be Prior Authorized by Us will state so in the applicable Covered Service subsection.** The consequences of obtaining such services when they have not been Prior Authorized are as follows:

Services Received from In-Network Providers Inside Our Service Area – If these services are Covered Services and not Prior Authorized, the admitting Physician, provider and/or Hospital will be responsible for the cost associated with such services, regardless of Medical Necessity.

Services Received from Out-of-Network Providers or In-Network Providers Outside Our Service Area – If these services are not Prior Authorized, You will be responsible for the cost associated with such services, regardless of Medical Necessity

In the case of a maternity or an inpatient Admission due to an Emergency Medical Condition, You must notify Us within 24 hours of the Admission or as soon thereafter as reasonably possible.

Benefits will be limited to the length of stay approved by Us. When the approved length of stay must be extended for Medically Necessary reasons, You or Your attending Physician, on Your behalf, must contact Us in advance to obtain Our approval for the additional days. Failure to provide such notice or obtain Prior Authorization or approval for additional days will result in You being responsible for the cost of the service, regardless of Medical Necessity.

**The following information provides a detailed description of Covered Services:**

---

**1. Accident-Related and Other Dental Services**

Accidental Injury	<p>We provide Benefits for dental services only when such services are for treatment of an Accidental Injury. Covered Services are limited to treatment of natural teeth and the purchase, repair or replacement of dental prostheses needed as a direct result of an Accidental Injury (except injury resulting from biting or chewing). Treatment must be completed within 12 months of the date of the Accidental Injury to be considered a Covered Service, unless the medical condition of the Covered Person prevents treatment from being rendered within 12 months of the date of the Accidental Injury.</p> <p>Covered Services also include treatment of jaw fractures or complete dislocations and diagnostic x-rays in connection with these fractures and dislocations.</p>
Tooth Extractions	<p>We provide Benefits for the extraction of teeth and services related to such extractions when performed in conjunction with the treatment of head or neck tumors.</p>
Dental Implants	<p>We provide Benefits for dental implants and bone grafts for the following conditions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>The repair of defects in the jaw due to tumor/cyst removal;</li><li>Severe atrophy in a toothless arch;</li><li>Exposure of nerves;</li><li>Non-union of a jaw fracture;</li><li>Loss of teeth due to an Accidental Injury; and</li><li>Correction of a defect diagnosed within 31 days of birth.</li></ol>

Dental prostheses over an implant are not covered unless the dental implant was due to an Accidental Injury or due to a correction of a defect diagnosed within 31 days of birth.

**Dental implants and bone grafts must be Prior Authorized by Us.**

Orthognathic Surgery	<p>We provide Benefits for Orthognathic surgery for the following conditions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>Correction of a defect diagnosed within 31 days of birth; or</li><li>Correction of a defect due to an Accidental Injury. Treatment for correction of a defect due to an Accidental Injury must be completed within 12 months of the date of the Accidental Injury to be considered a Covered Service, unless the medical condition of the Covered Person prevents treatment from being rendered within 12 months of the date of the Accidental Injury</li></ol>
Temporomandibular Joint Disorder	<p>We provide Benefits for the surgical treatment of temporomandibular joint disorder. We provide Benefits for the medical or dental management of temporomandibular joint disorder only in connection with acute dislocation of the mandible due to accidental bodily injury, fractures, or tumors.</p>
Complications of Dental Treatment	<p>We provide Benefits for inpatient Hospital services required as a result of complications of dental treatment. Covered Services are limited to services that cannot be adequately provided in an outpatient setting.</p>

---

<b>2. Allergy</b>	<p>We provide Benefits for allergy services provided in a Physician's office. Covered Services are limited to office visits and Medically Necessary testing, injections, and allergy antigens.</p>
-------------------	--

---

<b>3. Ambulance Services</b>	<p>We provide Benefits for transportation by a licensed Ambulance service, whether via ground or water Ambulance, when it is Medically Necessary to transport You from the place where an Accidental Injury or other Emergency Medical Condition occurred to the nearest facility where appropriate treatment can be obtained.</p> <p>Covered Services include transportation by an air Ambulance only when it is Medically Necessary to utilize an air Ambulance and will be limited to transportation to the nearest facility where appropriate treatment can be obtained.</p>
------------------------------	--

---

## 4. Anesthesia

### Medical

We provide Benefits for anesthesia materials and their administration if the surgical, orthopedic, diagnostic, or obstetrical service requiring the anesthesia is covered. Covered Services must be provided by a Physician (other than the operating Physician) or Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist (CRNA).

Anesthesia services provided in a facility will be subject to the In-Network Provider Deductible and In-Network Provider Out-of-Pocket Maximum provisions of the Contract and will be paid at the In-Network Provider Coinsurance level.

### Dental

We provide Benefits for general anesthesia materials, their administration, and medical care facility charges for dental care when such services are provided in a Hospital, surgical center or office to the following Covered Persons:

- a. Children age 5 and under;
- b. Persons who are severely disabled; or
- c. Persons who have medical or behavioral conditions requiring hospitalization or general anesthesia when dental care is provided;

Covered Services must be provided by a Physician, Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist (CRNA) or Dentist.

---

## 5. Autism Spectrum Disorder

The following definitions apply to this section:

**Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA)** means the design, implementation, and evaluation of environmental modifications, using behavioral stimuli and consequences, to produce socially significant improvement in human behavior, including the use of direct observation, measurement, and functional analysis of the relationships between environment and behavior. Applied Behavior Analysis does not include cognitive therapies or psychological testing, personality assessment, intellectual assessment, neuropsychological assessment, psychotherapy, cognitive therapy, sex therapy, psychoanalysis, hypnotherapy, family therapy and long-term counseling as treatment modalities.

**Autism Service Provider** means:

- a. Any person, entity, or group providing diagnostic or treatment services for Autism Spectrum Disorders that are licensed or certified by the state in which services were rendered to provide health care services; or

- b. In states that do not have licensure and/or certification requirements, and person who is a Behavioral Analyst with national certification from the Behavior Analyst Certification Board
- c. Any person who is licensed by the Kansas Behavioral Sciences Regulatory Board as a licensed behavior analyst or a licensed assistant behavior analyst, or who is obtaining supervised field experience under a licensed behavior analyst.

**Autism Spectrum Disorders** means a neurobiological disorder, an illness of the nervous system, which includes Autistic Disorder, Asperger's Disorder, Pervasive Developmental Disorder Not Otherwise Specified, Rett's Disorder, and Childhood Disintegrative Disorder as defined within the DSM-IV.

**Diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorders** means medically necessary assessments, evaluations, or tests performed by a licensed physician, licensed psychologist, or licensed specialist clinical social worker in order to diagnose whether an individual has an Autism Spectrum Disorder.

**Treatment for Autism Spectrum Disorder** means care prescribed or ordered for an individual diagnosed with an Autism Spectrum Disorder by a licensed physician or licensed psychologist or licensed specialist clinical social worker, including equipment medically necessary for such care, pursuant to the powers granted under such licensed physician's or licensed psychologist's license.

We provide Benefits for the diagnosis and treatment of Autism Spectrum Disorders when prescribed or ordered for an individual diagnosed with an Autism Spectrum Disorder by a licensed physician or licensed psychologist, including equipment medically necessary for such care.

Coverage for Applied Behavior Analysis is limited to Medically Necessary treatment ordered by the treating Physician or psychologist in accordance with the treatment plan for Covered Persons through 18 years of age. An ABA therapy treatment plan must include all elements necessary for Us to pay the claim. Except for inpatient services, We have the right to review the treatment plan once every six months, unless the treating Physician agrees a more frequent review is necessary.

Notwithstanding any provision in the Contract to the contrary, services provided by an Autism Service Provider for Speech Therapy, Occupational Therapy or Physical Therapy will not be subject to any visit limits and shall not be subject to the age limitations described in this subsection, except for Applied Behavior Analysis.

**ABA services must be Prior Authorized by Us.**

---

<b>6. Bone Marrow Testing</b>	We provide Benefits for bone marrow testing. Covered Services are limited to Human Leukocyte Antigen testing for A, B and DR antigens used in bone marrow transplantation.
-------------------------------	--

---

<b>7. Chemotherapy</b>	We provide Benefits for chemotherapy, including oral chemotherapy drugs.
------------------------	--

---

<b>8. Clinical Trials</b>	<p>We provide Benefits for Routine Patient Care Costs as the result of a Phase I, II, III, or IV clinical trial for the purposes of prevention, early detection, or treatment of cancer or other life-threatening disease or condition, if approved by one of the following entities and the treating facility and personnel have the expertise and training to provide the treatment and treat a sufficient number of patients:</p>
---------------------------	--

- a. National Institute of Health (NIH);
- b. Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC);
- c. Agency for Health Care Research and Quality;
- d. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services;
- e. A cooperative group or center of those listed in a. through d., or of the Department of Defense or Veteran Affairs;
- f. A qualified non-research entity identified in the guidelines issued by the NIH;
- g. If certain conditions are met, the Department of Veteran Affairs, the Department of Defense, or the Department of Energy;
- h. The FDA in the form of an investigational new drug application; or
- i. A drug trial that is exempt from the requirement of a FDA new drug application.

Routine Patient Care Costs are defined as follows:

- a. Drugs and devices that have been approved for sale by the FDA, regardless of whether they have been approved by the FDA for use in treating the patient's particular condition;
- b. Reasonable and Medically Necessary services needed to administer a drug or device under evaluation in a clinical trial; and

- c. All other items and services that are otherwise generally available in the clinical trial, except:
  - (i) The Investigational item, device, or service itself;
  - (ii) Items and services provided solely to satisfy data collection and analysis needs and that are not used in the direct clinical management of the patient;
  - (iii) Costs for services clearly inconsistent with widely accepted and established standards of care for a particular diagnosis; and
  - (iv) Items and services customarily provided by the research sponsors free of charge for any enrollee in the trial.

**These services must be Prior Authorized by Us.**

---

## **9. Cochlear Implants**

We provide Benefits for cochlear implants. Covered Services include the initial cochlear implant, Medically Necessary repairs and replacements that are no longer covered under warranty, and related implant services (including batteries).

**Initial and replacement cochlear implants must be Prior Authorized by Us. Implant repairs and replacement parts (including batteries) do not require Prior Authorization.**

---

## **10. Diabetes**

We provide Benefits for the treatment of diabetes. Covered Services are limited to self-management training (including diet counseling from a registered dietician or certified diabetes educator) and Physician prescribed Medically Necessary equipment and supplies used in the management and treatment of diabetes. Benefits are available only for Covered Persons with gestational, type I or type II diabetes. Insulin, oral anti-diabetic agents, syringes, test strips, lancets, needles and glucometers are Covered Services under the Outpatient Prescription Drug Benefit.

We provide Benefits for one pair of Diabetic Shoes and up to a maximum of 3 pair of inserts for the diabetic shoes per Covered Person per Calendar Year.

---

## **11. Diagnostic Services**

We provide Benefits for diagnostic services including x-ray examinations, laboratory services, other diagnostic procedures and tests required to diagnose an illness, injury, or other Covered Service. Covered Services include Echocardiogram and Stress Echocardiogram. Covered Services do not include screening examinations or routine physical examinations unless these services are specifically listed as Covered Services under the

Routine Preventive Care Benefit in this section. Benefits for diagnostic services may vary based on where the services are rendered as indicated in the Benefit Schedule.

MRI, MRA, Nuclear Medicine, Cardiac Nuclear Medicine, CT, CTA, and PET scans are Covered Services under the High-Tech Diagnostic Benefit.

We also provide Benefits for lab tests, x-rays, other necessary diagnostic tests and exams ordered by Your Physician prior to an outpatient or inpatient surgery covered under the Contract.

Radiology services and pathology services provided in a facility will be subject to the In-Network Provider Deductible and Out-of-Pocket Maximum provisions of the Contract and will be paid at the In-Network Provider Coinsurance level.

**Echocardiograms and Stress Echocardiograms must be Prior Authorized by Us.**

---

**12. Dialysis**

We provide Benefits for hemodialysis and peritoneal dialysis services.

---

**13. Durable Medical Equipment and Related Supplies**

We provide Benefits for the rental or purchase of durable medical equipment (DME) for use outside a Hospital subject to the following conditions:

- a. Use of DME will be authorized for a limited period of time;
- b. We retain the right to possess the equipment and You agree to cooperate with Us in arrangements to return the equipment following Your authorized use; and
- c. We have the right to stop covering the rental when the item is no longer Medically Necessary.

Covered Services are limited to the basic DME, which meets the minimum specifications and are Medically Necessary. Covered Services include:

- a. Hand-operated wheelchairs;
- b. Hand-operated hospital-type beds;
- c. Oxygen and the equipment for its administration;
- d. Mechanical equipment for the treatment of chronic or acute respiratory failure (ventilators and respirators); and
- e. Oral appliances for sleep apnea.

When Medically Necessary, an electrically operated bed or wheelchair may be covered.

The wide variety of DME and continuing development of patient care equipment makes it impractical to provide a complete listing. Covered DME includes those items covered by Medicare unless otherwise specified.

Covered Services include some warning or monitoring devices, including but not limited to home apnea monitors for infants, 24 hour event monitors (not including 24 hour blood pressure devices), 24 hour ECG monitors (“Holter”), and home oximetry monitors.

Covered Services do not include repair or replacement required as a result of abuse or misuse of DME. Covered Services also do not include repair or replacement required as the result of stolen, lost, destroyed or damaged DME. If repair or replacement of DME is authorized, We retain the option to determine whether to repair or replace the equipment. Covered Services do not include muscle stimulators; portable paraffin bath units; sitz bath units; stethoscopes, or blood pressure devices; nor items for comfort or convenience, such as but not limited to spas, whirlpools, Jacuzzis, hot tubs, humidifiers, dehumidifiers and air conditioners. Covered Services also do not include DME that would normally be provided by a Skilled Nursing Facility. See the Exclusions section of the Contract for additional exclusions which may apply.

**DME and related supplies must be Prior Authorized by Us.**

---

**14. Elective  
Sterilization**

We provide Benefits for elective sterilization and for reversal of non-elective sterilizations. Elective sterilization services for women and men are Covered Services under the Routine Preventive Care Benefit.

**Reversal of Non-Elective sterilizations must be Prior Authorized by Us.**

---

**15. Electrical Stimulators  
and Other Stimulators**

We provide Benefits for certain types of stimulators Covered Services are limited to:

- a. spinal cord stimulator and bone growth stimulator;
- b. spine stimulator as an adjunct to spinal fusion and sacral nerve neuromodulation;
- c. spinal cord stimulator for chronic pain unresponsive to standard therapies;

- d. bone growth stimulator for fracture nonunions or congenital pseudoarthroses;
- e. bone growth spine stimulator as an adjunct to spinal fusion;
- f. sacral nerve neuromodulation for urinary dysfunction;
- g. vagus nerve stimulator for the treatment of refractory or intractable seizures;
- h. phrenic nerve stimulator;
- i. deep brain stimulator for tremor associated with Parkinson's or essential tremor;
- j. hypoglossal nerve stimulator; or
- k. tumor treating fields therapy, as treatment for glioblastoma multiforme.

We provide Benefits for electrical stimulators when provided by a physician for the treatment of chronic or acute pain as well as for wound healing. Covered Services include unattended and manual electrical stimulators, as well as Iontophoresis. This does not include home based electrical stimulators or durable medical equipment except as otherwise specified, e.g., TENS.

**Certain Electrical Stimulators and Other Stimulators must be Prior Authorized by Us. Please contact Us or visit [www.bluekc.com](http://www.bluekc.com) for a complete list.**

---

## **16. Emergency Services And Supplies**

We provide Benefits for the treatment of Emergency Medical Conditions.

You must notify Us of any emergency Admission within 24 hours of the time of the Admission or as soon as is reasonably possible.

Services will be covered under this Benefit to evaluate or treat an Emergency Medical Condition.

If You become stabilized and Your health condition no longer meets the definition of an Emergency Medical Condition, then any subsequent admission to the hospital will be covered under the Inpatient Hospital Services benefit and subject to the applicable In-Network or Out-of-Network Provider Cost-Sharing.

---

## **17. Genetic and**

We provide Benefits for genetic testing for colorectal cancer and the

---

**Molecular Testing**

following genetic tests for breast cancer: BRCA1, BRCA2, and Oncotype DX. We also provide Benefits for genetic testing in accordance with Our Medical Necessity criteria. Certain genetic testing for women who have a family history that is associated with an increased risk for mutations in the BRCA1 or BRCA2 genes is a Covered Service under the Routine Preventive Care Benefit.

**Genetic and Molecular Testing must be Prior Authorized by Us.**

---

**18. High-Tech Diagnostic Testing**

We provide Benefits for High-Tech Diagnostic Testing. Covered Services include MRI, MRA, Nuclear Medicine, Cardiac Nuclear Medicine, CT, CTA, and PET scans. X-rays, radiology, and other diagnostic procedures are Covered Services under the Diagnostic Services Benefit.

**These services must be Prior Authorized by Us.**

---

**19. Home Health Services**

We provide Benefits for home health services, including 3 educational visits, provided in the home or other outpatient setting. Covered Services are subject to all of the following conditions:

- a. Covered Services are limited to part-time skilled nursing care, part-time services from home health aides, private duty nursing, physical therapy, occupational therapy or speech therapy;
- b. The services are received as an alternative to inpatient Confinement in a Hospital or Skilled Nursing Facility; and
- c. Your Physician determines that You need home health care and designs a home health care plan for You.

A visit is defined as no more than 2 hours. If private duty nursing is approved, services exceeding the 2 hour limit will accumulate as one or more additional visits.

Covered Services do not include meals delivered to Your home, custodial care, companionship, and homemaker services.

---

**20. Hospice Services**  
Home Hospice

We provide Benefits for home Hospice services if a Physician certifies that You are Terminally Ill. Covered Services are limited to palliative care. If We determine the care provided is not palliative care, Benefits under Hospice Services are not Covered Services.

- a. Covered Services are limited to the following Home Hospice services:
  - (1) Assessment and initial testing;

- (2) Family counseling of Immediate Family Members;
- (3) Non-prescription pharmaceuticals;
- (4) Medical supplies;
- (5) Respite care;
- (6) Professional, medical, social, and pastoral counseling services provided by salaried employees of the Hospice; and
- (7) Supportive services to the bereaved family members for up to 3 months following the death of the Covered Person.

b. Covered Services do not include:

- (1) Services for which there is no charge;
- (2) Services related to organization or dispensation of nonmedical, personal, legal, and financial affairs such as, but not limited to, the execution of a will;
- (3) Services received in a free standing Hospice facility, a Hospital-based Hospice, or provided to a Hospital bed patient except that Covered Services will be provided for an assessment visit, family counseling and supportive services to the bereaved Immediate Family Members;
- (4) Services received by persons other than the Covered Person or his Immediate Family Members; or

Inpatient Hospice

We provide Benefits for Inpatient Hospice.

- a. Covered Services are limited to services and supplies furnished by an Inpatient Hospice. Covered Services are limited to those You are eligible to receive as a Hospital bed patient and that would otherwise require confinement in a Hospital or Skilled Nursing Facility and also include the following services:
  - (1) Assessment and initial testing;
  - (2) Family counseling of Immediate Family Members;
  - (3) Professional, medical, social, and pastoral counseling services provided by salaried employees of the Hospice; and
  - (4) Supportive services to the bereaved family members for up to 3 months following the death of the Covered Person.

b. Covered Services do not include:

- (1) Services for which there is no charge.
- (2) Services related to organization or dispensation of nonmedical, personal, legal, and financial affairs such as, but not limited to, the execution of a will;
- (3) Services received by persons other than the Covered Person or his Immediate Family Members; or
- (4) Respite care.

**Inpatient Hospice services must be Prior Authorized by Us.**

---

## **21. Infertility**

We provide Benefits for services received for or (or in preparation for) any diagnosis of infertility. Treatment of infertility is limited to prescription drugs as indicated in the Benefit Schedule. Other Covered Services related to infertility are provided under this Benefit.

---

## **22. Infusion Therapy and Injectables, and Other Drugs Administered Under the Medical Benefit**

### **Infusion Therapy**

We provide Benefits for infusion therapy services and supplies.

Infusion therapy is the administration of drugs or nutrients using specialized delivery systems which otherwise would have required You to be hospitalized. Infusion therapy in Your home or a Physician's office will be a Covered Service only if all of the following conditions are met:

- a. If You did not receive infusion therapy at home or in Your Physician's office, You would have to receive such services in a Hospital or Skilled Nursing Facility; and
- b. The services are ordered by a Physician and provided by an infusion therapy provider or Physician licensed to provide such services.

**These services must be Prior Authorized by Us.**

## Injectables

We provide Benefits for injectables administered in the Physician's office or in the home setting. Covered Services include growth hormones, subject to the criteria defined in Our medical policy. Most injectables are covered under Your Outpatient Prescription Drug Benefit; however, certain injectables may be covered under this medical Benefit. Please refer to the Prescription Drug List for a listing of injectables that are covered under this medical Benefit or visit Our website at [www.BlueKC.com](http://www.BlueKC.com) for a current listing. This list is subject to change without prior notice and is based on the recommendations of community Physicians and pharmacists.

**These services may require Prior Authorization by Us.** Please contact Us at the telephone number listed on Your ID card for the current list of injectables that must be Prior Authorized.

Allergy injections and insulin are Covered Services under the Allergy and Diabetes Benefits.

Certain infusion therapy / injectable drugs may not be Medically Necessary when received in an outpatient hospital facility. However, such infusion therapy / injectable drugs may be covered when received at certain outpatient hospital facilities. Please contact Customer Service for a list of such drugs and facilities.

---

## 23. Inpatient Hospital Services

We provide Benefits for inpatient services at a Hospital for evaluation or treatment of conditions that cannot be adequately treated in an outpatient setting. Covered Services include room and board; general nursing care; intensive care services; operating and treatment rooms and their equipment; drugs, medications, and biologicals; durable medical equipment; emergency rooms and their equipment and supplies; dressings, splints, and casts; electroshock or drug-induced shock therapy; blood and the administration of blood and blood products. We may approve a lower level setting (such as a Skilled Nursing Facility) in lieu of a Hospital through Case Management. **Personal care or convenience items are not covered.**

**All Admissions including, but not limited to, acute, planned, and post acute Admissions, except maternity and emergency Admissions, must be Prior Authorized by Us.** We require notification of emergency and maternity Admissions within 24 hours of the Admission or as soon as reasonably possible.

---

## 24. Maternity Services and Related Newborn Care

We provide Benefits for maternity services. Covered Services include a nuchal translucency scan at 12-14 weeks gestation and a routine obstetrical ultrasound at 20 weeks. Covered Services are limited to prenatal, obstetrical and postpartum services. Covered Services also

include genetic testing of fetal tissue. Covered Services do not include carrier genetic testing.

Covered Services include an inpatient stay of at least 48 hours for a covered mother and a covered newborn child following any vaginal delivery or 96 hours following a cesarean section delivery. If the attending Physician, after consulting with the mother, authorizes a shorter inpatient Confinement, We will provide Benefits for post-discharge care. If the mother and newborn child are discharged early, Covered Services include post-discharge care for a covered mother and a covered newborn child for 2 visits (at least 1 visit in home) by a Physician or registered professional nurse with experience in maternal and child health nursing. Such services include, but are not limited to, physical assessment of the mother and newborn child; parent education; assistance and training in breast or bottle feeding; education and services for immunizations; and, appropriate chemical tests and submission of a metabolic specimen to the state laboratory.

Services provided for a newborn child and routine Hospital nursery services provided during the Hospital Confinement are eligible for Benefits. Benefits shall also include coverage during the confinement for injury or sickness including the necessary care and treatment of medically diagnosed congenital defects and birth abnormalities.

If a child is adopted by You within 90 days of birth, Covered Services include obstetrical and delivery expenses only for the birth mother incurred at the time of the birth of such child.

We require notification of maternity Admissions within 24 hours of the Admission or as soon as reasonably possible.

#### Complications of Pregnancy

Covered Services include care (medical or surgical) required for medical Complications of Pregnancy resulting from or occurring during a pregnancy.

Covered Services do not include elective pregnancy termination. Elective Pregnancy Termination does not include spontaneous abortion or services to prevent the death of the mother upon whom the procedure is performed.

---

## 25. Mental Illness and Substance Abuse

We provide Benefits for the treatment of Mental Illness and Substance Abuse as indicated in the Benefit Schedule. New Directions Behavioral Health ("New Directions") performs intake services designed to provide crisis intervention, assessment, benefits management and referral services. Covered Services are provided for Medically Necessary outpatient evaluation and treatment of Mental Illness and Substance Abuse. For coverage for psychotherapeutic drugs, please see the Outpatient Prescription Drugs Benefit. Services for outpatient treatment will be covered to the same extent as any other illness as indicated in the Benefit

Schedule. Covered Services for inpatient services are limited to Hospital and Physician services when You are confined in any Hospital or other residential facility licensed to provide such treatment. Services for inpatient treatment will be covered to the same extent as any other illness as indicated in the Benefit Schedule.

Covered Services include non-residential services, such as partial outpatient hospitalization and intensive outpatient services. These services will be subject to the Cost-Sharing indicated for Outpatient Mental Illness Therapy or Outpatient Substance Abuse Treatment.

**Inpatient and Residential Mental Illness and Substance Abuse Services must be Prior Authorized by New Directions.**

---

<b>26. Organ Transplants And Other Transplants</b>	We provide Benefits for Organ Transplants. <b>These services must be Prior Authorized by Us.</b> In the event that You need an Organ Transplant, We encourage You to review these Covered Services with Your Physician.
Covered Organ Transplant Services	<p>Covered Services are limited to services and supplies for Organ Transplants when ordered by a Physician and provided at or arranged by a Designated Transplant Provider. Such services include, but are not limited to, Hospital charges, Physician charges, organ procurement, and ancillary services.</p> <p>Benefits will be paid at the In-Network Provider level only if Organ Transplant services are provided at a Designated Transplant Provider.</p> <p>If Organ Transplant Services are provided at a provider that is not a Designated Transplant Provider, Benefits will be provided at the Out-of-Network Provider level.</p> <p>Coverage is limited to the transplants listed as covered in Our medical policy only when such transplants are Medically Necessary in accordance with Our Policies for transplantation services</p>
Designated Transplant Provider	A Designated Transplant Provider is a provider who has entered into an agreement with Us, or through a national organ transplant network with which We contract to render Organ Transplant Services. Designated Transplant Providers will be determined by Us and may or may not be located within Our Service Area.
Donor Covered Services	<p>The following apply when a human Organ Transplant is provided from a living donor to a transplant recipient:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>When both the recipient and the donor are covered under the Contract, Health Care Services received by the donor and recipient will be covered.</li></ol>

- b. When only the recipient is covered under the Contract, both the donor and the recipient are entitled to the Covered Services of the Contract. The donor's Covered Services are limited to only those benefits which are not provided by or available to the donor from any other source. This includes but is not limited to, other health care plan coverage or any government program.
- c. When only the donor is covered under the Contract, Covered Services are limited to only those services which are not provided by or available to the donor from any other source. This includes, but is not limited to, other health care plan coverage or any government program. Covered Services will only be provided to a transplant recipient who is a Covered Person.
- d. Covered Services do not include any organ or tissue that is sold rather than donated to a recipient covered under the Contract. However, other costs related to evaluation and organ "Procurement Services" are covered.

As used herein, "Procurement Services" are the services provided to match the human organ donor to the transplant recipient, surgically remove the organ from the donor and transport the organ to the location of the recipient within 24 hours after the match is made.

#### Immunosuppressant Drugs

We provide Benefits for immunosuppressant drugs required as a result of a covered Organ Transplant under the Outpatient Prescription Drug Benefit.

#### Limitations

A Covered Person is eligible for Benefits for retransplantation as deemed Medically Necessary and appropriate by Us. Review for a retransplantation request will include review of the Covered Person's compliance with relevant transplant selection criteria including, but not limited to, adherence to medication regimens and abstinence from the use of alcohol and drugs. **All retransplantations must be Prior Authorized by Us.**

#### Exclusions

You have no Benefit for a nonhuman or mechanical Organ Transplant.

You have no Benefit for testing, typing, or screening when the person does not become a transplant or tissue donor.

You have no Benefit for transportation and lodging expenses associated with a transplant.

- 27. Osteoporosis** We provide Benefits for the diagnosis, treatment, and appropriate management of osteoporosis including bone density studies if Medically Necessary. Bone density studies for screening (non-symptomatic or no medical history) purposes are not covered, except as otherwise specified.
- 

**28. Outpatient Prescription  
Drugs**

**Introduction/Prior  
Authorization**

We provide Benefits for drugs and medicines for use outside a Hospital and/or obtained at a pharmacy that require a Physician's prescription. Certain medications or classes of medication may require Prior Authorization. To receive Prior Authorization, Your Physician will need to submit to Us a statement of Medical Necessity. Certain medications are subject to utilization programs that require You to try to use a therapeutic alternative before another medication will be considered a Covered Service. Your Physician may submit to Us a statement of Medical Necessity if the utilization program is not appropriate for Your medical condition. Certain medications may be subject to a utilization program that limits the dispensed quantity of prescription medications in compliance with FDA-approved dosage guidelines.

**Drug Rebates and  
Credits**

We contract with a pharmacy benefit manager (“PBM”) for certain prescription drug administrative services, including prescription drug rebate administration and pharmacy network contracting services.

Under the agreement, the PBM obtains rebates from drug manufacturers based on the utilization of certain prescription products by You and other Covered Persons, and PBM retains the benefit of the rebate funds prior to disbursement. In addition, pharmaceutical may pay administrative fees to the PBM in connection with PBM’s services of administering, invoicing, allocating, and/or collecting rebates, and the PBM retains the benefit of such amounts prior to disbursement. PBM may also receive other service fees or discounts from manufacturers as compensation for various services unrelated to rebates or rebate-associated administrative fees

In addition, We and the PBM also contract with pharmacies to provide prescription products at discounted rates for Covered Persons. The discounted rates paid by the PBM and Us to these pharmacies differ among pharmacies within a network, as well as between networks. For pharmacies that contract with the PBM, in the aggregate, We pay a fixed discount rate under Our contract with the PBM regardless of the various discount rates PBM pays to the pharmacies. Thus, where our rate exceeds the rate the PBM negotiated with a particular pharmacy, the PBM will realize a positive margin on the applicable prescription. The reverse may also be true, resulting in negative margin for the PBM. In addition, when the PBM receives payment from Us before payment to a pharmacy is due, the PBM retains the benefit of the use of these funds between these payments. Blue Cross Blue Shield of Kansas City is guaranteed a

minimum level of discount whether through the PBM or where we directly contract with network pharmacies, which could result in the amount paid by You being more or less than the amount PBM and/or We pay to pharmacies.

We are not acting as a fiduciary with respect to rebate administration, pharmacy network management, or the prescription drug plan. We receive rebates from the PBM and may receive positive margin in connection with the pharmacy network, as well as other financial credits, administrative fees and/or other amounts from network pharmacies, drug manufacturers or the PBM (collectively “Financial Credits”). We retain sole and exclusive right to all Financial Credits, which constitute Our property (and are not plan assets), and We may use such Financial Credits in Our sole and absolute discretion, including, for example, to help stabilize Our overall rates and to offset expenses, and We do not share Financial Credits with You.

Without limitation to the foregoing, the following (“Financial Credit Rules”) apply: (1) You have no right to receive, claim or possess any beneficial interest in any Financial Credits; (2) Applicable drug benefit Copayment, Coinsurance, and/or maximum allowable benefits (including without limitation Calendar Year Maximum and Lifetime Maximum benefits) are in no way adjusted or otherwise affected as a result of any Financial Credits, except as may be required by law; (3) Any Coinsurance that you must pay for prescription drugs is based upon the Allowable Charge at the pharmacy, and does not change as a result of any Financial Credits, except as may be required by law; and (4) Amounts paid to pharmacies or any prices charged at pharmacies are in no way adjusted or otherwise affected as a result of any Financial Credits.

#### Covered Drugs

We provide Benefits for Outpatient Prescription Drugs as identified in the Benefit Schedule, including psychotherapeutic drugs. To determine the applicable Outpatient Prescription Drug category and respective Cost-Sharing level for a drug, call the telephone number listed on Your ID card for a copy of the Prescription Drug List or visit Our website at [www.BlueKC.com](http://www.BlueKC.com) for the most current information. The list of drugs is subject to change without prior notice based on the recommendations of community Physicians and pharmacists.

Covered Services are limited to:

- a. Legend drugs that, by federal law, can only be dispensed upon written prescription from an authorized prescriber
- b. Compound medications that contain at least one legend drug in a therapeutic amount.

- c. Off-label use of prescription drugs when treatment of the indication is recognized in one of the standard reference compendia or in substantially accepted peer-reviewed medical literature. Your Physician must submit documentation supporting the proposed off-label use or uses if requested by Us

For this specific Benefit, the following terms are defined as follows:

“Peer-reviewed medical literature” means a published scientific study in a journal or other publication in which original manuscripts have been published only after having been critically reviewed for scientific accuracy, validity and reliability by unbiased independent experts, and that has been determined by the international committee of medical journal editors to have met the uniform requirements for manuscripts submitted to biomedical journals. Peer-reviewed medical literature does not include publications or supplements to publications that are sponsored to a significant extent by a pharmaceutical manufacturing company or health carrier.

“Off-label use of prescription drugs” means prescribing prescription drugs for treatments other than those stated in the labeling approved by the Food and Drug Administration.

“Standard reference compendia” means the United States pharmacopoeia drug information, the American Hospital formulary service drug information, or the American Medical Association drug evaluation or other sources that We deem credible.

- d. Insulin, syringes, needles, lancets, test strips, oral anti-diabetic agents and glucometers
- e. Oral and injectable contraceptive drugs
- f. Contraceptive devices and implants which require a Physician’s prescription (medical services related to the administration of covered contraceptive devices and implants are Covered Services under the Contract)
- g. Smoking cessation agents by prescription only, except as otherwise provided.

Covered Services are limited to drugs and medicines that have been approved for use in the United States by the Federal Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regardless of where the drugs are obtained. Drugs or medicines approved by the FDA for Experimental or Investigative Services are not covered. We may impose administrative limits on the quantity or frequency by which a drug may be dispensed. These limits will be based on recommendations of the drug manufacturer or by community Physicians and pharmacists.

Short-Term Supplies	<p>Short-term prescriptions are for up to a 34 day supply. If Your Physician prescribes a prescription for more than a 34 day supply, You must obtain a refill for any quantity above the 34 day supply. The pharmacy will then file the claim for the prescription. See Your provider directory for a listing of participating pharmacies.</p> <p>If the prescription is dispensed in a combination of different manufactured dosage amounts, You are only subject to Cost-Sharing for one prescription as indicated in the Benefit Schedule. If you are required to pay more than the Cost-Sharing for one prescription indicated in the Benefit Schedule at the pharmacy, You must submit a claim to Us for reimbursement.</p>
Non-Participating Pharmacies	<p>When a prescription is purchased at a non-participating pharmacy, You must pay the pharmacy for the cost of the prescription and submit a claim form to Us. We will reimburse You as indicated in the Benefit Schedule.</p>
Long-Term Supplies	<p>We provide Benefits for long-term prescriptions when obtained from a designated mail order prescription drug program. Call Us for instructions and forms for obtaining prescription drugs through the mail. Long-term prescriptions are for a 35 to 102 day supply.</p>
Specialty Pharmaceuticals	<p>We provide Benefits for Specialty Pharmaceuticals. Please refer to the Prescription Drug List for a listing of Specialty Pharmaceuticals and specialty pharmacies. In some cases, these drugs will be delivered to Your home.</p> <p>Specialty Pharmaceuticals means biotechnology drugs or other drug products that may require special ordering, handling, clinical monitoring and/or customer service. Specialty Pharmaceuticals are limited to a 34 day supply and are subject to the applicable Cost-Sharing indicated in the Benefit Schedule.</p> <p>If You obtain Your specialty drug from a retail pharmacy, You will be required to pay higher Cost-Sharing for all fills of that specialty drug at a retail pharmacy, as indicated in the Benefit Schedule. Certain specialty drugs are required to be obtained from a designated specialty pharmacy. Please contact Customer Service for a list of such specialty drugs.</p>

## Maintenance Drugs

We provide Benefits for prescription maintenance drugs. Maintenance drugs are those medications that must be used on a continuing basis to treat a chronic condition. Maintenance drugs may be obtained from a retail pharmacy on a short-term basis or a designated mail order prescription drug program under the long-term supply prescription drug benefit. If You obtain Your maintenance drug from a retail pharmacy, after obtaining Your second refill of that specific maintenance drug, You will be required to notify Us, and/or Our pharmacy benefit manager (PBM), whether You intend to continue to obtain the maintenance drug from the retail pharmacy, or if You would like to begin obtaining such drug from a designated mail order pharmacy. Subsequent refills of the prescription maintenance drug must be obtained using Your designated method.

If You do not notify Us, and/or Our PBM, of Your In-Network method after the second refill, You may be responsible for the entire cost of the medication.

You may change Your preferred method by notifying Us, and/or Our PBM prior to obtaining Your next maintenance drug refill.

You must pay the applicable Cost-Sharing for each prescription if indicated in the Benefit Schedule.

## Exclusions

Benefits for prescription drugs are subject to the exclusions stated in the Exclusions section of the Contract. In addition, Covered Services do not include any of the following:

- a. Appetite suppressants, anorexiant and anti-obesity drugs;
- b. Compounded medications with ingredients that do not require a prescription;
- c. Experimental, Investigative or unproven services and medications; medications used for Experimental indications and/or dosage regimens determined by Us to be Experimental (including, but not limited to those labeled “caution - limited by federal law to Investigational use” and drugs found by the Food and Drug Administration to be ineffective);
- d. Medications for cosmetic purposes, such as but not limited to isotretinoin, tretinoin (Retin-A), topical minoxidil, and finasteride;
- e. Non-prescription/over-the-counter medications for smoking cessation or smoking deterrents (such as but not limited to nicotine replacement or other pharmacological agents used for smoking cessation);

- f. Medications and other items available over-the-counter, including any medication that is equivalent to an over-the-counter medication, that do not require a prescription order or refill by federal or state law (whether provided with or without a prescription, except as otherwise specified in the Routine Preventive Care Benefit);
- g. Medications with no approved FDA indications;
- h. Immunization agents;
- i. Drugs related to treatment that is not a Covered Service under the Contract;
- j. Prescription drugs that are not Medically Necessary unless otherwise specified;
- k. Anabolic steroids, anti-wrinkle agents, dietary supplements, Fluoride supplements, blood or blood plasma, irrigational solutions and supplies;
- l. Lifestyle enhancing drugs, unless otherwise specified;
- m. Medications and devices used for the treatment of impotency;
- n. Tier 2 and Tier 3 drugs for the first 6 months following FDA approval unless a shorter exclusion period is recommended by Our Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee, which includes community physicians and pharmacists.
- o. Drugs and devices that are intended to induce an abortion or
- p. Drugs obtained outside the United States for consumption in the United States.

---

## **29. Outpatient Surgery and Services**

We provide Benefits for outpatient surgery provided under the direction of a Physician at a Hospital or an outpatient facility. Covered Services are limited to the same services You would receive under the same conditions in a Hospital as a bed patient, except for the Hospital daily service charge.

**Certain outpatient surgeries and services, such as, but not limited to, pain management, sleep procedures and devices, and spinal procedures, must be Prior Authorized by Us in order to be Covered Services: Please contact Us at the telephone number listed on Your ID card for the current list of outpatient surgeries and services that must be Prior Authorized.**

---

### **30. Pediatric Dental**

We provide Benefits for dental services for Covered Persons until the end of the Calendar Year in which such Covered Person reaches age 19.

#### **Basic Services**

We provide Benefits for Basic Services. Basic Services include oral evaluations, x-rays, teeth cleanings, fluoride treatments, sealant treatments, and space maintainers.

Oral evaluations and prophylaxes (teeth cleanings) are limited to 2 per Calendar Year. Complete mouth survey x-rays or panoramic x-rays are limited to 1 every 3 Calendar Years. Bitewing x-rays are limited to 2 occurrences per Calendar Year. Fluoride treatments are limited to 3 per Calendar Year. Topical application of sealant on a posterior tooth is limited to no more than 1 treatment per tooth every 12 months.

#### **Intermediate Services**

We provide Benefits for Intermediate Services. Intermediate Services include fillings, recementation, sedative fillings, root canal therapy, endodontics, tooth extractions, alveoloplasty and general anesthesia.

Limitations: Benefits are not available for more than 1 direct pulp cap per tooth. Benefits are limited to 1 course of root canal therapy per tooth.

#### **Major Services**

We provide Benefits for Major Services. Major Services include crowns, inlays, onlays, bridges, dentures, partial dentures, maintenance of prosthodontics, and periodontics.

Limitations: Payment will not be provided for the relining of a denture if less than 6 months has elapsed since the date of insertion. Only 1 relining of a denture will be provided during any 2 Calendar Year period. Occlusal guard appliances (biteguards) will be provided only after active periodontal treatment and are limited to 1 every Calendar Year. Crowns are limited to 1 per tooth every 60 months. Prefabricated posts and cores that are in addition to a crown are limited to 1 per tooth every 60 months. Dentures are limited to 1 every 60 months.

Major Services include orthodontics only in the case of severe orthodontic abnormality caused by genetic deformity (such as cleft lip or cleft palate) or traumatic facial injury resulting in serious health impairment to the Covered Person. Services for orthodontics must be Prior Authorized by Us.

Accident-related and other dental services for all Covered Persons are Covered Services under the Accident-Related and Other Dental Services Benefit.

---

### **31. Pediatric Vision**

We provide Benefits for vision services when provided to a Covered Person age 18 and under. Coverage will be provided until the end of the Calendar Year in which such Covered Person reaches age 19.

Covered Services include routine eye exams, standard eyeglass frames and any additional lens services/features or an annual supply of standard contact lenses provided in lieu of eyeglasses. Standard frames are those frames priced at \$300 or less. Standard contact lenses are also those contacts priced at \$300 or less. Services may be limited as indicated in the Benefit Schedule.

Covered Services also include fitting for contact lenses. Such services will be subject to the applicable Cost-Sharing indicated for All Other Covered Services in the Benefit Schedule.

Covered Services for eyewear will be limited to the eyewear that meets the minimum specifications and is Medically Necessary. Covered Services do not include non-prescription (Plano) lenses, two pairs of eyeglasses in lieu of bifocals, or services/supplies that are cosmetic in nature. Covered Services do not include replacement of lost or stolen eyewear.

---

## **32. Physician Services**

We provide Benefits for Physician services unless otherwise noted. Covered Services are limited to the following:

- a. Office visits.
- b. Surgical and orthopedic services. Covered Services are limited to cutting and other operative procedures for treating illness or injury..
- c. Surgical assistant services provided by a Physician. Covered Services are limited to the assistance at the operating table which is given to the operating Physician by another Physician. This assistance must be Medically Necessary, as determined by Us and in connection with procedures that normally require assistance. Covered Services do not include any activities of internship or residency, or any type of training.
- d. Inpatient Specialist services. Covered Services are limited to those that are provided when a Covered Person has a medical condition that is not in the attending Physician's specialty and the attending Physician asks the opinion of a Physician with that specialty. Covered Services do not include staff consultations required by Hospital rules and regulations.
- e. Hospital bed patient care by a Physician.
  - (1) General care. Covered Services are limited to a Physician's visits to a Covered Person if the reason for the Hospital stay is strictly to treat a medical condition and no surgical, orthopedic or obstetrical services are performed during that Confinement.

- (2) Preoperative care. Covered Services are limited to visits by a Physician with a specialty different from that of the operating Physician, assistant surgeon or anesthesiologist for treatment of a condition unrelated to surgery.
  - (3) Postoperative care. Covered Services are limited to visits by a Physician other than the operating Physician, assistant surgeon or anesthesiologist if the reason for the visits is to treat a Covered Person for an acute phase of a medical condition a Covered Person either had before the surgical services, or that first began during the postoperative period.
  - (4) Intensive care. Covered Services are limited to visits by a Physician treating a Covered Person for a medical condition that requires constant attendance or frequent visits in a short period of time.
  - (5) Inpatient Hospice. Covered Services are limited to visits by a Physician treating a Covered Person for a medical condition while in an Inpatient Hospice Setting.
- f. Home visits by a Physician.
  - g. Telehealth services for medical information exchanged from one site to another via electronic communication to the extent the same service would be covered if provided through face to face diagnosis, consultation, or treatment. Covered Services do not include site origination fees, technological fees, or costs for the provision of telehealth services. Telehealth services will be subject to the same Cost-Sharing that would be applicable if the service were provided face to face.

---

### **33. Podiatry**

Routine Care	We provide Benefits for routine foot care only if the Covered Person has a disease such as diabetes that can potentially affect circulation and/or the loss of feeling in the lower limbs. Routine foot care means the paring and removal of corns and calluses or trimming of nails.
Bone Surgery	We provide Benefits for bone surgery on the foot.

---

### **34. Prosthetic and Orthotic Appliances**

We provide Benefits for prosthetics and orthotics other than foot orthotics (including shoes).

Covered Services are limited to the purchase and fitting of prosthetic and orthotic devices that are necessary as a result of congenital defects, injury or sickness. Repairs or replacement of prosthetics are Covered Services only when necessary because of any of the following:

- a. A change in the physiological condition of the patient;
- b. An irreparable change in the condition of the device; or
- c. The condition of the device requires repairs and the cost of such repairs would be more than 60% of the cost of a replacement device.

Purchase and fitting means the entire process necessary to provide a Covered Person's prosthesis (whether paid by Us or someone else) and may include one or more temporary prostheses when Medically Necessary.

Repairs and replacement are not Covered Services if the need for repair or replacement is due to misuse or abuse of the device, or to the extent the device is covered under any warranty. Covered Services also do not include repair or replacement required as the result of stolen, lost, destroyed, or damaged devices. Covered Services also do not include replacement of prosthetic and orthotic devices due to changes in technology. Prosthetics that may enhance function after initial purchase are not Covered Services.

Benefits are limited to the amount available for a basic (standard) item which meets the minimum specifications to allow for necessary activities of daily living. Activities of daily living include bathing, dressing, eating, continence, toileting, transferring and/or ambulating. Charges for deluxe prosthetic or orthotic devices are not covered, except for those prosthetic or orthotic devices that are Medically Necessary for the Covered Person.

Orthotics and foot orthotics (including shoes) are not covered unless otherwise specified. Diabetic shoes are Covered Services under the Diabetes Benefit.

**Prosthetic and orthotic devices must be Prior Authorized by Us.**

---

### **35. Radiation Therapy**

We provide Benefits for treatment of a medical condition with x-ray, radium, or radioactive isotopes.

**These services must be Prior Authorized by Us.**

---

### **36. Reconstructive Surgery and Cosmetic Repair**

We provide Benefits for reconstructive surgery and cosmetic repair to correct birth defects or to correct a defect incurred through an Accidental Injury.

We also provide Benefits for reconstructive surgery when a functional impairment is present. A functional impairment is the inability of a body part or organ to perform its specific purpose.

**These services must be Prior Authorized by Us.**

---

**37. Reconstructive Surgery / Prosthetic Devices Following a Mastectomy**

We provide Benefits for prosthetic devices and/or reconstructive surgery following a mastectomy. Covered Services are limited to: (1) reconstructive surgery on the breast on which the mastectomy was performed; (2) reconstructive surgery on the unaffected breast that is required to produce a symmetrical appearance; and (3) breast prostheses and physical complications in all stages of mastectomy, including lymphedemas. No time limit will be imposed on a Covered Person for the receipt of a prosthetic device or reconstructive surgery following a mastectomy. Benefits for 4 mastectomy bras are available under the Durable Medical Equipment Benefit.

---

**38. Rehabilitative and Habilitative Services**

We provide Benefits for physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy, and hearing therapy provided on an outpatient basis. These services may be subject to a Calendar Year Maximum as indicated in the Benefit Schedule.

**Physical Therapy**

Physical therapy services, including skeletal manipulations, provided by a Physician, Registered Physical Therapist or Licensed Physical Therapist are covered when these services are expected to result in significant improvement in a Covered Person's condition.

**Occupational Therapy**

Occupational therapy services provided by a Physician or Registered Occupational Therapist are covered when these services are expected to result in significant improvement in a Covered Person's condition. Occupational therapy is provided only for purposes of training Covered Persons to perform the activities of daily living.

**Speech and Hearing Therapy**

This is treatment for the loss or impairment of speech or hearing disorders provided by a speech pathologist, speech/language pathologist or audiologist licensed by the state board of healing arts or certified by the American Speech-Language and Hearing Association, or both, and which fall within the scope of such license or certification. Covered Services include examination, evaluation, counseling and any testing required to diagnose any loss or impairment of speech or hearing.

Covered Services do not include screening examinations or services arranged by or received under any health plan offered by any governmental body or entity including school districts for their students.

---

**39. Routine Preventive Care**

We provide Benefits for routine preventive care as required by state or federal law. Covered Services include examinations, labs, and immunizations. In addition, Benefits are provided for preventive care services that are evidence-based items or services that have a rating of A

or B in the current recommendations of the United States Preventive Services Task Force (“USPSTF”). With respect to women, Benefits are provided for evidence-informed preventive care and screenings described in comprehensive guidelines supported by the Health Resources and Services Administration (“HRSA”), as long as they are not otherwise addressed by the recommendations of the USPSTF. This includes coverage for contraceptives that require a prescription and elective sterilization for women. Such contraceptives are limited to Generic Drugs, unless a generic version is not available or Prior Authorization has been obtained for a Preferred or Non-Preferred Drug. If Prior Authorization is not obtained, Preferred or Non-Preferred Drugs are Covered Services under the Outpatient Prescription Drug Benefit. Covered services also include lactation support and counseling, and the cost of 1 breast pump within 6 weeks of delivery when prescribed.

The recommended list of required preventive care services described above may change periodically. When the list of recommended preventive care services changes, We will modify Your coverage when required to do so by federal law. A complete list of the preventive care services can be located at [www.BlueKC.com](http://www.BlueKC.com) or by contacting Us at the telephone number listed on Your ID card.

#### Examinations

We provide Benefits for routine preventive examinations and the related office visit. As part of such office visit, Benefits will be provided for screening for gestational diabetes in pregnant women identified to be at high risk for diabetes, and screening and counseling for interpersonal and domestic violence and abuse. Covered Services include prostate exams, pelvic exams, mammograms if ordered by a Physician, colorectal cancer exams consisting of digital rectal exam (including colonoscopy, flexible sigmoidoscopy, and double contrast barium enema), hearing exams, electrocardiograms (EKGs), chest x-rays and bone density screenings for women. Benefits for pelvic exams and mammograms include those performed at the direction of a Physician in a mobile facility certified by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS).

Covered Services also include evidence-informed preventive care and screenings for infants, children, and adolescents provided for in the HRSA comprehensive guidelines and for newborn hearing screening, audiological assessment and follow-up.

Covered Services do not include the following: examinations or testing for or in connection with extracurricular school activities or any recreational activities; exercise programs or equipment such as, but not limited to, bicycles or treadmills; and examinations and testing for or in connection with entering school, licensing, employment, insurance, adoption, immigration and naturalization, or premarital blood testing.

#### Immunizations

We provide Benefits for the following routine preventive immunizations and the related office visit. Covered immunizations are limited to the age

ranges and gender recommended by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices and adopted by the Center for Disease Control.

Covered Services include: catch-up for Hepatitis B; catch-up for varicella; catch-up for MMR; Tetanus boosters as necessary, including tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis, diphtheria and tetanus, and tetanus only; Pneumococcal vaccine; Influenza virus vaccine; Meningococcal vaccine; catch-up for Hepatitis A; HPV vaccine; Zoster vaccine; Polio vaccine; and Haemophilus Influenza Type b (Hib) vaccine.

Covered Services also include immunizations for routine use in children, adolescents, and adults that have in effect a recommendation from the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Covered Services do not include immunizations not specifically covered under the Contract, including but not limited to, immunizations required only for travel, work-related immunizations, Anthrax vaccine and Lyme Disease vaccine.

Covered Services include catch-up immunizations for a Dependent child over the age of 6 who has not previously received the immunization. Catch-up immunizations for Covered Persons over the age of 6 will not be subject to any Cost-Sharing regardless of whether received from an In-Network or Out-of-Network Provider.

#### Lab Services

We provide Benefits for the following routine preventive lab services and the related office visit.

Covered Services include the following screenings: metabolic screening; glucose screening; and thyroid stimulating hormone screening. With respect to sexually transmitted infections, the following lab services are covered: HIV screening; HPV testing; Chlamydia Trachomatis testing; and Gonorrhea testing.

Covered Services also include the following tests: lead testing; Hemoglobin/Complete Blood Count (CBC); urinalysis; lipid cholesterol panel; prostate specific antigen (PSA) tests; pap smears; and fecal colon cancer tests (including fecal occult blood test, fecal immunochemical test, and stool DNA test).

---

#### **40. Urgent Care Center and Retail Health Clinics**

We provide Benefits for urgent care services obtained at urgent care centers and retail health clinics. Urgent care services are Health Care Services required in order to prevent serious deterioration of Your health as a result of an unforeseen sickness or injury. Urgent care services provided in a Physician's office on an urgent basis are covered under the Physician Services Benefit.

---

#### **41. Vision Care**

We provide Benefits for non-routine vision care.

Eyewear following  
Surgery

We provide Benefits for either the first pair of eyeglasses or non-disposable contact lenses or refractive keratoplasty, only following cataract surgery. Benefits are limited to the amount available for a basic (standard) pair of eyeglasses which meet the minimum specifications to allow for necessary vision correction. Charges for eyeglasses which exceed a basic pair of eyeglasses are not covered, beyond the extent allowed for basic eyeglasses.

Orthoptic Training

We provide benefits for orthoptic training. Covered Services are limited to the treatment of convergence insufficiency for Covered Persons under the age of 18. This Benefit is subject to a Lifetime Maximum of 12 visits.

Eye Exam

We also provide Benefits for eye exams, including refraction, needed as a result of a covered medical illness or Accidental Injury. Vision care services for Covered Persons age 18 and under are Covered Services under the Pediatric Vision Benefit.

## SECTION D. EXCLUSIONS AND LIMITATIONS

---

**Covered Services do not include, and no Benefits will be provided for any of the following services, supplies, equipment or care; or for any complications, related to, or received in connection with, such services, supplies, equipment or care that are:**

1. For services or supplies received if there is no legal obligation for payment or for which no charge had been made; or for services or supplies received where a portion of the charge has been waived. This includes, but is not limited to full or partial waiver of any applicable Cost-Sharing amounts.
2. For injuries or illnesses related to Your job to the extent You are covered or are required to be covered by a state or federal workers' compensation law or any comparable benefit that provides medical coverage for work-related injuries or illness whether or not You file a claim. If You enter into a settlement giving up Your right to recover past or future medical benefits under a workers' compensation law, We will not pay past or future medical benefits that are the subject of or related to that settlement. In addition if You are covered by a workers' compensation program that limits benefits to certain authorized providers, We will not pay for services You receive from providers, authorized or unauthorized, by Your workers' compensation program.
3. Not Medically Necessary.
4. Not specifically covered under the Contract.
5. Experimental or Investigative as determined by Us, except as specifically provided under the Clinical Trials Benefit.
6. For military service connected disabilities or conditions for which You are legally entitled to services and for which You have no obligation to pay.
7. For losses due in whole or in part to war or any action of war.
8. For Custodial, convalescent, or respite care, except as specifically provided under the Hospice Benefit, including but not limited to meals delivered to Your home, companionship, and homemaker services, that do not require services of licensed professional nurses in Our opinion even if provided by skilled nursing personnel.
9. For music therapy, remedial reading, recreational therapy, and other forms of education or special education except as specified under the Diabetes Benefit.
10. For marital counseling or counseling to assist in achieving more effective intra or interpersonal development; dietary counseling, except as specifically provided; decisional; social; or educational development; vocational development, or work hardening programs.
11. For removal or replacement of a breast implant that was initially done for augmentation or for cosmetic purposes; or for cosmetic rhinoplasty, whether an independent procedure or done in conjunction with any other surgical procedure.

12. For cosmetic repair or reconstructive surgery, except as specifically provided for under the Reconstructive Surgery and Cosmetic Repair Benefit.
13. For any equipment or supplies that condition the air including environmental evaluations, heating pads, cooling pads (circulating or non-circulating), including hot water bottles, personal care items, items for comfort and convenience, spas, whirlpools, Jacuzzis, and any other primarily nonmedical equipment, stethoscopes, blood pressure devices, and Durable Medical Equipment that would normally be provided by a Skilled Nursing Facility.
14. For repairs and replacement of prosthetic and orthotic devices, except when necessitated as indicated in the Prosthetic and Orthotic Devices Benefit.
15. For wigs and their care.
16. For biofeedback, including neurofeedback.
17. For court ordered services, including assessments, examinations, diagnostic tests, and genetic testing.
18. For collection and storage of autologous (self-donated) blood, umbilical cord blood, or any other blood or blood product in the absence of a known disease or planned surgical procedure.
19. Provided by You, Your Immediate Family Members or members of Your immediate household.
20. For vision services, except as otherwise specifically provided in the Contract, including but not limited to pleoptic training, orthoptic training that is not for convergence insufficiency, eyeglasses, contact lenses, and the examination for fitting of these items.
21. For hearing care services, except as otherwise specifically provided in the Contract, including but not limited to, hearing aids and the examination for fitting of these items.
22. Unless specifically covered under the Contract, for all dental services, complications of dental treatment; temporomandibular joint disorder; and orthognathic surgery. Injections for treatment of pain that are in close proximity to the teeth or jaw and due to a dental cause. For orthodontic treatment and surgical correction of a malocclusion.
23. Unless specifically covered under the Contract, for dental splints, dental prostheses, extractions or any treatment on or to the teeth, gums or jaws and other services customarily provided by a dentist. Services related to injuries caused by or arising out of the act of biting or chewing are also excluded.
24. For drugs and medicines that do not require a prescription for their use, except as otherwise specified in the Routine Preventive Care Benefit.

25. For chemosurgery, laser, dermabrasion, chemical peel, salabrasion, collagen injections or other skin abrasion procedures associated with the removal of scars, tattoos and/or which are performed as a treatment of scarring secondary to acne or chicken pox.
26. For staff consultations required by Hospital rules and regulations.
27. For the treatment of obesity or morbid obesity, including but not limited to Mason Shunt, banding, gastroplasty, intestinal bypass, gastric balloons, stomach stapling, jejunal bypass, wiring of the jaw, as well as, related office visits, laboratory services, prescription drugs, medical weight reduction programs, nutrients, diet counseling (except as otherwise specified in the Contract) and Health Care Services of a similar nature whether or not it is part of a treatment plan for another illness. This exclusion also applies to any complications arising from any of the above, except for Emergency Medical Conditions.
28. For surgical procedures on the cornea including radial keratotomy and other refractive keratoplasty procedures, except when used to correct medical conditions other than refractive errors (such as nearsightedness) or following cataract surgery.
29. For hairplasty or hair removal, regardless of reason or diagnosis.
30. For orthotics and foot orthotics (including shoes) unless otherwise specified under the Contract.
31. For support/surgical stockings (for the lower extremities), including but not limited to custom made stockings.
32. For corrective shoes unless permanently attached to a brace.
33. For or related to an Organ Transplant, except as specifically provided under the Organ Transplant Benefit.
34. For health and dental services resulting from Accidental Injuries arising out of a motor vehicle accident to the extent such services are payable under any expense payment provisions (by whatever terminology used, including such benefits mandated by law) of any automobile insurance policy.
35. For lodging or travel to and from a health professional or health facility.
36. For interest charges, document processing or copying fees, mailing costs, collection fees, telephone consultations, for charges when no direct patient contact is provided; including but not limited to Physician team conferences, charges for missed appointments, charges for completion of forms or other non-medical charges.
37. Provided for an Emergency Medical Condition Admission in excess of the first 48 hours if We are not notified within 48 hours of the Admission, or as soon as reasonably possible.
38. Obtained in an emergency room which are not Emergency Services.

39. Health Care Services which are related to complications arising from treatments or services otherwise excluded under the Contract, except when such services are received for an Emergency Medical Condition, or for complications related to maternity care as indicated in the Contract.
40. Health Care Services and associated expenses for megavitamin therapy; nutritional-based therapy for alcoholism, chemical dependency, or other medical conditions; services and supplies for smoking cessation programs and treatment of nicotine addiction, except as otherwise specified under the Contract.
41. Mental Illness and/or Substance Abuse services received from a Non-Participating Provider provided in connection with or to comply with involuntary inpatient commitments after the Covered Person has been screened and stabilized, unless the Covered Person cannot be safely transferred or there is not an In-Network Provider who will accept the transfer.
42. For any services required by a diversion agreement or by order of a court to attend an alcohol or drug safety action program, or for evaluations and diagnostic tests ordered or requested in connection with criminal actions, divorce, child custody, or child visitation proceedings.
43. For any assessment, evaluation, diagnostic test, or genetic test required by a diversion agreement or by order of a court to attend an alcohol or drug safety action program.
44. For assessments, evaluations, diagnostic tests, and genetic tests ordered or requested in connection with criminal actions, divorce, child custody, or child visitation proceedings.
45. For mental illness and substance abuse services received at a residential facility that does not provide for individualized treatment. Mental illness and substance abuse services provided by a residential facility that is not licensed or certified by the state in which such services are provided will not be covered.
46. For non-prescription enteral feedings and other nutritional and electrolyte supplements.
47. For personal care and convenience items.
48. Occupational therapy provided on a routine basis as part of a standard program for all patients.
49. Speech therapy for vocal cord training/retraining due to vocational strain and/or weak cords.
50. Screening examinations or services available, arranged by, or received from any governmental body or entity, including school districts.
51. Received for (or in preparation for) any treatment for infertility (except for drugs, as provided under the Contract) by any name called and any related complications, except as specifically provided under the Infertility Benefit. 'Infertility' as used here means any medical condition causing the inability or diminished ability to reproduce. Treatment for infertility shall include, but not be limited to, reversal of sterilization, all artificial means of conception including but not limited to sperm collection and/or preservation, sperm and egg and/or inseminated egg procurement and processing, banking of sperm and inseminated eggs, artificial insemination, in vitro fertilization, in vivo fertilization, embryo transplants, gamete intra fallopian transplant (GIFT), zygote intra fallopian transplant (ZIFT), and related tests and procedures, surrogate parenting (which includes donating

ovum or ova, or carrying the fetus to term for another woman), not Medically Necessary amniocentesis, and any other experimental fertilization procedure or fertility drugs.

52. For Health Care Services and associated expenses for elective pregnancy termination. Elective pregnancy termination does not include spontaneous abortion or services to prevent the death of the mother upon whom the procedure is performed.
53. Received for (or in preparation for) any diagnosis or treatment of sexual dysfunction (including drugs and prosthesis) and any related complications unless the Covered Person has a documented disease resulting in impotence.
54. For cranial (head) remodeling devices, including but not limited to Dynamic Orthotic Cranioplasty (“DOC Bands”) except for post-operative care or the treatment of congenital birth defects and birth abnormalities caused by synostotic plagiocephaly and craniosynostosis.
55. Except as specifically provided in Physician Services, for charges incurred as a result of virtual office visits on the Internet, including those for prescription drugs. A virtual office visit on the Internet occurs when a Covered Person was not physically seen or physically examined.
56. For sales tax to the extent it exceeds Our Allowable Charge.
57. For services, supplies, equipment or care received in connection with a non-covered service, supply, equipment or care.
58. For extracorporeal shock wave therapy due to musculoskeletal pain or musculoskeletal conditions and for electrical stimulation, except as specifically provided in the Electrical Stimulator Benefit.
59. For nutritional assessment testing and saliva hormone testing.
60. For services and materials not meeting accepted standards of optometric practice.
61. For the measurement of exhaled nitric oxide or exhaled breath condensate in the diagnosis and management of respiratory disorders.
62. Laboratory services performed by an independent laboratory that is not approved by Medicare.
63. For acupuncture, acupressure, rolfing, services provided by a massage therapist, aromatherapy and other forms of alternative treatment.
64. Amounts for services or supplies billed by Out-of-Network Providers that are Non-Participating that are not eligible for separate reimbursement according to Our payment policy.
65. Amounts for non-Emergency services billed by Out-of-Network Providers that are Non-Participating when proof of service is not established or supported by Your medical record
66. For applied behavioral analysis.

---

**Limitations:**

If an individual is enrolled in Medicare, Benefits for Covered Services will be coordinated with any benefits paid by Medicare. This limitation will not apply if the Employer, by law, is not permitted to allow the Contract to be secondary to Medicare.

## SECTION E. HOW TO FILE A CLAIM

---

### 1. Claim Procedures

We are responsible for evaluating all Claims under the Contract. We may secure independent medical or other advice and require such other evidence, as We deem necessary to decide Your Claim.

If We deny, in whole or in part, Your Pre-Service Claim or Post-Service Claim, You will be furnished with a written notice of the denial setting forth:

- a. The reason or reasons for the denial,
  - b. Reference to the specific Contract provision on which the denial is based;
  - c. A description of any additional material or information necessary for You to complete Your Claim and an explanation of why such material or information is necessary; and
  - d. Appropriate information as to the steps to be taken if You wish to appeal Our decision, including Your right to file suit under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act “ERISA” (if Your Plan is subject to ERISA) with respect to any Claim denial after Appeal of Your Claim.
- 

### 2. Post-Service Claims

#### a. Hospital and other Facility Services

##### (1) For care received *inside* Our Service Area

- (a) In-Network or Participating Providers will file Your Post-Service Claims for You. The facility will be paid directly by Us. You may be asked to make arrangements with such facility to pay for any non-Covered Services or Cost-Sharing amounts..
- (b) If You receive care from an Out-of-Network Provider who does not participate in a different provider network with Us, it will be Your responsibility to make payment arrangements with the facility. Some Out-of-Network Providers that are Non-Participating will submit Your Post-Service Claim for You. If not, You can obtain a Post-Service Claim form from Us by calling the telephone number listed on Your ID card. The form will give You instructions for filing the Post-Service Claim.

##### (2) For care received *outside* Our Service Area

Post-Service Claims should be filed directly with Us. If a Hospital or other facility will not file Your Post-Service Claim for You, You can obtain a Post-Service Claim form from Us by calling the telephone number listed on Your ID card. The form will give You instructions for filing the Post-Service Claim.

**b. Physician Services**

**(1) For care received *inside* Our Services Area.**

- (a) In-Network or Participating Providers will file Your Post-Service Claim for You. The Physician will be paid directly by Us. After the Physician receives Our payment, the Physician may bill You for any non-Covered Services or Cost-Sharing amounts for which You are responsible.
- (b) Out-of-Network Physicians who does not participate in a different provider network with Us will sometimes file Your Post-Service Claim for You. If an Out-of-Network Physician who is Non-Participating declines to file Your Post-Service Claim for You, You can obtain a Post-Service Claim form from Us by calling the telephone number listed on Your ID card. The form will give You instructions for filing the Post-Service Claim.

**(2) For care received *outside* Our Service Area.**

If You ask, a Physician outside Our Service Area will frequently file Your Post-Service Claim for You. Post-Service Claims must be filed with Us. If the Physician declines to file Your Post-Service Claim for You, You can obtain a Post-Service Claim form from Us by calling the telephone number on Your ID card. The form will give You instructions for filing the Post-Service Claim.

**c. Services Received From Providers Other Than Hospitals, Physicians and Facilities**

It is necessary for You to file a completed Post-Service Claim form with Us for these services. Contact Us at the telephone number listed on Your ID card for the proper Post Service Claim forms. The form will give You instructions for filing the Post-Service Claim. The presentation of a prescription at a Participating Pharmacy is not a Claim. If You disagree with the amount of Copayment, Coinsurance, Deductible or whether the prescription would be covered under the Contract, You must file a completed Post-Service Claim form with Us.

**d. Time Limits for Filing Post-Service Claims**

We must receive proof of a Post-Service Claim for reimbursement for Covered Services no later than 365 days after the end of the Calendar Year in which the service was received, except if it was not reasonably possible to give notice of proof within this time. We will deny any Post-Service Claim not received within this time limit.

**e. Processing of the Filed Post-Service Claim**

We will process Your Post-Service Claim as soon as reasonably possible but in no more than thirty (30) calendar days after receipt. We will notify You within thirty (30) calendar days after receipt if additional information is necessary to process the Post-Service Claim. You have forty-five (45) calendar days from the date You receive Our request to provide Us with the additional information. Upon receipt of the additional information, We will process Your Post-Service Claim within fifteen (15) calendar days. If You fail to provide Us with the additional information within forty-five (45) calendar days of receipt of Our request, We will deny Your Post-Service Claim.

---

**3. Pre-Service Claims**

Requests for Pre-Service Claims must be made in accordance with Section K. The presentation of a prescription at a Participating Pharmacy that requires Prior Authorization is not a Claim. If You disagree with whether the prescription would be covered under the Contract, You must request Prior Authorization in Accordance with Section K.

**SECTION F. COORDINATION OF BENEFITS (COB)**

---

**1. Coordination Of Benefits**

Individuals typically send their claims for medical services to every Plan that covers them. As a result, most plans have a Coordination of Benefits (COB) provision. A COB provision allows Plans to work together so that the total amount of all payments by all Plans will never be more than the Allowable Expense.

---

**2. Definitions Applicable to this Section**

- a. **Allowable Expense** means a medical expense or service including Deductibles, Coinsurance or Copayments that is covered in full or in part by one or more of the Plans covering the person for whom the claim is made. An Allowable Expense does not include dental coverage or group-type accident only coverage. If a Plan is advised that all plans covering a Covered Person are high-deductible health plans and the Covered Person intends to contribute to a health savings account, the primary high-deductible health plan’s deductible is not an Allowable Expense, except for any health care expense incurred that is not subject to the deductible as described in Section 223(c)(2)(C) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986. A medical expense or service or a portion of an expense or service that is not covered by any of the Plans is not an Allowable Expense. Any expense that a provider by law or in accordance with a contractual agreement is prohibited from charging a Covered Person is not an Allowable Expense. The difference between the cost of a private Hospital room and the cost of a semi-private Hospital room is not considered an Allowable Expense unless the private room is Medically Necessary. When a Plan provides benefits in the form of services, the reasonable cash value of each service will be considered as both an Allowable Expense and a benefit paid.

When benefits are reduced under a primary Plan because a Covered Person did not comply with the Plan provisions, the amount of that reduction will not be considered an Allowable Expense. Examples of these provisions are those related to second surgical opinions, precertification of admissions or services, or because the Covered Person has a lower benefit because the Covered Person did not use an In-Network Provider.

If the primary Plan is a Closed Panel Plan and the secondary Plan is not a Closed Panel Plan, the secondary Plan will pay or provide benefits as if it were primary when a Covered Person uses a non-Closed Panel provider, except for Emergency Services or authorized referrals that are paid or provided by the primary Plan.

If a Covered Person is covered under 2 or more Plans that compute their benefit payments on the basis of usual and customary fees or relative value schedule reimbursement or other similar reimbursement

methodology, any amount charged by the provider in excess of the highest reimbursement amount for a specified benefit is not an Allowable Expense.

If a Covered Person is covered under 2 or more Plans that provide benefits or services on the basis of negotiated fees or if one Plan calculates its benefits or services on the basis of usual, customary and reasonable fees and another Plan provides its benefit on the basis of negotiated fees then any amount in excess of the highest of the Plan's fees is not an Allowable Expense.

- b. **Closed Panel Plan** means a plan that provides health benefits to covered persons primarily in the form of services through a panel or provider that have contracted with or are employed by the plan, and that excludes benefits for services provided by other providers, except in cases of emergency or referral by a panel member.
- c. **Plan** means any arrangement that provides coverage for medical services. COB applies to the following Plans:
  - (1) Group coverage, including insured, self-funded, or Closed Panel Plans.;
  - (2) Individual coverage, including insured or Close Panel Plans, issued on or after January 1, 2014.
  - (3) Coverage under any governmental program(s) to include any coverage required or provided by statute(s). Benefits available from Part A and Part B of Medicare are included. However, benefits under a state Medicaid program;
  - (4) The medical care components of group long-term care contracts, such as skilled nursing care.

The term "Plan" applies separately to each policy, contract, or other arrangement for medical services. The term "Plan" also applies separately to that part of any such policy, contract, or other arrangement for medical services that coordinates its benefits with other Plans and to that part that does not.

---

### 3. Order of Benefit Determination Rules

Plans use COB to determine which Plan should pay first (primary Plan) for the medical service. Benefits payable under another Plan include the benefits that would have been payable if You had filed a claim for them.

The order of benefit determination is based on the first of the following applicable rules:

**a. Non-Dependent:**

The benefits of a Plan which covers the person as other than a Dependent, will be determined before the benefits of a Plan which covers such person as a dependent.

**b. Dependent Child/Parents not Separated or Divorced:**

Except for a Dependent child whose parents are separated or divorced, the benefits of a Plan of the parent whose birthday falls earlier in a year are determined before those of the Plan of the parent whose birthday falls later in that year. If both parents have the same birthday, the benefits of the Plan which covered the parent longer are determined before those of the Plan which covered the other parent for a shorter period of time. The word birthday refers only to the month and day in a Calendar Year, not the year in which the person was born.

If a Plan does not have the provisions of this paragraph b. regarding Dependents, which results either in each Plan determining its benefits before the other or each Plan determining its benefits after the other, the provisions of this paragraph b. shall not apply, and the rule set forth in the Plan which does not have the provisions of this paragraph b. shall determine the order of benefits.

**c. Dependent Child/Parents Separated or Divorced:**

In the case of a Dependent child whose parents are separated or divorced, 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 of the child;
- (3) Then, the Plan of the parent not having custody of the child;
- (4) Finally, the Plan of the spouse of the noncustodial parent.

Notwithstanding (1), (2), (3) or (4) above, if there is a court decree which would otherwise establish financial responsibility for the medical expenses with respect to the child, the benefits of a Plan which covers the child as a Dependent of the parent with such financial responsibility shall be determined before the benefits of any other Plan which covers the child as a Dependent child.

**d. Dependent Child/Joint Custody:**

If the specific terms of the court decree state that the parents shall share joint custody, without stating that one of the parents is responsible for the medical expenses of the child, the Plans covering the child shall follow the rules outlined in b. above for a Dependent child of parents who are not separated or divorced.

**e. Dependent Child of Non-Parents**

In the case of a Dependent child covered under more than one plan of individuals who are not the parents of the child, the order of benefits shall be determined, as applicable, under paragraph b. or c. of this subsection as if those individuals were parents of the child.

**f. Dependent Child / Spouse Coverage**

If a person has coverage as a Dependent child under either or both parents' plans and also has his or her own coverage as a dependent under a spouse's plan, the Plans shall follow the rules outlined in paragraph i. below. If the coverage under the Plans began on the same date, the order of benefits shall be determined by applying the birthday rule outlined in paragraph b. above to the dependent's parent(s) and spouse.

**g. Active/Inactive Employee:**

The benefits of a Plan which covers a person as an Employee who is neither laid off nor retired (or as that Employee's Dependent) are determined before those of a Plan which covers that person as a laid off or retired Employee (or as that Employee's Dependent). 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 rule is ignored.

**h. Continuation Coverage:**

If a person whose coverage is provided under continuation of coverage pursuant to federal or state law is also covered under another Plan, benefits are determined in the following order:

- (1) First, the Plan covering the person as other than a Dependent (or as that person's Dependent); and
- (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 rule is ignored.

**i. Longer/Shorter Length of Coverage:**

If the above rules do not establish an order of benefit determination, the benefits of a Plan which has covered the person for a longer period of time shall be determined before the benefits of a Plan which has covered such person for a shorter period of time.

The claimant's length of time covered under a Plan is measured from his first date of coverage under that Plan. If that date is not readily available, the date the claimant first became a member of the group shall be used as the date from which to determine the length of time the claimant's coverage under the present Plan has been in force.

**j. Medicare:**

When benefits under the Contract are being coordinated with any benefits available by Medicare, the Federal Medicare Secondary Payor Rules in effect at that time will apply and this Coordination of Benefits section shall not apply.

**k. Plans without COB Provisions:**

If a Plan does not have a COB provision, it will always be considered as the primary Plan.

**l. Plans Share Equally:**

If none of the above rules determine the primary Plan, the Allowable Expenses shall be shared equally between the Plans.

---

**4. Effect on the Benefits of this Plan**

- a. When this Plan is secondary, it may reduce its benefits so that the total benefits paid or provided by all Plans for the claim does not exceed 100% of the total Allowable Expense for that claim. In determining the amount to be paid for any claims, the secondary plan will calculate the benefits it would have paid in the absence of other health care coverage and apply that calculated amount to any allowable expense under its plan that is unpaid by the Primary plan. The secondary plan may then reduce its payment by the amount so that, when combined with the amount paid by the primary plan, the total benefits paid or provided by all plans for the claim do not exceed the total Allowable Expense for that claim. In addition, the secondary plan shall credit to its plan deductible any amounts it would have credited to its deductible in the absence of other health care coverage.

- b If a Covered Person is enrolled in two or more Closed Panel Plans and if, for any reason, including the provision of service by a non-Closed Panel provider, benefits are not payable by one Closed Panel Plan, COB shall not apply between that Plan and the other Closed Panel Plan.

---

**5. Right to Receive and Release Necessary Information**

In order to decide if this COB section (or any other Plan's COB section) applies to a claim, We (without the consent of or notice to any person) have the right to:

- a. Release to any person, insurance company or organization, the necessary claim information; and
- b. Receive from any person, insurance company or organization, the necessary claim information.

Any person claiming Benefits under the Contract must give Us any information needed by Us to coordinate those Benefits.

---

**6. Facility of Payment**

If another Plan makes a benefit payment that should have been made by Us, then We have the right to pay that other Plan any amount necessary to satisfy Our obligation.

**SECTION G. PREMIUM PAYMENT, GRACE PERIOD AND CHANGES**

---

- 1. Premium Payment**

Initial Premiums are due and payable by Your Employer on or before the Contract effective date. Subsequent Premiums are due and payable by Your Employer on or before the monthly Due Date.
- 
- 2. Grace Period**

The Employer shall have a grace period of 28 days for the payment of any Premium, during which time the Contract shall continue in force. In no event shall the grace period extend beyond the date the Contract terminates. The Contract will automatically terminate on the last day of the period for which Premiums have been paid if the grace period expires and any Premium remains unpaid.
- 
- 3. Reinstatement**

If coverage under the Contract is terminated for nonpayment of Premiums, We have the right to decide whether or not to reinstate such Contract. Such decision will occur in writing within 45 days of receiving Your resubmission of a new application.
- 
- 4. Changes in Premiums**

Your Premiums are age rated based on You and Your Dependents age classification as of Your enrollment date. We will automatically change the amount of Your Premiums on Your next enrollment date if You or Your Dependents have had a birthday which places You or Your Dependents into the next age classification upon which Premiums are based.

If You or Your Dependents change Your coverage and receive a new enrollment date, We will automatically change Your Premiums if You or Your Dependents have had a birthday which places You or Your Dependents into the next age classification upon which Premiums are based.

Premiums are age-rated and if the Covered Person’s age has been misstated, We will adjust the Premium for the Covered Person’s coverage under the Contract in a subsequent statement sent to Your Employer.

The amount of Your Premium may change if You or any of Your Dependents use or have used tobacco.

The amount of Your Premium may change if You or any of Your Dependents change place of residence.

If We find that You fall into a different risk classification due to a misrepresentation made by You in Your application, We may change the amount of Your Premium. If Your Premium would have been higher had We known the correct information, You will owe Us the difference

between what Your Premium would have been and the Premium You were charged. This amount will be calculated from the effective date of Your Contract. You shall have 30 days from the date We notify You to remit this amount.

## SECTION H. TERMINATION AND EXTENSION OF COVERAGE

- 1 Terminating a Covered Person's Coverage** We may terminate a Covered Person's coverage on the earliest of the dates specified below:
- a. On the date the Contract is terminated. The Employer is responsible for notifying You of the termination of the Contract. Failure of the Employer to notify the Employee of termination will not continue coverage beyond the effective date of termination of this Contract;
  - b. On the last day of the month for which Premium has been paid if You fail to pay any required contribution toward such Premium. We may recover from You Benefits We paid subsequent to the date of termination;
  - c. On the last day of the month following the date the Employee ceases to meet the eligibility requirements set forth in the "Employee Eligibility" provision of the "Eligibility, Enrollment and Effective Date" section of the Contract;
  - d. On the date a Covered Person becomes covered under another health plan sponsored by the Employer;
  - e. On the date indicated in writing to You by Us if coverage is terminated by Us due to a Covered Person committing fraud or intentionally misrepresenting a material fact on the Employee application, provided that such termination will not occur unless written notice was provided 30 days in advance;
  - f. On the date a Covered Person allows an unauthorized person to use the Covered Person's identification card, or files a fraudulent claim;
  - g. On the date a Covered Person chooses Medicare as primary coverage, and the Employer, by law, is not permitted to allow the Contract to be secondary to Medicare; or
  - h. On the last day of the month in which the coverage under the Contract is terminated because We cease offering the particular type of coverage in the market provided by this Contract in accordance with applicable laws and regulations. If We discontinue offering this particular type of coverage, We will provide You 90 days written notice prior to the date coverage is discontinued and will offer You, on a guaranteed issue basis, the option to purchase any other such appropriate group health insurance coverage that We are currently offering.

When a Covered Person's coverage terminates, he may have continuation of coverage or conversion rights. See the "Continuation and Conversion" section of the Contract.

---

- 2. Extension of Coverage** If a Covered Person is confined in a Hospital on the date the Contract is terminated, the Covered Person's coverage will be extended without payment of Premium. Coverage under this extension will only be for Covered Services directly related to the Hospital Confinement; provided, however, the benefits of the new plan will be determined before the Benefits under this Contract. The total amount payable under the new plan and under this Contract shall never be more than the Allowable Expense as that term is defined under the Coordination of Benefits section of this Contract.

The extended coverage will terminate on the earlier of the following:

- a. The date the Hospital Confinement ends; or
- b. The end of a 31 day period following the date the Contract is terminated.

## SECTION I. CONTINUATION AND CONVERSION

---

### 1. Continuation of Coverage

Certain persons whose group health coverage would otherwise terminate as a result of a qualifying event may be allowed to continue that coverage for a limited time, in accordance with state or federal COBRA laws.

The federal COBRA law applies to most Employers with 20 or more Employees. (It does not apply to Employers with fewer than 20 Employees, plans for federal Employees or church plans.) If an Employer is subject to the federal law, the federal law takes precedence over the state law. If an Employer is not subject to the federal law, state law applies. In general, if Your Employer has fewer than 20 Employees, then state law applies. (State law also applies to church groups, regardless of size.) **Contact Your Employer to determine whether state or federal continuation is available.**

---

### 2. Continuation of Coverage under Federal Law ("COBRA")

The following COBRA continuation provisions apply to most Employers who employed twenty (20) or more Employees on at least half of its typical business days during the preceding Calendar Year. The COBRA provisions of the Contract will conform with the minimum requirements of the COBRA law, provided that the Employer and Covered Persons comply with COBRA requirements. Coverage under the Contract will not be continued if the Employer or the Covered Person(s) do not comply with the COBRA requirements.

#### a. Qualifying Events

If coverage is terminated for an Employee or a Dependent as a result of one of the following "qualifying events," any of those individuals may elect to continue their group health coverage regardless of whether the Employee or Dependent is currently covered by another group health plan or entitled to Medicare. The qualifying events are:

- (1) Termination of employment (other than for gross misconduct);
- (2) Reduction in work hours;
- (3) Death of the Employee;
- (4) The Employee becomes entitled (eligible and enrolled) to Medicare Benefits;
- (5) Divorce or legal separation;
- (6) A Dependent child ceases to qualify as a Dependent under the terms of the Plan; or

- (7) The Employer files for Chapter 11 bankruptcy, but only for a retired Employee and his covered Dependents.

The Employee or the covered Dependents must notify the Employer (or their designated Plan Administrator) within 60 days of a divorce, legal separation, or a child's ceasing to be a Dependent child under the terms of the Contract or within 60 days of the date coverage under the Contract terminates as a result of one of these events, if later. If such timely notice is not received, the provisions of this section will not apply with respect to that event. Consult the Employer for information on the procedures to comply with these notice requirements.

**b. Qualified Beneficiary**

A qualified beneficiary is any individual who, on the day before a qualifying event, is covered under the Contract or any child who is born to or placed for adoption with a covered Employee during a period of COBRA continuation coverage. If a child is born to or placed for adoption with the Employee during the continuation period, the child is considered a qualified beneficiary only when the initial qualifying event is termination or reduction in hours of the covered Employee's employment. The Employee has the right to elect continuation coverage for the child, provided the child satisfies the plan eligibility requirements. The Employee must notify the Employer or plan administrator within 30 days of the birth or placement for adoption. A qualified beneficiary does not include an individual who marries any qualified beneficiary on or after the date of the qualifying event and a newborn or adopted child (other than one born to or placed for adoption with a covered Employee).

**c. Maximum Coverage Period**

If coverage is terminated because of the Employee's termination of employment or reduction in work hours, the qualified beneficiary may continue coverage for up to 18 months after that qualifying event. However, if the Employee became entitled to Medicare within 18 months before the termination or reduction of hours, the qualified beneficiaries (other than the Employee) may continue coverage up to 36 months after the date of Medicare entitlement.

If coverage is terminated as a result of the Employee's death, Medicare entitlement, divorce or legal separation, or a child ceasing to be a Dependent child under the Contract, qualified beneficiaries may continue coverage for up to 36 months after that qualifying event.

**d. Second Qualifying Event**

If continuation coverage is elected following the Employee's termination of employment or reduction in work hours, and then another

qualifying event occurs during that continuation period, covered Dependents (including Dependents born or adopted within the original 18-month continuation period) may continue their coverage for up to 36 months, rather than only 18 months. Such 36-month period will be measured from the date of the termination of employment or reduction in work hours, rather than from the date of the second event. Only an event giving rise to a 36-month maximum coverage period can be considered a second qualifying event. Therefore, termination of employment that follows a reduction in hours of employment is not considered a multiple qualifying event.

In addition, if during the continuation period the former Employee becomes entitled to Medicare Benefits and such event would not have resulted in coverage termination, such second event shall not be considered a second qualifying event.

Covered Dependents must notify the Employer (or its designated Plan Administrator) within 60 days of any second qualifying event. If such timely notice is not received, the provisions of this section will not apply with respect to that event. Consult the Employer for information on the procedures to comply with these notice requirements.

**e. Social Security Disability**

A special rule applies if a qualified beneficiary is found to have been disabled during the first 60 days of continuation coverage. All qualified beneficiaries may be eligible to continue coverage for up to 29 months. The determination of disability must be made by the Social Security Administration, and must be issued within the disabled individual's initial 18 months of continuation coverage. That individual must then notify the Employer of the Social Security Administration's disability determination as follows: (1) within 60 days of the later of the date after the determination is issued, the date of the qualifying event, or the date coverage under the Contract is terminated as a result of termination of employment or a reduction in hours; and (2) within the individual's first 18 months of continuation coverage. This extension applies for all qualified beneficiaries, including a qualified beneficiary born or adopted during the continuation period, if notice is given within 60 days of such birth or adoption.

If the Social Security Administration later determines that an individual is no longer disabled, that individual must notify the Employer within 30 days after the date of that second determination. The individual and other qualified beneficiaries' right to the 11-month extension of continuation coverage will terminate as of the first day of the month that begins more than 30 days after the second determination is issued. However, if another qualifying event occurs giving rise to 36 months of continuation coverage during the 11 month disability extension, the qualified beneficiaries receive the full 36 months of coverage beginning

from the initial date of continuation coverage. This extension cannot be shortened if disability ceases.

**f. Electing Continuation Coverage**

An individual who wishes to continue coverage must complete a COBRA election form that is postmarked within 60 days after the person's coverage would terminate due to the Qualifying Event; or, 60 days after the Employer or plan administrator sends notice of the continuation right; whichever is later. An individual must then pay the initial Premium within 45 days after electing continuation.

If an Employee or Covered Dependent contacts Us regarding a qualifying event, such contact does not constitute notice to the Employer or its designated Plan Administrator, and We will not be obligated to provide continuation of coverage to a Covered Person as a result of any such contact from the Employee or Covered Dependent.

**In no event shall We be obligated to provide continuation of coverage to a Covered Person if the Employer or its designated plan administrator fails to notify the Covered Person in a timely manner of his right to continuation of coverage; or, if they fail to notify Us in a timely manner, of the Covered Person's election of continuation of coverage.**

**g. Effective Date of Continuation Coverage**

Upon receipt of both the first month's Premium and the election form, Continuation Coverage will be effective on the date Coverage would have otherwise terminated.

**h. Coverage Changes**

If the terms of the Contract or Covered Services are changed, the COBRA coverage is also subject to the amended terms of the Contract or Covered Services.

The qualified beneficiary has the same right to change benefit programs as the active Employees. If the active Employee is allowed to change to another benefit program during the Employer's Annual Enrollment Period or under a Special Enrollment Period under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA), a qualified beneficiary is allowed the same opportunity.

If the Employer changes insurance carriers during the period of COBRA continuation, the COBRA covered individual for that Employer will be terminated as to the coverage under this Contract and become the responsibility of the new insurance carrier or health plan.

**i. Termination of COBRA Continuation Coverage**

COBRA continuation of coverage will end on the earliest of the following dates:

- (1) 18 months from the date continuation began if coverage ended because of the Employee's termination of employment or reduction in hours worked or 36 months for qualified beneficiaries (other than the Employee) after the date of Medicare entitlement if the Employee became entitled to Medicare within 18 months before the termination or reduction of hours;
- (2) 29 months from the date continuation began for a qualified beneficiary who is totally disabled in accordance with the Social Security Disability provisions above;
- (3) 36 months from the date continuation began if coverage ended because of the Employee's death, divorce, legal separation or a child's loss of Dependent status;
- (4) The date coverage terminates under the Contract for failure to make timely payment of the required Premium; if the individual fails to make the required Premium payment within the grace period (payment of Premium must be postmarked no later than last day of the grace period);
- (5) The date the individual first becomes, after the date of election, covered under any other group health plan (as an Employee or otherwise). However, an individual who becomes covered under a group health plan which has a preexisting condition limit must be allowed to continue COBRA coverage for the length of a preexisting condition or to the COBRA maximum coverage period, if less. COBRA coverage may be terminated if the individual becomes covered under a group health plan with a preexisting condition limit, if the preexisting condition limit does not apply to (or is satisfied by) the individual by reason of HIPAA, ERISA or the Public Health Services Act;
- (6) The date the Covered Person becomes entitled to Medicare Benefits, if after the date of COBRA election;
- (7) For retirees, in the case of a qualifying event that is the Chapter 11 bankruptcy of an Employer, the earlier of the date of the qualified beneficiary's death or the date that is 36 months after the death of the retired covered Employee;
- (8) The date any Covered Person allows someone other than an eligible Dependent to use his or her identification card, or submits a fraudulent claim; or

(9) The date the Contract terminates.

---

**3. Continuation  
Coverage under  
Uniformed Services  
Employment and  
Reemployment Act  
of 1994 (USERRA)**

The following USERRA continuation provisions apply to all employers regardless of size. The USERRA provisions of the Contract conform with the minimum requirements of the USERRA law, provided that the Employer and Covered Person(s) comply with the USERRA requirements. Coverage under this Contract will not be continued if the Employer or the Covered Person(s) do not comply with the USERRA requirements.

Apart from other rights to continued coverage provided under the Contract, if coverage would terminate for an Employee due to a leave for uniformed service, the Employee and his covered Dependents may be entitled to up to 24 months of continuation of such coverage, and certain reinstatement rights following a period of uniformed service.

**a. Eligibility**

An Employee who is absent from employment from his Employer due to uniformed service may continue his Employee and Dependent coverage beginning on the date on which the Employee is first absent from employment by reason of uniformed service.

Any election made by an Employee applies to the Employee and the Employee's Dependents who otherwise would lose coverage under the Contract. No separate election may be made by any Dependent. The coverage that Employees are allowed to continue on behalf of themselves and their Dependents will be the same as that provided to Employees and their Dependents under the Contract. Except in connection with circumstances that permit other Employees to make changes, an Employee may continue only the type of coverage that he or she was receiving on the day before the Employee first was absent from employment.

**b. Electing USERRA Continuation Coverage**

An Employee who wishes to continue coverage must complete an election form and be postmarked within 60 days after the Employee's coverage would terminate due to a leave for qualified uniformed service, or 60 days after the Employer or plan administrator sends notice of the USERRA continuation rights; whichever is later. An individual must then pay the initial Premium within 45 days after electing USERRA continuation coverage.

**In no event shall We be obligated to provide USERRA continuation of coverage to a Covered Person if the Employer or its designated plan administrator fails to notify the Covered Person in a timely manner of his right to USERRA continuation**

**coverage; or, if they fail to notify Us in a timely manner, of the Covered Person's election of USERRA continuation coverage.**

**c. Coverage Changes**

If the terms of the Contract are changed, the USERRA coverage is also subject to the amended terms of the Contract.

If the Employer changes insurance carriers during the period of USERRA continuation, the USERRA covered individuals for that Employer will be terminated as to the coverage under this Contract and become the responsibility of the new insurance carrier or health plan.

**d. Premium Payment**

The premium charged for USERRA continuation coverage will be the same for all similarly situated Employees electing coverage under this provision. When the period of uniformed service is less than 31 days, the Employer is required to pay its normal share of the Premium for coverage. When the period of uniformed service is 31 days or more, the Employee will be responsible for both the Employee's portion and Employer's portion, determined in the same manner as COBRA continuation coverage under the Contract.

**e. Termination of USERRA Coverage**

Coverage will end on the earliest of the following dates:

- (1) 24 months from the date USERRA continuation coverage began;
- (2) The date the Employee fails to apply for or return to a position of employment;
- (3) The date coverage terminates under the Contract for failure to make timely payment of the required Premium; if the individual fails to make the required Premium payment within the grace period (payment of Premium must be postmarked no later than the last day of the grace period); or
- (4) The date the Contract terminates.

**f. COBRA and USERRA Continuation Rights**

You may be eligible for both COBRA and USERRA continuation rights simultaneously.

---

**4. Continuation  
Coverage under  
State Law**

Continuation coverage may be available under state law if an individual is not eligible for continuation coverage under federal law. The following applies only to persons who do not have a right to continue coverage under COBRA.

State continuation of coverage is available to Employees and their Dependents when coverage terminates or when the Contract terminates. In order to continue coverage, such individuals must have been continuously covered under the Contract (or any similar group contract it replaced) for at least 3 months immediately prior to termination. The maximum period of continuation coverage under Kansas law is 18 months.

**To continue group coverage, obtain a state continuation of coverage request form from Your Employer.** This form must be completed and returned to Us along with the first month's Premium payment within 31 days of the date coverage would otherwise terminate.

- a. An Employee or Dependent shall not be entitled to continuation of coverage if:
  - (1) Coverage terminated for failure to pay timely Premium;
  - (2) The individual is or could be covered by Medicare;
  - (3) The individual is, or could be covered to the same extent by any other group plan;
  - (4) The Contract is terminated and replaced by similar group coverage within 31 days; or
  - (5) Coverage is terminated for cause as permitted by Contract/Certificate.
- b. Continuation of coverage under state law shall terminate upon the earlier of the following:
  - (1) 18 months after coverage would have otherwise terminated;
  - (2) The end of the period for which Premiums were paid if Premiums are not paid timely;
  - (3) The date the person becomes eligible to be covered under Medicare or any other group plan, whether or not covered; or
  - (4) The date on which the Contract is terminated and replaced by similar group coverage within 31 days.

---

**5. Continuation of Coverage Pursuant to a Leave of Absence**

If an Employee's coverage would terminate because of a leave of absence approved by the Employer (including absences under the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA), if eligible), coverage may be continued if the Employer:

- (1) forwards the Premium for such continued coverage; and
- (2) provides continued coverage to all Employees in the same class as the Employee whose coverage would otherwise terminate because of an approved leave of absence.

Such continuation of coverage shall terminate no later than:

- (1) 90 days after the Employee's coverage would have otherwise terminated were it not for this continuation coverage; or
- (2) If an Employee is eligible for FMLA leave to care for an injured or ill service member, 180 days after the Employee's coverage would have otherwise terminated were it not for this continuation coverage; or
- (3) If an Employee is eligible for FMLA leave for service member-related qualified exigencies, 90 days after the Employee's coverage would have otherwise terminated were it not for this continuation coverage

---

**6. Conversion Coverage**

The following individuals are entitled to convert to Our conversion plan designed for the classification applicable to them provided they have been covered as an Employee or Dependent under the Contract for 3 months, (except that a surviving Dependent of a deceased Employee will be offered an opportunity to enroll in Our conversion plan without regard to the 3 month coverage requirement if the Dependent was covered under the Employee's family coverage at the time of the Employee's death):

- a. Employees and Dependents whose coverage under the Contract is ending because the Contract is terminated and is not reinstated or replaced within 31 days.
- b. Employees or Dependents who have continued coverage for the maximum time allowed under state law or federal law (COBRA), whichever is applicable.
- c. Persons whose continuation coverage terminates because the Contract is discontinued and not replaced within 31 days by similar group coverage.

We will mail notice of the right to convert to the Employee's latest address as it appears on Our records when the Employee's coverage is terminated or the address of the Dependent provided to Us when We are notified that the Dependent is no longer an eligible Dependent.

A Covered Person has 31 days after termination of such group coverage to apply for conversion coverage and to make the required Premium payment for the period beginning with the day following the date coverage would otherwise terminate. No gap in coverage will be permitted.

**SECTION J. GENERAL INFORMATION**

---

**1. Terms and Conditions of the Contract**      The Contract is subject to amendment, modification or termination in accordance with any provision hereof by mutual agreement with Us and the Employer without Your consent or concurrence. The Contract may be modified at any time by Us as necessary to comply with state or federal laws or regulations. By electing coverage under the Contract, You agree to all terms, conditions and provisions hereof.

---

**2. Statements**      No statement made by a Covered Person in the Employee application for coverage shall void coverage or be used in any legal proceeding against the Covered Person unless the Employee application (or an exact copy) is included in or attached to the Contract or has been furnished to the Covered Person.

---

**3. Medical Examination**      To fulfill the obligations under the Contract, We may require a Covered Person to have a medical examination by a Physician of Our choice and at Our expense.

---

**4. Release of Records**      During the processing of Your claim, We may need to review Your health records.

As a Covered Person, You hereby authorize the release to Us of all physical or mental health records related to Your claim. Such authorization shall remain valid for no more than 24 months. This authorization constitutes a waiver of any provision of law forbidding such disclosure. Your records will be maintained with strict confidentiality.

---

**5. Reimbursement to Us**      a. Workers' Compensation

As a Covered Person, You agree to reimburse Us for any Benefits We paid to You or on Your behalf for Claims paid or payable for injuries or illnesses related to Your job to the extent You are covered or are required to be covered by a state or federal workers' compensation law or any comparable benefits that provide medical coverage for work-related injuries or illnesses whether or not You file a Claim. In addition, if You enter into a settlement giving up Your right to recover past or future medical benefits under a workers' compensation law, You agree to reimburse Us for any Benefits paid to You or on Your behalf for Claims paid or payable for any past or future medical benefits that are the subject of or related to that settlement.

If You are covered by a workers' compensation program that limits certain authorized providers, You agree to reimburse Us for any

Benefits We paid to You or on Your behalf for Claims paid or payable for services You receive from providers, authorized or unauthorized, by Your workers' compensation program.

Even if You fail to make a Claim under a workers' compensation plan, and You could have received payment under such plan if You had filed, reimbursement must still be made to Us. We have the right of set-off in all cases.

b. Errors

If We determine that an erroneous payment for Benefits has been made, We have the right to correct Benefits paid in error, including any Benefits We paid that exceed the amount needed to satisfy Our obligation. We have the right to recover the excess amount from You or any other person or entity receiving the erroneous payment on Your behalf. Such individual or organization has the responsibility to return any overpayments to Us. In the event You, or any other person or entity receiving the erroneous payment on Your behalf do not return to Us the erroneous payment, We shall have the equitable right to recoup such erroneous payment. We have the responsibility to make additional payment if an underpayment is made.

d. Misrepresentations

We have the right to recover payments from You for Claims submitted on behalf of You or any Covered Person under the Contract in the event that We rescind Your Contract due to fraud or intentional misrepresentation of material fact by You or any Covered Person in Your application.

Notwithstanding the above, We will not request a refund against a claim from a provider more than twelve months after We have paid a claim except in cases of fraud or material misrepresentation by the provider.

---

**6. Legal Actions**

No action at law or equity shall be brought after the expiration of 60 days after written proof of loss has been furnished or after the expiration of 5 years after the time written proof of loss is required to be furnished.

---

**7. Conformity with Laws**

If any provision of the Contract conflicts with federal law or the laws of the state in which this Contract was issued for delivery, those provisions are automatically changed to conform to at least the minimum requirements of such laws.

<b>8. Commission or Omission</b>	No Hospital, Physician or other provider of service will be liable for any act of commission or omission by Us. We will not be liable for any act of commission or omission by: (1) any Hospital or Hospital's agent or employee; (2) any Physician or Physician's agent or employee; (3) any other providers of services or their agent or employee; or (4) the Employer or the Employer's agent or employee.
<b>9. Clerical Errors</b>	Clerical errors shall not deprive any individual of coverage under the Contract or create a right to additional coverage.
<b>10. Notice</b>	Written notice given by Us to an authorized representative of the Employer is deemed notice to all affected Employees and their covered Dependents in the administration of the Contract, including termination of the Contract. The Employer is responsible for giving notice to Employees.
<b>11. Authority to Change the Contract</b>	None of Our agents, employees or representatives, other than the President and Chief Executive Officer or the Board of Directors, are authorized to change the Contract or waive any of its provisions.
<b>12. Assignment</b>	<p>The Contract and all rights, responsibilities, and Covered Services under it are personal to You, including any legal cause of action, or remedy, derived therefrom. Except for assignment of claim payment to In-Network or Out-of-Network Participating Providers, You may not assign them in whole or in part, either before or after services have been received, to any other person, firm, corporation or entity.</p> <p>However, any Covered Services provided under the Contract and furnished by a facility of the uniformed services of the United States will be paid to that facility if a proper claim is submitted by the provider. Such claim will be paid with or without an assignment from You.</p> <p>In addition, any Covered Services provided under the Contract and furnished by a public Hospital or clinic will be paid to that public Hospital or clinic if a proper claim is submitted by the provider and processed before We have made Our payment. Such claim will be paid with or without an assignment from You.</p> <p>No payment for Covered Services will be made to the public Hospital or clinic if payment for Covered Services has been made to You prior to Our receipt of a claim from the public Hospital or clinic. Any payment made to the public Hospital or clinic will satisfy Our liability to the extent of that payment.</p>

---

**13. Medicaid**

The Covered Services provided under the Contract shall in no way be excluded, limited or restricted because Medicaid benefits, as permitted by title XIX of the Social Security Act of 1965, are or may be available for the same accident or illness.

---

**14. ERISA Statement of Rights**

The following applies to Employee Welfare Benefit Plans subject to the Employee Retirement Income Security Act (ERISA).

As a participant in this plan, You are entitled to certain rights and protection under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA). As noted in this Contract, these rights and protections are personal to You, and are not assignable to any third party, with the sole exception that Your right to payment under the Contract to In-Network Participating Providers, BlueCard Program Providers, or other providers with whom We contract to the extent services are received from those providers.

ERISA provides that all plan participants shall be entitled to:

- a. Examine, without charge, at the plan administrator's office and at other specified locations, such as worksites and union halls, all documents governing the plan, including insurance contracts and collective bargaining agreements and a copy of the latest annual report (Form 5500 series) filed by the plan with the United States Department of Labor, and available at the Public Disclosure Room of the Employee Benefits Security Administration.
- b. Obtain, upon written request to the plan administrator, copies of documents governing the operation of the plan including insurance contracts and collective bargaining agreements and copies of the latest annual report (Form 5500 series) and updated Summary Plan Description. The plan administrator may charge a reasonable fee for the copies.
- c. Receive a summary of the plan's annual financial report. The plan administrator is required by law to furnish each participant with a copy of this summary annual report. In addition to creating rights for plan participants, ERISA imposes duties upon the people who are responsible for the operation of the employee benefit plan. The people who operate Your plan, called "fiduciaries" of the plan, have a duty to do so prudently and in the interest of You and other plan participants and beneficiaries. No one, including Your Employer, Your union, or any other person, may fire You or otherwise discriminate against You in any way to prevent You from obtaining a welfare benefit, or exercising Your rights under ERISA. If Your claim for a welfare benefit is denied or ignored in whole or in part, You have a right to

know why this was done, to obtain copies of documents relating to the decision without charge, and to appeal any denials, all within certain time schedules.

- d. Continue health care coverage for Yourself, spouse or Dependents if there is a loss of coverage under the plan as a result of a qualifying event. You or Your Dependents may have to pay for such coverage. Review Your Summary Plan Description and the documents governing the plan on the rules governing Your COBRA continuation coverage rights.
- e. Under ERISA, there are steps You can take to enforce the above rights. For instance, if You request a copy of plan documents or the latest annual report from the plan and do not receive them within 30 days, You may file suit in a Federal court. In such a case, the court may require the plan administrator to provide the materials and pay You up to \$110 a day until You receive the materials, unless the materials were not sent because of reasons beyond the control of the administrator. If You have a claim for Covered Services which is denied or ignored, in whole or in part, You may file suit in a state or Federal court. In addition, if You disagree with the plan's decision or lack thereof concerning the qualified status of a medical child support order, You may file suit in Federal court. If it should happen that the plan fiduciaries misuse the plan's money, or if You are discriminated against for asserting Your rights, You may seek assistance from the United States Department of Labor, or You may file suit in a Federal court. The court will decide who should pay court costs and legal fees. If You are successful, the court may order the person You have sued to pay these costs and fees. If You lose, the court may order You to pay these costs and fees, for example, if it finds Your claim is frivolous.

If You have any questions about the plan, You should contact the plan administrator. If You have any questions about this statement or Your rights under ERISA, or if You need assistance in obtaining documents from the plan administrator, You should contact the nearest office of the Employee Benefits Security Administration, U.S. Department of Labor, listed in Your telephone directory or the Division of Technical Assistance and Inquiries, Employee Benefits Security Administration, U.S. Department of Labor, 200 Constitution Avenue, N.W., Washington, DC 20210.

You may also obtain certain publications about Your rights and responsibilities under ERISA by calling the publications hotline of the Employee Benefits Security Administration.

---

**15. Authority to Construe  
Terms of the Contract**

Determining eligibility and construing plan Benefits is Our responsibility, and, to the extent permitted by law, We have authority to interpret and apply the provisions of Your Contract. Should You disagree with any of

the decisions We have made relating to the above provisions, You may file a Complaint or Grievance as provided in the Complaint and Grievance Procedures Section.

---

**16. Plan Sponsor and Plan Administrator**

For Employee Welfare Benefit Plans subject to the Employee Retirement Income Security Act (ERISA), the Employer is the plan sponsor and the named plan administrator (unless You receive written notice from the Employer that someone else is fulfilling those roles). We are not the plan sponsor or plan administrator.

---

**17. Independent Licensee**

The Contract constitutes a Contract solely between Employer and Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas City. Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas City is an independent corporation operating under an agreement with the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association, an association of independent Blue Cross and Blue Shield Plans, (the “Association”) permitting Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas City to use the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Service Mark in a portion of the States of Missouri and Kansas. Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas City is not contracting as the agent of the Association. No person, entity, or organization other than Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas City shall be held accountable or liable to the Employer for any of Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas City’s obligations to the Employer created under the Contract. This paragraph shall not create any additional obligations whatsoever on the part of Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas City other than those obligations created under other provisions of the Contract.

---

**18. Gender**

Any use of the male pronoun in the Contract shall also apply equally to the female gender.

---

**19. Titles**

Titles used throughout the Contract are for convenience purposes only and do not change the terms of the Contract.

---

**20. Second Opinion Policy**

You have the right to seek a second medical opinion from an In-Network or Out-of-Network provider. Benefits will be provided at the same level as for any other Covered Service rendered by that provider.

---

**21. Entire Contract**

The Employer application, Employee applications, and Certificate(s) issued to the Employee are incorporated by reference in this document and made a part of the Contract. Any conflict between the Contract and the Certificate(s) will be resolved according to the terms which are most favorable to the Covered Person. The definitions contained in the Certificate(s) will have the defined meaning when used in this document

with the first letter capitalized.

---

**22. PPO Provider Directory**

At no additional cost, PPO Provider Directories are provided by Us and upon request when You call Us at the telephone number listed on Your ID card. In addition, You may access Our PPO Provider Directory on Our website at [www.BlueKC.com](http://www.BlueKC.com).

---

**23. Incentives**

We are committed to ensuring Your health and wellness. We may offer incentives to encourage You to access certain medical services and/or to participate in various wellness or disease management programs. Incentives may include, but are not limited to: services / supplies provided at no or minimal cost to You; gift cards; entries for a prize drawing; and/or merchandise. Eligibility for these incentive programs may be limited to Covered Persons with particular health factors. Participation in such programs has the potential to promote better health and to help prevent disease.

Certain incentives may be considered taxable income. You may wish to consult with Your tax advisor or legal counsel for further guidance.

---

**24. Choice and Change of Primary Care Physician (PCP); Withdrawal from the Program**

- a. We may require the designation of a Primary Care Physician (PCP) by each Covered Person. If You are required to designate a PCP, You have the right to designate any PCP who participates in Our Physician network and who is available to accept You or Your family members. This includes any Blue Distinction Total Care PCP. Until You make this designation, We will designate one for You. For information on how to select a PCP, and for a list of participating PCPs, please contact the Customer Service number on the back of Your ID card.

For Dependents who are children, You may designate a pediatrician who participates in Our Physician network as a PCP, including any Blue Distinction Total Care PCP.

You do not need Prior Authorization from Us or from any other person, including Your PCP, in order to obtain access to obstetrical or gynecological care from an In-Network Provider who specializes in obstetrics or gynecology. The In-Network Provider, however, may be required to comply with certain procedures, including obtaining Prior Authorization for certain services, following a pre-approved treatment plan, or procedures for making referrals. For a list of In-Network Providers who specialize in obstetrics and gynecology, contact the Customer Services number on the back of Your ID card.

- b. If You want to change Your PCP, You may do so without notifying Us.

- c. If Your PCP withdraws or is terminated by Us from this program, We will notify You and will furnish You with a list of available PCPs who participate in Our Physician network so that You can choose a new one. If You do not choose a new PCP within 31 days of Our notification, We will assign You the PCP closest to Your previous PCP and of the same specialty as Your previous PCP. If You are not satisfied with the PCP that We assign You, You may change to a new PCP as provided above.
- d. If Your PCP unexpectedly withdraws from this program, We will notify You and furnish You with a list of available PCPs who participate in Our Physician network so that You can choose a new one. Until You have made Your choice, We will temporarily assign a PCP for You.

## SECTION K. UTILIZATION REVIEW

---

Utilization Review is undertaken for all medical/surgical inpatient Admissions, including acute care, skilled nursing and medical rehabilitation. Such review is performed using nationally licensed medical criteria. Our toll-free telephone number for Utilization Review is on Your identification card. You must call the number on Your identification card or submit the request in writing to Our Medical Management Department.

---

**1. Initial Determination** For initial determinations, We will make the determination within 2 working days of obtaining all necessary information regarding a proposed Admission, procedure or service requiring Prior Authorization.

In the case of a determination to certify an Admission, procedure or service, We will notify the provider rendering the service by telephone within 24 hours of making the initial Certification, and provide written or electronic confirmation of the telephone notification to the Covered Person and provider within 2 working days of making the initial Certification.

In the case of an Adverse Determination, We will notify the provider rendering the service by telephone within 24 hours of making the Adverse Determination, and will provide written or electronic confirmation of the telephone notification to the Covered Person and the provider within one working day of making the Adverse Determination.

We will notify the provider rendering the service within 24 hours for Urgent Care Services and within 5 working days for non-Urgent Care Services after Our receipt of the request for Prior Authorization if the request was incorrectly filed or additional information is needed. If additional information is needed in order to make a determination, You have 48 hours from the time You are notified to provide Us with the requested information for Urgent Care Services, and 45 calendar days from the date You are notified to provide Us with the requested information for non-Urgent Care Services.

Failure to provide the information within 48 hours for Urgent Care Services and within 45 calendar days for non-Urgent Care Services will result in the denial of Your request. Upon receipt of the requested information, We will make the determination within 48 hours.

Urgent Care Services are:

- a. Those services that if not provided could seriously jeopardize Your life, health or the ability to regain maximum function; or

- b. Those that in the opinion of a physician with knowledge of Your medical condition would subject You to severe pain that cannot be adequately managed without the requested care or treatment.

---

## **2. Concurrent Review Determination**

For Concurrent Review Determinations, We will make the determination within one working day of obtaining all necessary information.

In the case of a determination to certify an extended stay or additional services, We will notify by telephone the provider rendering the service within one working day of making the Certification, and provide written or electronic confirmation to the Covered Person and the provider within one working day after the telephone notification. The written notification will include the number of extended days or next review date, the new total number of days or services approved, and the date of Admission or initiation of services.

In the case of an Adverse Determination, We will notify by telephone the provider rendering the service within 24 hours of making the Adverse Determination, and provide written or electronic notification to the Covered Person and the provider within one working day of the telephone notification. The service will be continued without liability to the Covered Person until the Covered Person has been notified of the determination. If additional information is needed in order to make a determination, We will notify You as soon as possible, but no later than 24 hours after receipt of the request for additional services.

---

## **3. Reconsideration**

In the case of an initial determination or a Concurrent Review determination the provider may request a reconsideration of an Adverse Determination. This reconsideration will occur within one working day of the receipt of the request.

---

## **4. Retrospective Review Determinations**

For Retrospective Review determinations, We will make the determination within 30 working days of receiving all necessary information. We will provide notice in writing of Our determination to the Covered Person within 10 working days of making the determination.

---

## **5. Case Management**

Case Management focuses primarily on providing an appropriate level of care in a non-acute setting. The intent of Case Management is to ensure the provision of Medically Necessary care in the most appropriate setting for a Covered Service.

Case Management may approve an extension of Covered Services' Benefits beyond the limits specified in the Contract. In addition to the Covered Services specified in the Contract, Case Management may

approve other Medically Necessary services when warranted by the Covered Person's particular needs.

It may also include any plan of care set forth to promote health and prevent illness and injury of the Covered Person. This Case Management plan is not designed to extend Covered Services' Benefits or provide other Medically Necessary services to persons who do not meet the Case Management plan standards and criteria. We may elect to provide Benefits furnished by any provider pursuant to Our approved treatment plan for Case Management.

We shall provide any extension of Covered Services' Benefits or other Medically Necessary services when We determine the person meets the appropriate standards and criteria, and only when and for so long as it is determined that the extension of Benefits for Covered Services or provision of other Medically Necessary services is appropriate, Medically Necessary and cost effective. Such Benefits shall count toward a Covered Person's Calendar Year Maximum (if applicable).

The implementation of a Case Management plan shall require the approval of the affected Covered Person or his legal representative and the affected person's Physician.

If We elect to extend Benefits for Covered Services or provide other Medically Necessary services for a Covered Person in one instance, it shall not obligate Us to provide the same or similar services for any Covered Person in any other instance, nor shall it be construed as a waiver of Our right to thereafter administer the Covered Service in strict accordance with the terms of the Contract.

## SECTION L. COMPLAINT AND GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES

---

We have a formal process that gives You the right to express Complaints, either by telephone or in writing, regarding Our Claim payment decisions or other aspects of Our service, and to receive a response from Us explaining Our actions. This feedback is a valuable tool that helps Us enhance the quality of Our products and services and serve You as effectively as possible. The following procedures will be used to address any Complaints that You or any other Covered Person may have.

---

### 1. Definitions Applicable to this Section

**Inquiry** means a question or request for information or action. Usually an Inquiry can be resolved on initial contact with no follow-up action required.

**Complaint** means an oral allegation made by a Covered Person of improper or inappropriate action, or an oral statement of dissatisfaction with Covered Services, Post-Service Claims payment, or policies that do not fall within the definition of a Grievance.

**Grievance** means a written Complaint submitted by or on behalf of a Covered Person to Our Appeals Department regarding (a) the availability, delivery or quality of Covered Services, including a Complaint regarding an Adverse Determination made pursuant to Utilization Review; (b) Post-Service Claims payment, handling or reimbursement for Health Care Services; or (c) matters pertaining to the contractual relationship between a Covered Person and Us. A Grievance may be submitted by a Covered Person, a Covered Person's representative, or a provider acting on behalf of a Covered Person.

**Expedited Review** means the procedure for the review of a Grievance (which may be submitted either orally or in writing) involving a situation where the time frame of the standard Grievance procedure: (a) would seriously jeopardize the life or health of a Covered Person; (b) would jeopardize the Covered Person's ability to regain maximum function; or (c) in the opinion of a physician with knowledge of the Covered Person's medical condition, would subject the Covered Person to severe pain that cannot be adequately managed without the requested care or treatment. However, for purposes of the Grievance register requirements, the request will not be considered a Grievance unless the request is submitted in writing.

**Expedited Review Emergency Medical Condition** means:

- a. The sudden, and at the time, unexpected onset of a health condition that requires immediate medical attention, where failure to provide medical attention would result in a serious impairment to bodily functions, serious dysfunction of a bodily organ or part or would place a person's health in serious jeopardy;

- b. A medical condition where the time frame for completion of a standard external review would seriously jeopardize the life or health of the Covered Person or would jeopardize the Covered Person's ability to regain maximum function; or
- c. A medical condition for which coverage has been denied based on a determination that the recommended or requested Health Care Service or treatment is experimental or investigational, if the Covered Person's treating physician certifies, in writing, that the recommended or requested Health Care Service or treatment for the medical condition would be significantly less effective if not promptly initiated.

---

**2. Complaint Procedures** Our customer service representatives are available to answer Inquiries about Claims and Benefits. However, You are encouraged to discuss Complaints concerning medical care with the Physician or other health care provider.

A Covered Person should refer to his ID card for a toll-free number to call for instruction or any questions.

Your provider may file a Grievance with Us on Your behalf if You have granted written permission to such provider.

We will ensure the independence and impartiality of the decision making process related to claims or appeals.

---

**3. Procedures for Filing a First Level Grievance** If You prefer to file a formal Grievance, You may do so by requesting a Member Grievance form from Us by calling the telephone number listed on Your ID card, and submitting the form to Us. In order to request a first level Grievance, Your request must be filed within three hundred sixty-five (365) days from the date: (a) You received notice of an Adverse Determination made pursuant to Utilization Review, or (b) for Post-Service Claims, You received the Explanation of Benefits. For Employee Welfare Benefit Plans subject to the Employee Retirement Income Security Act (ERISA) You must file a first level Grievance before You can bring a civil action under ERISA Section 502(a). Call Your Employer to find out if You are subject to ERISA.

**The Grievance form must be sent to the attention of the Appeals Department.** We will acknowledge receipt of the Grievance within 10 working days unless it is resolved within that period of time. Upon request, We will provide You with copies of all documents, records, and other information relating to the Claim for Benefits. You have the opportunity to submit written comments, documents, records and other information relating to the Claim for Benefits. We must receive such documents prior to Our review of Your Claim. We will take into account all comments, documents, records and other information from You or

Your authorized representative, regardless of whether the information was considered in the initial benefit determination.

We will conduct a complete investigation of the Grievance within 20 working days or 30 calendar days, whichever is less, after receipt of the Grievance for Pre-Service Claims and within 20 working days after receipt of the Grievance for Post-Service Claims, unless the investigation of the Post-Service Claim cannot be completed within this period of time. If the investigation for Post-Service claims cannot be completed within the 20 working days, We will notify You in writing before the 20<sup>th</sup> working day. The notice will state the reasons for which additional time is needed for the investigation. The investigation will be completed within 30 working days thereafter, but no more than 60 calendar days after receipt of the Grievance for Post-Service Claim. We will notify You and/or Your representative and the person who submitted the Grievance, provided such disclosure does not violate Title II of HIPAA, in writing of Our decision within 5 working days from the day We make a determination. If the denial is upheld, the notification will include the principal reason for the denial and any clinical rationale. The notification will also explain Your right to request a second level review and rights to complain to the State Department of Insurance.

---

#### **4. Procedures for Filing a Second Level Grievance**

If You are dissatisfied with Our first level Grievance decision, You may request a second level review by a Grievance Advisory Panel (the "Panel"). In order to request a second level Grievance, Your request must be filed within three hundred sixty-five (365) days from the later of the date: (a) You are allowed to file a first level Grievance; or (b) You or Your representative, were sent notification of Our first level Grievance decision.

Please note that the second level review is voluntary and We waive Our right to assert that You have failed to exhaust administrative remedies because You did not elect to pursue a second level review. In addition, We agree that any statute of limitations or other defense based on timeliness is tolled during the time that You pursue a second level review. This means that if there is a legal deadline by which You are required to file a lawsuit, the deadline is extended for the period of time You are pursuing a second level review. You can still file a lawsuit during or after the second level review. Furthermore, Your decision as to whether or not to submit a Benefit dispute to a second level review will have no effect on Your right to any other Benefit under the Contract. We will not charge You any fee if You elect to pursue a second level review and You have the right to representation at Your own expense.

**Your written Grievance must be sent to the attention of the Appeals Department.** We will acknowledge the receipt of the second level Grievance within 10 working days unless it is resolved within that period of time. Upon request, We will provide You with copies of all documents,

records and other information relevant to Your Claim for Benefits, not previously provided during the first level Grievance. You have the opportunity to submit written comments, documents, records and other information relating to the Claim for Benefits. We must receive such documents prior to the Panel's review of Your Claim. We will take into account all comments, documents, records and other information from You or Your authorized representative, regardless of whether the information was considered in the initial benefit determination or first level Grievance. The Panel will consist of one or more enrollees and representatives of Ours who have not been involved in the circumstances giving rise to the Grievance. In addition, if the Grievance involves an Adverse Determination, or a service or supply that has been determined to be Experimental or Investigational, the Panel will consist of a majority of persons that are appropriate clinical peers in the same or similar specialty as would typically manage the case being reviewed who were not involved in the circumstances giving rise to the Grievance or in any subsequent investigation or determination. If We obtain advice from a medical or vocational expert in connection with a benefit determination, We will provide You with the identification of the expert upon written request. The Second Level Grievance process will adhere to the same time frames associated with the First Level Grievance process. We will notify You in writing of the Panel's decision within 5 working days from the day the Panel makes a determination and of the right to file an appeal with the office of the Commissioner of Insurance.

---

**5. Procedures to Request an Expedited Review**

If the time frame of the standard Grievance procedure: (a) would seriously jeopardize the life or health of the Covered Person; (b) would jeopardize the Covered Person's ability to regain maximum function; or (c) in the opinion of a physician with knowledge of the Covered Person's medical condition, would subject the Covered Person to severe pain that cannot be adequately managed without the requested care or treatment, a request for an Expedited Review may be submitted orally or in writing. We will notify You orally within 72 hours after receiving a request for an Expedited Review of Our decision. We will send written confirmation of Our decision within 3 calendar days of providing oral notification of Our decision.

---

**6. Exhaustion of Claims and Appeals Procedures**

In the case of a claim for disability benefits, You will be deemed to have exhausted all claims and appeals procedures if We do not strictly adhere to Our procedures. However, You will not be deemed to have exhausted all claims and appeals procedures when the following are all true:

- a. Our violation was a minor violation;
- b. The violation does not cause and is not likely to cause harm or prejudice to You;
- c. The violation is attributable to a good cause or matters beyond Our control;

- d. The violation is during the ongoing good faith exchange of information between You and Us; and
- e. Not reflective of a pattern of practice of non-compliance by Us.

You may request a written explanation of Our rationale for asserting We meet this standard. We must provide this within 10 days of Your request.

---

## **7. External Review of Adverse Determination**

You have the right to request an independent external review of an Adverse Determination by the external review organization established by the Commissioner of Insurance. Your right to request an independent external review of an Adverse Determination applies only if:

- a. You have exhausted all available review procedures listed above, unless You have an Expedited Review Emergency Medical Condition in which case the Expedited Review is utilized; or
- b. You have not received a final decision from Us within 60 days of seeking the above available review procedures, except to the extent that the delay was requested by You.

Within 120 days of receiving a notice of an Adverse Determination, You, Your Provider with Your written authorization, or Your legally authorized representative may request an external review in writing to the Commissioner of Insurance. Your request shall include all information in Your possession pertaining to the Adverse Determination, an appeal form and a fully executed medical records release for the Commissioner of Insurance and the external review organization to obtain any necessary medical records.

The Commissioner of Insurance will determine whether Your request for an external review will be granted within 10 business days after receiving all necessary information. If granted, the external review organization will issue a written decision regarding Your Adverse Determination to You within 30 business days. In the event that an Expedited Review Emergency Medical Condition exists, the external review organization will issue such decision not more than 72 hours after the date of receipt of the request for an expedited external review, or as expeditiously as the Covered Person's medical condition or circumstances require.

In no event shall the Covered Person be held responsible for any portion of the external review organization's fee for performance.

Only 1 external review is available for any request arising out of the same set of facts during a period of 12 consecutive months beginning on the date of the initial request for external review. If We fail to strictly adhere to all appeal procedure requirements as prescribed by law, then You shall be deemed to have exhausted all available review procedures.

The decision of the external review organization may be reviewed directly by the district court at the request of You, Your Employer, or Us. The review by the district court shall be de novo.

---

**8. ERISA Exhaustion of Internal Procedures**

If Your plan is subject to ERISA and Your request for coverage or Benefits is denied or any other ERISA statutory claim is denied, You have the right to bring a civil action under ERISA Section 502(a) provided You have exhausted Your first level Grievance rights

---

**9. Department of Insurance**

You may contact the Kansas Insurance Department by mail or telephone at 1300 SW Arrowhead Road, Topeka, KS 66604 or toll-free at 1-800-432-2484 for assistance at any time with a Complaint or Grievance or for any other matter.

**AMENDMENT ISSUED BY  
BLUE CROSS AND BLUE SHIELD OF KANSAS CITY  
FOR MISSOURI RESIDENTS ONLY**

AMENDMENT: BCBSKC-226-13-K

It is mutually understood and agreed that the Contract is amended as follows:

**In Section C., Covered Services, the following is added:**

**Autism Spectrum  
Disorder**

The following definitions apply to this section:

**Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA)** means the design, implementation, and evaluation of environmental modifications, using behavioral stimuli and consequences, to produce socially significant improvement in human behavior, including the use of direct observation, measurement, and functional analysis of the relationships between environment and behavior. Applied Behavior Analysis does not include cognitive therapies or psychological testing, personality assessment, intellectual assessment, neuropsychological assessment, psychotherapy, cognitive therapy, sex therapy, psychoanalysis, hypnotherapy, family therapy and long-term counseling as treatment modalities.

**Autism Service Provider** means:

- a) any person, entity, or group that provides diagnostic or treatment services for Autism Spectrum Disorders who is licensed or certified by the state in which services were rendered to provide health care services; or
- b) Any person who is licensed under Missouri Chapter 377 or by the state in which services were rendered, as a board certified behavior analyst by the behavior analyst certification board or as an assistant board certified behavior analyst.

**Autism Spectrum Disorders** means a neurobiological disorder, an illness of the nervous system, which includes Autistic Disorder, Asperger's Disorder, Pervasive Developmental Disorder Not Otherwise Specified, Rett's Disorder, and Childhood Disintegrative Disorder, as defined in the most recent edition of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders of the American Psychiatric Association.

**Diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorders** means medically necessary assessments, evaluations, or tests in order to diagnose whether an individual has an Autism Spectrum Disorder.

**Habilitative or Rehabilitative care** means professional, counseling, and guidance services and treatment programs, including Applied Behavior Analysis, that are necessary to develop the functioning of an individual.

**Pharmacy care** means medications used to address symptoms of an autism spectrum disorder prescribed by a licensed physician, and any health-related services deemed medically necessary to determine the need or effectiveness of the medications only to the extent that such medications are included in the insured's health benefit plan;

**Psychiatric care** means direct or consultative services provided by a psychiatrist licensed in the state in which the psychiatrist practices.

**Psychological care** means direct or consultative services provided by a psychologist licensed in the state in which the psychologist practices

**Therapeutic care services** means provided by licensed speech therapists, occupational therapists, or physical therapists;

**Treatment for Autism Spectrum Disorder** means care prescribed or ordered for an individual diagnosed with an Autism Spectrum Disorder by a licensed physician or licensed psychologist, including equipment medically necessary for such care, pursuant to the powers granted under such licensed physician's or licensed psychologist's license, including, but not limited to:

- (a) Psychiatric care;
- (b) Psychological care;
- (c) Habilitative or rehabilitative care, including Applied Behavior Analysis therapy;
- (d) Therapeutic care;
- (e) Pharmacy care.

We provide Benefits for the diagnosis and treatment of Autism Spectrum Disorders when prescribed or ordered for an individual diagnosed with an Autism Spectrum Disorder by a licensed physician or licensed psychologist, including equipment medically necessary for such care including but not limited to: (a) Psychiatric care; (b) Psychological care; (c) Habilitative or Rehabilitative care, including Applied Behavior Analysis therapy; (d) Therapeutic care; and (e) Pharmacy care.

The Benefits for Applied Behavior Analysis are subject to the same Cost-Sharing provisions as other Covered Services and are limited to a \$41,263.00 Calendar Year Maximum for Covered Persons until their 19<sup>th</sup> birthday. Such maximum benefit limit may be exceeded, upon prior approval by New Directions, if the provision of ABA therapy beyond the maximum limit is Medically Necessary for a Covered Person.

Coverage for Applied Behavior Analysis is limited to Medically Necessary treatment ordered by the treating physician or psychologist in accordance with the treatment plan for Covered Persons under the age of 19. An ABA therapy treatment plan must include all elements necessary for Us to pay the claim. Except for inpatient services, We have the right to review the treatment plan once every six months, unless the treating physician agrees a more frequent review is necessary.

Notwithstanding any provision in the Certificate to the contrary, services provided by an Autism Service Provider for Speech Therapy, Occupational Therapy or Physical Therapy will not be subject to any visit limits and shall not be subject to the age limitations described in this subsection, except for Applied Behavior Analysis.

**ABA services must be Prior Authorized by Us.**

**In Section D., Exclusions and Limitations, the following is deleted in its entirety:**

For marital counseling or counseling to assist in achieving more effective intra or interpersonal development; dietary counseling, except as specifically provided; decisional; social; or educational development; vocational development, or work hardening programs.

**And replaced as follows:**

For marital counseling or counseling to assist in achieving more effective intra or interpersonal development except as specifically provided under the Autism Spectrum Disorder Benefit; dietary counseling, except as specifically provided; decisional; social; or educational development except as specifically provided under the Autism Spectrum Disorder Benefit; vocational development, or work hardening programs.

**In Section D., Exclusions and Limitations, the following is added:**

For Applied Behavior Analysis services received as part of any Part C early intervention program or provided by any school district.

**In Section J., General Information, subsection 12., Assignment, the following is added:**

We shall reimburse the Part C Early Intervention System for claims for early intervention services (i.e. speech and language therapy, occupational therapy, physical therapy, and assistive technology devices) provided to Covered Persons under the age of three who are Missouri residents and are identified as eligible for services under Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. Claims for early intervention services will be subject to the same Cost-Sharing as other Covered Services, and

reimbursement for each Covered Person is limited to \$3,000 per year and not to exceed \$9,000 per lifetime. Early intervention services must be provided and billed by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE). Any payment made to the Part C Early Intervention System will satisfy Our liability to extent of that payment.

This amendment is attached to and made part of Your Contract. Except as specifically stated, nothing contained in this amendment will be deemed to alter any of the provisions of Your Contract.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Erin Stucky". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping tail on the "y".

Erin Stucky  
President and Chief Executive Officer  
Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas City

The following pages are not a part of this Certificate, but contain important information and are provided here for your convenience in locating this information if needed.

## COVERED PERSON'S RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

---

- 1. You have the right to:**
    - a. Receive considerate and courteous care with respect and recognition of personal privacy, dignity and confidentiality.
    - b. Have a candid discussion of medically necessary and appropriate treatment options or services for your condition from any participating physician, regardless of cost or benefit.
    - c. Receive medically necessary and appropriate care or services from any participating physician or other participating healthcare provider from those available as listed in your managed care plan directory or from any non-participating physician or other healthcare provider.
    - d. Receive information in clear and understandable terms, and ask questions to ensure you understand what you are told by your physician and other medical personnel.
    - e. Participate with practitioner in making decisions about your health care, including accepting and refusing medical or surgical treatments.
    - f. Give informed consent to treatment and make advance treatment directives, including the right to name a surrogate decision maker in the event you cannot participate in decision making.
    - g. Discuss your medical records with your physician and have health records kept confidential, except when disclosure is required by law or to further your treatment.
    - h. Be provided with information about your PPO managed healthcare plan, its services, and the practitioners and providers providing care, as well as have the opportunity to make recommendations about your rights and responsibilities.
    - i. Communicate any concerns with your PPO managed healthcare plan regarding care or services you received, receive an answer to those concerns within a reasonable time, and initiate the complaint and grievance procedure if you are not satisfied.
  - 2. You have the responsibility to:**
    - a. Respect the dignity of other members and those who provide care and services through your PPO managed health care plan.
-

- b. Ask questions of your treatment physician or treatment provider until you fully understand the care you are receiving and participate in developing mutually agreed upon treatment goals to the degree possible.
- c. Follow the mutually agreed upon plans and instructions for care that you have discussed with your healthcare practitioner, including those regarding medications. Comply with all treatment follow-up plans, and be aware of the medical consequences of not following instructions.
- d. Communicate openly and honestly with your treatment provider regarding your medical history, health conditions and the care you receive.
- e. Keep all scheduled healthcare appointments and provide advance notification to the appropriate provider if it is necessary to cancel an appointment.
- f. Know how to use the services of your PPO managed healthcare plan properly.
- g. Supply information (to the extent possible) that the organization and its practitioners and providers need in order to provide care.

**AMENDMENT ISSUED BY  
BLUE CROSS AND BLUE SHIELD OF KANSAS CITY**

AMENDMENT: BCBSKC-217-18-MK

It is mutually understood and agreed that the Contract is amended as follows:

**Inter-Plan Arrangements**

**I. Out-of-Area Services**

**Overview**

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

When you receive care outside of Our service area, you will receive it from one of two kinds of providers. Most providers (“participating providers”) contract with the local Blue Cross and/or Blue Shield Plan in that geographic area (“Host Blue”). Some providers (“nonparticipating providers”) don’t contract with the Host Blue. We explain below how We pay both kinds of providers.

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

All claim types are eligible to be processed through Inter-Plan Arrangements, as described above, except for all Dental Care Benefits except when paid as medical claims/benefits, and those Prescription Drug Benefits or Vision Care Benefits that may be administered by a third party contracted by Us to provide the specific service or services.

**A. BlueCard® Program**

Under the BlueCard® Program, when you receive Covered Services within the geographic area served by a Host Blue, We will remain responsible for doing what we agreed to in the contract. However, the Host Blue is responsible for contracting with and generally handling all interactions with its participating providers.

When you receive Covered Services outside Our service area and the claim is processed through the BlueCard Program, the amount you pay for Covered Services is calculated based on the lower of:

- The billed charges for Covered Services; or
- The negotiated price that the Host Blue makes available to 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 also take into account adjustments to correct for over- or underestimation of past pricing of claims, as noted above. However, such adjustments will not affect the price We have used for your claim because they will not be applied after a claim has already been paid.

## **B. Negotiated (non–BlueCard Program) Arrangements**

With respect to one or more Host Blues, instead of using the BlueCard Program, We may process your claims for Covered Services through Negotiated Arrangements for National Accounts.

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

If reference-based benefits, which are service-specific benefit dollar limits for specific procedures, based on a Host Blue's local market rates, are made available to you, you will be responsible for the amount that the healthcare provider bills above the specific reference benefit limit for the given procedure. For a participating provider, that amount will be the difference between the negotiated price and the reference benefit limit. For a nonparticipating provider, that amount will be the difference between the provider's billed charge and the reference benefit limit. Where a reference benefit limit is greater than either a negotiated price or a provider's billed charge, you will incur no liability, other than any related patient cost sharing under this contract.

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

### *BlueCard® Program*

If you receive Covered Services under a Value-Based Program inside a Host Blue's service area, you will not be responsible for paying any of the Provider Incentives, risk-sharing, and/or Care Coordinator Fees that are a part of such an arrangement, except when a Host Blue passes these fees to Us through average pricing or fee schedule adjustments.

### *Value-Based Programs: Negotiated (non–BlueCard Program) Arrangements*

If We have entered into a Negotiated Arrangement with a Host Blue to provide Value-Based Programs to Employer on your behalf, We will follow the same procedures for Value-Based Programs administration and Care Coordinator Fees as noted above for the BlueCard Program.

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

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

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

### **1. Member Liability Calculation**

When Covered Services are provided outside of Our service area by nonparticipating providers, the amount you pay for such services will normally be based on either the Host Blue's nonparticipating provider local payment or the pricing arrangements required by applicable state law. In these situations, you may be responsible for the difference between the amount that the nonparticipating provider bills and the payment We will make for the Covered Services as set forth in this paragraph. Federal or state law, as applicable, will govern payments for out-of-network emergency services.

### **2. Exceptions**

In certain situations, We may use other payment methods, such as billed charges for Covered Services, the payment we would make if the healthcare services had been obtained within our service area, or a special negotiated payment to determine the amount We will pay for services provided by nonparticipating providers. In these situations, you may be liable for the difference between the amount that the nonparticipating provider bills and the payment We will make for the Covered Services as set forth in this paragraph.

## **F. BlueCard Worldwide® 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 BlueCard Worldwide® Program when accessing Covered Services. The BlueCard Worldwide Program is unlike the BlueCard Program available in the BlueCard service area in certain ways. For instance, although the BlueCard Worldwide 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 BlueCard Worldwide Service Center at 1.800.810.BLUE (2583) or call collect at 1.804.673.1177, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. An assistance coordinator, working with a medical professional, can arrange a physician appointment or hospitalization, if necessary.

### **• Inpatient Services**

In most cases, if you contact the BlueCard Worldwide Service Center for assistance, hospitals will not require you to pay for covered inpatient services, except for your cost-share amounts. In such cases, the hospital will submit your claims to the BlueCard Worldwide 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 Us to obtain precertification for non-emergency inpatient services.**

- **Outpatient Services**

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 BlueCard Worldwide 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 BlueCard Worldwide International claim form and send the claim form with the provider's itemized bill(s) to the BlueCard Worldwide 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 Us, the BlueCard Worldwide Service Center or online at [www.bluecardworldwide.com](http://www.bluecardworldwide.com). If you need assistance with your claim submission, you should call the BlueCard Worldwide Service Center at 1.800.810.BLUE (2583) or call collect at 1.804.673.1177, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

This amendment is attached to and made part of Your Contract. Except as specifically stated, nothing contained in this amendment will be deemed to alter any of the provisions of Your Contract.



Erin Stucky  
President and Chief Executive Officer  
Blue Cross Blue Shield of Kansas City



GENERAL PURPOSES AND LIMITATIONS OF THE  
KANSAS LIFE AND HEALTH INSURANCE GUARANTY ASSOCIATION  
K.S.A. 40-3001, et. seq.

**DISCLAIMER**

THE KANSAS LIFE AND HEALTH INSURANCE GUARANTY ASSOCIATION MAY NOT PROVIDE COVERAGE FOR ALL OR A PORTION OF THIS POLICY. IF COVERAGE IS PROVIDED, IT MAY BE SUBJECT TO SUBSTANTIAL LIMITATIONS AND EXCLUSIONS, AND IS CONDITIONED UPON RESIDENCY IN THIS STATE. THEREFORE, YOU SHOULD NOT RELY UPON COVERAGE BY THE KANSAS LIFE AND HEALTH INSURANCE GUARANTY ASSOCIATION IN SELECTING AN INSURANCE COMPANY OR IN SELECTING AN INSURANCE POLICY. INSURANCE COMPANIES AND THEIR AGENTS ARE PROHIBITED BY LAW FROM USING THE EXISTENCE OF THE KANSAS LIFE AND HEALTH INSURANCE GUARANTY ASSOCIATION IN SELLING YOU ANY FORM OF AN INSURANCE POLICY, OR TO INDUCE YOU TO PURCHASE ANY FORM OF AN INSURANCE POLICY. EITHER THE KANSAS LIFE AND HEALTH INSURANCE GUARANTY ASSOCIATION OR THE KANSAS INSURANCE DEPARTMENT WILL RESPOND TO ANY QUESTIONS YOU HAVE REGARDING THIS DOCUMENT.

Kansas Life and Health Insurance Guaranty Association  
2909 SW Maupin Lane  
Topeka, KS 66614  
Ph.: 785-271-1199  
Fax: 785-272-0242

Kansas Insurance Department  
420 SW 9th Street  
Topeka, KS 66612  
Ph.: 785-296-3071

This is a brief summary of the Kansas Life and Health Insurance Guaranty Association (“the Association”) and the protection it provides for policyholders. If there is any inconsistency between this notice and Kansas law, then Kansas law will control.

The Association was established to provide protection in the unlikely event that your life, annuity or health insurance company becomes financially unable to meet its obligations and is taken over by its Insurance Department. If this should happen, the Association will typically arrange to continue coverage and pay claims, in accordance with Kansas law, with funding from assessments paid by other insurance companies. This safety net was created under Kansas law, which determines who and what is covered and the amounts of coverage. The basic protections provided by the Association are:

- **Life Insurance**  
\$300,000 in death benefits  
\$100,000 in cash surrender or withdrawal values
- **Health Insurance**  
\$500,000 in hospital, medical and surgical insurance benefits  
\$300,000 in disability insurance benefits  
\$300,000 in long-term care insurance benefits  
\$100,000 in other types of health insurance benefits
- **Annuities**  
\$250,000 in withdrawal and cash values

The maximum amount of protection for each individual, regardless of the number of policies or contracts, is \$300,000. Special rules may apply with regard to hospital, medical and surgical insurance benefits, as well as certain aggregate limits.

# **BLUE CROSS AND BLUE SHIELD OF KANSAS CITY**

## **PRIVACY PRACTICES NOTICE**

---

**THIS NOTICE DESCRIBES HOW MEDICAL INFORMATION ABOUT YOU MAY BE USED AND DISCLOSED AND HOW YOU CAN GET ACCESS TO THIS INFORMATION.**

**PLEASE REVIEW IT CAREFULLY. THE PRIVACY OF YOUR MEDICAL INFORMATION IS IMPORTANT TO US.**

---

### **Summary of Our Privacy Practices**

We may use and disclose your medical information, without your permission, for treatment, payment, and health care operations activities. We may use and disclose your medical information, without your permission, when required or authorized by law for public health activities, law enforcement, judicial and administrative proceedings, research, and certain other public benefit functions.

We may disclose your medical information to your family members, friends, and others you involve in your care or payment for your health care. We may disclose your medical information to appropriate public and private agencies in disaster relief situations.

We may disclose to your employer whether you are enrolled or disenrolled in the health plans it sponsors. We may disclose summary health information to your employer for certain limited purposes. We may disclose your medical information to your employer to administer your group health plan if your employer explains the limitations on its use and disclosure of your medical information in the plan document for your group health plan.

We will not otherwise use or disclose your medical information without your written authorization.

You have the right to examine and receive a copy of your medical information. You have the right to receive an accounting of certain disclosures we may make of your medical information. You have the right to request that we amend, further restrict use and disclosure of, or communicate in confidence with you about your medical information.

Please review this entire notice for details about the uses and disclosures we may make of your medical information, about your rights and how to exercise them, and about complaints regarding or additional information about our privacy practices.

---

### **Contact Information**

For more information about our privacy practices, to discuss questions or concerns, or to get additional copies of this notice, please contact our Privacy Office.

Contact Office: Privacy Office  
Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas City  
P. O. Box 417012  
Kansas City, MO 64141

Telephone: 816-395-3784 or toll free at 1-800-932-1114  
Fax: 816-395-2862  
E-Mail: [privacy@bluekc.com](mailto:privacy@bluekc.com)

### **Organizations Covered by this Notice**

This notice applies to the privacy practices of the organizations listed below. They may share with each other your medical information, and the medical information of others they service, for the health care operations of their joint activities.

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas City

Good Health HMO, Inc.

Blue-Advantage Plus of Kansas City, Inc.

Missouri Valley Life and Health Insurance Company

---

### **Our Legal Duty**

We are required by applicable federal and state law to maintain the privacy of your medical information. We are also required to give you this notice about our privacy practices, our legal duties, and your rights concerning your medical information.

We must follow the privacy practices that are described in this notice while it is in effect. This notice takes effect April 1, 2006 and will remain in effect unless we replace it.

We reserve the right to change our privacy practices and the terms of this notice at any time, provided such changes are permitted by applicable law. We reserve the right to make any change in our privacy practices and the new terms of our notice applicable to all medical information we maintain, including medical information we created or received before we made the change. Before we make a significant change in our privacy practices, we will change this notice and send the new notice to our health plan subscribers at the time of the change.

---

### **Uses and Disclosures of Your Medical Information**

**Treatment:** We may disclose your medical information, without your permission, to a physician or other health care provider to treat you.

**Payment:** We may use and disclose your medical information, without your permission, to pay claims from physicians, hospitals and other health care providers for services delivered to you that are covered by your health plan, to determine your eligibility for benefits, to coordinate your benefits with other payers, to determine the medical necessity of care delivered to you, to obtain premiums for your health coverage, to issue explanations of benefits to the subscriber of the health plan in which you participate, and the like. We may disclose your medical information to a health care provider or another health plan for that provider or plan to obtain payment or engage in other payment activities.

**Health Care Operations:** We may use and disclose your medical information, without your permission, for health care operations. Health care operations include:

- health care quality assessment and improvement activities;
- reviewing and evaluating health care provider and health plan performance, qualifications and competence, health care training programs, health care provider and health plan accreditation, certification, licensing and credentialing activities;
- conducting or arranging for medical reviews, audits, and legal services, including fraud and abuse detection and prevention;
- underwriting and premium rating our risk for health coverage, and obtaining stop-loss and similar reinsurance for our health coverage obligations (although we are prohibited from using or disclosing any genetic information for these underwriting purposes); and
- business planning, development, management, and general administration, including customer service, grievance resolution, claims payment and health coverage improvement activities, de-identifying medical information, and creating limited data sets for health care operations, public health activities, and research.

We may disclose your medical information to another health plan or to a health care provider subject to federal privacy protection laws, as long as the plan or provider has or had a relationship with you and the medical information is for that plan's or provider's health care quality assessment and improvement activities, competence and qualification evaluation and review activities, or fraud and abuse detection and prevention.

**Your Authorization:** You may give us written authorization to use your medical information or to disclose it to anyone for any purpose. If you give us an authorization, you may revoke it in writing at any time. Your revocation will not affect any use or disclosure permitted by your authorization while it was in effect. To the extent (if any) that we maintain or receive psychotherapy notes about you, most disclosures of these notes require your authorization. Also, to the extent (if any) that we use or disclose your information for our fundraising practices, we will provide you with the ability to opt out of future fundraising communications. In addition, most (but not all) uses and disclosures of medical information for marketing purposes, and disclosures that constitute a sale of protected health information, require your authorization. Unless you give us a written authorization, we will not use or disclose your medical information for any purpose other than those described in this notice.

**Family, Friends, and Others Involved in Your Care or Payment for Care:** We may disclose your medical information to a family member, friend or any other person you involve in your care or payment for your health care. We will disclose only the medical information that is relevant to the person's involvement.

We may use or disclose your name, location, and general condition to notify, or to assist an appropriate public or private agency to locate and notify, a person responsible for your care in appropriate situations, such as a medical emergency or during disaster relief efforts.

We will provide you with an opportunity to object to these disclosures, unless you are not present or are incapacitated or it is an emergency or disaster relief situation. In those situations, we will use our professional judgment to determine whether disclosing your medical information is in your best interest under the circumstances.

**Your Employer:** We may disclose to your employer whether you are enrolled or disenrolled in a health plan that your employer sponsors.

We may disclose summary health information to your employer to use to obtain premium bids for the health insurance coverage offered under the group health plan in which you participate or to decide whether to modify, amend or terminate that group health plan. Summary health information is aggregated claims history, claims expenses or types of claims experienced by the enrollees in your group health plan. Although summary health information will be stripped of all direct identifiers of these enrollees, it still may be possible to identify medical information contained in the summary health information as yours.

We may disclose your medical information and the medical information of others enrolled in your group health plan to your employer to administer your group health plan. Before we may do that, your employer must amend the plan document for your group health plan to establish the limited uses and disclosures it may make of your medical information. Please see your group health plan document for a full explanation of those limitations.

**Health-Related Products and Services:** Where permitted by law, we may use your medical information to communicate with you about health-related products, benefits and services, and payment for those products, benefits and services that we provide or include in our benefits plan. We may use your medical information to communicate with you about treatment alternatives that may be of interest to you.

These communications may include information about the health care providers in our networks, about replacement of or enhancements to your health plan, and about health-related products or services that are available only to our enrollees that add value to our benefits plans.

**Public Health and Benefit Activities:** We may use and disclose your medical information, without your permission, when required by law, and when authorized by law for the following kinds of public health and public benefit activities:

- for public health, including to report disease and vital statistics, child abuse, and adult abuse, neglect or domestic violence;
- to avert a serious and imminent threat to health or safety;
- for health care oversight, such as activities of state insurance commissioners, licensing and peer review authorities, and fraud prevention agencies;
- for research;
- in response to court and administrative orders and other lawful process;
- to law enforcement officials with regard to crime victims and criminal activities;

- to coroners, medical examiners, funeral directors, and organ procurement organizations;
- to the military, to federal officials for lawful intelligence, counterintelligence, and national security activities, and to correctional institutions and law enforcement regarding persons in lawful custody; and
- as authorized by state worker's compensation laws.

---

## Your Rights

If you wish to exercise any of the rights set out in this section, you should submit your request in writing to our Privacy Office. You may obtain a form by calling Customer Service at the phone number on the back of your ID card to make your request.

**Access:** You have the right to examine and to receive a copy of your medical information, with limited exceptions. This may include an electronic copy in certain circumstances if you make this request in writing.

We may charge you reasonable, cost-based fees for a copy of your medical information, for mailing the copy to you, and for preparing any summary or explanation of your medical information you request. Contact our Privacy Office for information about our fees.

**Disclosure Accounting:** You have the right to a list of instances in which we disclose your medical information for purposes other than treatment, payment, health care operations, as authorized by you, and for certain other activities.

We will provide you with information about each accountable disclosure that we made during the period for which you request the accounting, except we are not obligated to account for a disclosure that occurred more than 6 years before the date of your request. If you request this accounting more than once in a 12-month period, we may charge you a reasonable, cost-based fee for responding to your additional requests. Contact our Privacy Office for information about our fees.

**Amendment:** You have the right to request that we amend your medical information.

We may deny your request only for certain reasons. If we deny your request, we will provide you a written explanation. If we accept your request, we will make your amendment part of your medical information and use reasonable efforts to inform others of the amendment who we know may have and rely on the unamended information to your detriment, as well as persons you want to receive the amendment.

**Restriction:** You have the right to request that we restrict our use or disclosure of your medical information for treatment, payment or health care operations, or with family, friends or others you identify. We are not required to agree to your request. If we do agree, we will abide by our agreement, except in a medical emergency or as required or authorized by law. Any agreement we may make to a request for restriction must be in writing signed by a person authorized to bind us to such an agreement.

**Confidential Communication:** You have the right to request that we communicate with you about your medical information in confidence by means or to locations that you specify. You must make your request in writing, and your request must represent that the information could endanger you if it is not communicated in confidence as you request.

We will accommodate your request if it is reasonable, specifies the means or location for communicating with you, and continues to permit us to collect premiums and pay claims under your health plan. Please note that an explanation of benefits and other information that we issue to the subscriber about health care that you received for which you did not request confidential communications, or about health care received by the subscriber or by others covered by the health plan in which you participate, may contain sufficient information to reveal that you obtained health care for which we paid, even though you requested that we communicate with you about that health care in confidence.

**Electronic Notice:** If you receive this notice on our Web site or by electronic mail (e-mail), you are entitled to receive this notice in written form. Please contact our Privacy Office to obtain this notice in written form.

**Breach Notification:** In the event of breach of your unsecured health information, we will provide you notification of such a breach as required by law or where we otherwise deem appropriate

---

## Complaints

If you are concerned that we may have violated your privacy rights, or you disagree with a decision we made about access to your medical information, about amending your medical information, about restricting our use or disclosure of your medical information, or about how we communicate with you about your medical information, you may complain to our Privacy Office.

You also may submit a written complaint to the Office for Civil Rights of the United States Department of Health and Human Services, 200 Independence Avenue, SW, Room 509F, Washington, D.C. 20201. You may contact the Office for Civil Rights' Hotline at 1-800-368-1019.

We support your right to the privacy of your medical information. We will not retaliate in any way if you choose to file a complaint with us or with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.