

**City of San Luis  
EMPLOYEE BENEFIT TRUST DENTAL BENEFIT PLAN – Mexico Coverage**

**PLAN DOCUMENT and  
SUMMARY PLAN DESCRIPTION**

**EBSO GROUP NUMBER: SLS0001**

**Effective: July 1, 2018**

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>SECTION A</b> .....	<b>2</b>
INTRODUCTION AND PURPOSE; GENERAL PLAN INFORMATION .....	2
<i>Introduction and Purpose</i> .....	2
<i>General Plan Information</i> .....	3
<b>SECTION B</b> .....	<b>5</b>
SCHEDULE OF COVERAGE .....	5
<b>SECTION C</b> .....	<b>6</b>
DEFINITIONS OF GENERAL TERMS.....	6
<b>SECTION D</b> .....	<b>15</b>
ELIGIBILITY AND EFFECTIVE DATE OF COVERAGE .....	15
<i>EMPLOYEE ELIGIBILITY DATE</i> .....	15
<i>EMPLOYEE EFFECTIVE DATE OF COVERAGE</i> .....	15
<i>DEPENDENT ELIGIBILITY DATE</i> .....	15
<i>DEPENDENT EFFECTIVE DATE OF COVERAGE</i> .....	16
<i>CHANGE IN STATUS</i> .....	16
<i>SPECIAL ENROLLMENT PERIOD</i> .....	17
<i>OPEN ENROLLMENT PERIOD</i> .....	18
<i>CHOOSING PLAN OPTIONS</i> .....	19
<i>TERMINATION OF INDIVIDUAL COVERAGE</i> .....	19
<b>SECTION E</b> .....	<b>22</b>
CONTINUATION OF COVERAGE UPON INDIVIDUAL TERMINATION (COBRA).....	22
<b>SECTION F</b> .....	<b>35</b>
UNIFORMED SERVICES CONTINUATION AND REINSTATEMENT PROVISION .....	35
<b>SECTION G</b> .....	<b>37</b>
GENERAL LIMITATIONS AND EXCLUSIONS .....	37
<b>SECTION H</b> .....	<b>40</b>
DENTAL BENEFITS .....	40
<i>Covered Dental Expenses</i> .....	40
<b>SECTION I</b> .....	<b>42</b>
CARE PROVIDED BY THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT .....	42
COORDINATION OF BENEFITS .....	42
<i>EFFECT ON BENEFITS</i> .....	43
<b>SECTION J</b> .....	<b>47</b>
MEDICARE SELECTION PROVISION .....	47
<b>SECTION K</b> .....	<b>48</b>
GENERAL PROVISIONS .....	48
<i>The Plan and The Master Plan Document</i> .....	48
<i>Plan Administrator</i> .....	48
<i>Named Fiduciary</i> .....	48
<i>Claims Administrator</i> .....	48
<i>The Plan Is Not A Contract</i> .....	49

<i>Exchange Of Information</i> .....	49
<i>Alternative Treatment</i> .....	49
<i>Free Choice of Physician</i> .....	50
<i>Qualified Medical Child Support Orders (QMCSO)</i> .....	50
<i>Other Service Plan Contracts</i> .....	51
<i>Worker’s Compensation Notice</i> .....	51
<i>Erroneous Payment Refund Provision</i> .....	51
<i>Conformity With Applicable Law</i> .....	52
<i>Clerical Error</i> .....	52
<i>Fraud</i> .....	53
<i>No Waiver</i> .....	53
<i>Plan Contributions</i> .....	53
<i>Plan Modification and Amendment</i> .....	54
<i>Automatic Assignment</i> .....	55
<i>Physical Examination</i> .....	55
<i>Disclosure Of Electronic Protected Health Information (“Electronic PHI”) To The Plan Sponsor For Plan Administration Functions</i> .....	55
<i>Privacy Standards</i> .....	55
<b>SECTION L</b> .....	<b>59</b>
SUBROGATION/RIGHT OF REIMBURSEMENT .....	59
<b>SECTION M</b> .....	<b>66</b>
CLAIM/APPEAL PROCEDURES .....	66

## ESTABLISHMENT OF THE MASTER PLAN DOCUMENT

Effective July 1, 2018, the Plan Sponsor establishes City of San Luis Employee Benefit Trust Dental Benefit Plan - Mexico Coverage (the "Plan") to provide self-funded benefits for its Employees and their Dependents.

This Plan replaces the Plan Sponsor's previous plan of dental benefits. It is the intent of the Plan Sponsor to provide continuous eligibility and coverage from the previous plan to this Plan.

The Plan Sponsor hereby adopts this Plan Document as the written description of the Plan.

### **Disclaimer Of Claims Administrator**

EBSO, Inc. has prepared this document for your review and consideration; however, we are not legal counsel, nor are we in the business of practicing law. As your Plan's fiduciary, you are fully responsible for all legal issues that concern the Plan. If you are not an expert in this area, we urge you to hire an attorney to help you review this Plan.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Plan Sponsor has caused this Plan Document to be executed.

-----  
Date

-----  
Signature

-----  
Print or Type Name and Title

-----  
Witness Signature

-----  
Print or Type Witness Name

## SECTION A

### INTRODUCTION AND PURPOSE; GENERAL PLAN INFORMATION

#### Introduction and Purpose

City of San Luis, the Employer, has established the City of San Luis Employee Benefit Trust Dental Benefit Plan – Mexico Coverage in order to provide comprehensive dental benefits for Employees, and their Dependents.

The City of San Luis Employee Benefit Trust Dental Benefit Plan – Mexico Coverage is a self-insured public sector plan within the meaning of Arizona Statute 11-981 (hereinafter “Plan”). The Dental Plan is not an employee welfare benefit plan within the meaning of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA). Any resemblance to an ERISA plan shall not be construed to mean it is an ERISA plan. The Dental Plan is a self-insured medical plan intended to meet the requirements under Sections 105(b), 105(h) and 106 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 so the portion of the cost for coverage paid by the Employer is not taxable income to the Employee and any benefits received through the Dental Plan are not taxable income to the Employee. This Dental Plan is a group health plan for purposes of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA) and shall be administered in a manner consistent with HIPAA.

The Plan Sponsor has established the Plan for the benefit of eligible employees and their eligible dependents, on the terms and conditions described herein. The Plan Sponsor’s purpose in establishing the Plan is to help to offset, for eligible Employees, the economic effects arising from a non-occupational Injury or Sickness. To accomplish this purpose, the Plan Sponsor must be cognizant of the necessity of containing health care costs through effective plan design, and of abiding by the terms of the Plan Document, to allow the Plan Sponsor to allocate the resources available to help those individuals participating in the Plan to the maximum feasible extent.

This Plan is a non-grandfathered plan under Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA) and Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act (HCERA), collectively referred to as Health Care Reform.

The purpose of this Plan Document is to set forth the terms and provisions of the Plan that provide for the payment or reimbursement of all or a portion of certain medical expenses. The Plan Document is maintained by the Plan Sponsor and may be inspected at any time during normal working hours by any Plan Member.

The Schedule of Coverage is meant only as a summary of benefits. For more details about the benefits, check the Table of Contents and refer to the specific section in the booklet for complete terms and conditions.

This Plan covers only those expenses incurred in connection with non-occupational injuries or disease.

The Employer has contracted with the Claims Administrator to perform certain consultative and management services related to the Plan. The Employer retains ultimate authority for the Plan.

Certain words in this Plan have precise meanings and will be capitalized and defined in the Definition section or where used in the text, so that you will pay special attention to them.

**New Rescission of Coverage Rules.** Under this Dental Plan, coverage may be retroactively cancelled or terminated if you act fraudulently or make material misrepresentations of fact. It is your responsibility to provide accurate information and to make accurate and truthful statements including information and statements regarding familial status, age, relationships, etc. In addition, it is your responsibility to update previously provided information and statements. Failure to do so may result in your coverage, including the coverage of those provided coverage through you, being cancelled and such cancellation may be retroactive.

### General Plan Information

Name of Plan:	City of San Luis Employee Benefit Trust Dental Plan – Mexico Coverage
Plan Sponsor:	City of San Luis 1090 E. Union Street San Luis, AZ 85349 928-341-8547
Plan Administrator: (Named Fiduciary)	City of San Luis 1090 E. Union Street San Luis, AZ 85349 928-341-8547
Plan Sponsor ID No. (EIN):	86-0376164
Fiscal Year:	January 1 through December
Plan Number:	501
EBSO Group Number:	SLS001
Type of Administration:	Self-funded Dental Plan

Sources and Methods of Contributions to the Plan:

The Employer and the Employee share in the cost of the Plan. The Employer's contribution is made from his general assets and the Employee's contribution is made from payroll deductions. The Employer will provide a schedule of the applicable premiums during the initial enrollment, during open enrollment periods, on the Plan's annual renewal date and upon request.

All contributions shall be held in the Trust.

The Plan is "self-insured" which means that benefits are paid with assets from the Trust established by the Employer to pay benefits under the Dental Plan.

Name of Trust

City of San Luis Employee Benefit Trust

Trustees

For current information on Trustees, please refer to the Agreement and Declaration of Trust for City of San Luis Employee Benefit Trust

Claims Administrator:

EBSO, Inc.  
215 Stanford Pkwy  
Findlay, OH 45840  
Phone Number 800-558-7798

**Please Note:** EBSO, Inc. performs claims processing services pursuant to a contract, it does not insure benefits under the Dental Plan.

Agent for Legal Services:

City of San Luis  
1090 E. Union Street  
San Luis, AZ 85349  
928-341-8547

<b>SECTION B</b> <b>SCHEDULE OF COVERAGE</b>
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**NOTE: THIS IS ONLY A SUMMARY, SPECIFIC SERVICES AND SUPPLIES MAY BE SUBJECT TO COPAYS, MAXIMUM BENEFIT PAYMENTS, USUAL, CUSTOMARY AND REASONABLE FEES AND/OR EXCLUSIONS AND LIMITATIONS.**

**NOTE:** Benefits under this Plan will be paid only if the Plan Administrator decides in his/her discretion that the individual is entitled to them.

**DENTAL BENEFITS – NETWORK ONLY**

Copays

Class I Services – Diagnostic and Preventive Care	\$10
Class II Services - Basic Services	\$35
Class III Services - Major Services	\$50
Class IV Services – Orthodontics	None

Payment Percentages after Copay is met

Class I Services – Diagnostic and Preventive Care	100%
Class II Services - Basic Services	100%
Class III Services - Major Services	100%
Class IV Services – Orthodontics	50%

Maximum Benefits

Per Calendar Year for Class I, II & III Services, combined	\$1,000
Per Lifetime for Class IV Services	\$1,000

**NOTE:** Orthodontic Services are **LIMITED** to Dependent children less than 19 years of age. Dependent children must be covered under the Plan for 12 consecutive months before orthodontic services are available.

**THE NETWORK IS ADMINISTERED BY: SIARMED**

## SECTION C

### DEFINITIONS OF GENERAL TERMS

When used and capitalized in this document, these terms have the following definitions. **The following definitions are not an indication that charges for particular care, supplies or services are eligible for payment under the Plan; please refer to the appropriate sections of the Plan Document for that information.**

**ALLOWED CHARGE** means the maximum dollar amount eligible for payment for a procedure or service as determined by the Plan. This includes billed charges, contracted amounts or Usual, Customary and Responsible Fees, depending on the Dental Provider's relationship with the Plan and/or the dental services provided.

**CALENDAR YEAR** means the period from January 1 through the following December 31.

**CALENDAR YEAR MAXIMUM BENEFIT** means the total dollar amount of Covered Expenses a Plan Member may receive during a Calendar Year while enrolled under this Dental Plan. The Maximum Calendar Year Benefit does not include amounts which are the Plan Member's responsibility.

**COINSURANCE** means the charge a Plan Member must pay for certain Covered Services until the Calendar Year Maximum Benefit has been reached. Covered Services subject to Coinsurance and the amounts are listed in the Schedule of Coverage. Coinsurance is a percentage of the Allowed Charge. In some instances, the Plan Member will be responsible at the time and place of service to pay any Coinsurance directly to the Dental Provider. In other instances, the Plan Member will be billed by the Dental Provider. These arrangements are between the Plan Member and the Dental Provider.

**COVERAGE YEAR** means when services are covered under this Plan. This means that benefit maximums, Deductibles and Coinsurance limits start and stop during this time. This Dental Plan's Coverage Year is January 1 through December 31.

**COVERED EXPENSES** are charges for services that are covered under the Plan. Some charges, although eligible, may be subject to Deductible and Coinsurance provisions where applicable and, therefore, are the Plan Member's responsibility to pay. Charges for non-covered expenses are also the Plan Member's responsibility.

**COVERED SERVICE** means Dental Services described in the Schedule of Coverage section for which Dental Plan benefits will be provided, unless limited or excluded in the Exclusions section of this Dental Plan. A Covered Service is incurred on the date the Dental Service is received.

**DEDUCTIBLE** means the amount of Covered Expenses payable by the Plan Member each Calendar Year before benefits are paid by the Plan.

**DENTAL PROVIDER** means professional Dental Providers providing dental services to Plan Members. Each Dental Provider must be licensed, registered or certified by the appropriate state agency where the dental services are performed. Where there is no appropriate state agency, the Dental Provider must be registered or certified by the appropriate professional body. Dental Provider Includes those listed below:

1. **DENTIST** - a Doctor of Dental Surgery (D.D.S.), Oral Pathologist, Oral Surgeon or Doctor of Dental Medicine (D.M.D.).
2. **ORTHODONTIST** – a Dentist who has been specially trained to do orthodontics.
3. **DENTAL HYGIENIST** - a duly licensed Dental Hygienist who works under the supervision of a Dentist.

**DENTAL SERVICES** means the provision of all dental treatment as defined in the Dental Plan.

**DENTALLY NECESSARY** means dental care services, supplies or treatment, which are required to treat the Plan Member's condition or Injury. The Plan will determine whether a service or supply is Dentally Necessary based on the review process and generally accepted dental practice. The service or supply must be:

1. Consistent with and appropriate for the treatment or diagnosis of the Plan Member's symptoms, disease, defect or Injury.
2. Of proven value or usefulness, likely to yield additional information, and not redundant when performed with other procedures.
3. The most appropriate and cost-effective level of service or supply which can safely be provided to the Plan Member.

4. Not primarily for the convenience of the Plan Member's family or the Dentist.
5. Appropriate with regard to standards of generally accepted dental practice.

The fact that a Dentist has prescribed, ordered, recommended or approved a treatment, service, or supply does **NOT** in itself make it eligible for payment.

**DEPENDENT** includes only an Employee's:

1. Spouse (Spouse means an individual as recognized as a spouse for purposes of federal tax laws, including the Code. A Spouse who is legally separated or divorced from the Employee is specifically excluded from the definition of Spouse.); and
2. Unmarried or married children who are less than 26 years of age;
3. Unmarried children age 26 or older who are incapable of self-sustaining employment because of a developmental disability or physical disability and are chiefly dependent upon the Employee for support and maintenance. Proof of such incapacity must be furnished within 31 days of the children reaching the limiting age and annually thereafter.

"Developmental disability" means substantial handicap which results from mental retardation, cerebral palsy, or other neurological disorder.

"Physical disability" means a physical impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities such as hearing; breathing; mobility (ability to move); learning; or receptive (understanding) and expressive language. Physical disabilities include but are not limited to: blindness/visual impairment; cancer; diabetes; head injury; heart disease; and mobility impairments. An individual with a minor, non-chronic condition of short duration, such as a sprain, broken limb, or the flu, is not considered disabled.

4. Child for whom coverage is required by a Qualified Medical Child Support Order or by an administrative process established under state law.

The term children includes the following:

1. A biological child;
2. An adopted child, including a child placed for adoption. Placement for adoption occurs when an Employee, in anticipation of adopting a child,

assumes and retains legal obligation for the total or partial support of that child. Adoptive placement ceases when or if legal obligation ceases;

3. A stepchild;
4. a child for whom the Employee and/or the Employee's Spouse has been named legal guardian, or
5. A child for whom the Employee is legally financially responsible.
6. A foster child.

At any time, the Plan may require proof that a spouse or child qualifies or continues to qualify as a Dependent as defined by the Plan.

Individuals specifically excluded from the definition of a Dependent are:

1. any person on active military duty;
2. the grandchild of an Employee and/ or the Employee's Spouse;
3. any person covered under this Plan as an Employee; and
4. any person covered as a Dependent by another Employee.

**EBSO** means EBSO, Inc.

**EFFECTIVE DATE** means the date on which a person's coverage under this Plan begins.

**EMPLOYEE** means an Employee of the Employer who is regularly scheduled to actively perform the principle duties of his/her occupation a minimum of 30 hours per week, and who is enrolled and eligible for coverage under the Plan.

Part-time, seasonal, temporary and retired employees are not eligible for coverage under the Plan. Employee does not include the following:

1. a self-employed individual as described in Section 401 (c) of the Code, including, but not limited to, a sole proprietor if the Employer is a sole proprietorship, a person owning more than 2% of the Employer if it is a Subchapter S corporation, a partner of the Employer if it is a partnership, and a member of the Employer if it is a limited liability company and the members are treated as partners for income tax purposes;
2. an employee who is a spouse, child, grandchild, or parent of a person owning more than 2% of the Employer if it is a Subchapter S corporation;

3. any individual included within a unit of employees covered by a collective bargaining unit unless such agreement expressly provides for coverage of the Employee under the Plan;
4. any individual who is a nonresident alien and receives no earned income from the Employer from sources within the United States;
5. any individual who is a leased employee as defined in Section 414(n)(2) of the Code;
6. any individual who performs services for the Employer through, and is paid by, a third-party (including but not limited to an employee leasing or staffing agency) even if such individual is subsequently determined to be a common law employee of the Employer; or
7. any individual who performs services for the Employer pursuant to a contract or agreement (whether verbal or written) which provides that such individual is an independent contractor or consultant, even if such individual is subsequently determined to be a common law employee of the Employer.

**EMPLOYER** means City of San Luis.

**EXPERIMENTAL/INVESTIGATIONAL/INVESTIGATIVE** means a drug, device, medical treatment or procedure that meets any of the following:

1. The drug or device cannot be lawfully marketed without approval of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and approval for marketing has not been given at the time the drug or device is furnished; or
2. The drug, device, medical treatment or procedure, or the patient informed consent document utilized with the drug, device, treatment or procedure was reviewed and approved by the treating facility's Institutional Review Board or other body serving a similar function, or if federal law requires such review and approval; or
3. Reliable Evidence shows that the drug, device, medical treatment or procedure is the subject of on-going phase I or phase II clinical trials, is the research, experimental, study or investigational arm of on-going phase III clinical trials, or is otherwise under study to determine its maximum tolerated dose, its toxicity, its safety, its efficacy, or its efficacy as compared with a standard means of treatment or diagnosis; or
4. Reliable Evidence shows that the prevailing opinion among experts regarding the drug, device, medical treatment or procedure is that further studies or clinical trials are necessary to determine its maximum tolerated dose, its toxicity, its safety, its efficacy, or its efficacy as compared with a standard means of treatment or diagnosis.

For purposes of this definition, Reliable Evidence means published reports and articles in the authoritative medical and scientific literature; the written protocol or protocols used by the treating facility or the protocol(s) of another facility studying substantially the same drug, device, medical treatment or procedure; or the written informed consent used by the treating facility or by another facility studying substantially the same drug, device, medical treatment or procedure.

**IMMEDIATE FAMILY** means the Plan Member's spouse, parent, child, stepchild, foster child, legally adopted child, grandchild, sister, brother, grandparent, mother-in-law, father-in-law, sister-in-law, brother-in-law, daughter-in-law or son-in-law.

**INJURY** means a condition caused by accidental means which results in damage to the Plan Member's body from an external force and independently of all other causes and which is **NOT** related to occupation or employment. Chewing accidents are **NOT** considered Injuries.

**LIFETIME** wherever used in the Plan in reference to benefit maximums and limitations, means while covered under the Plan. Under no circumstances does "**Lifetime**" mean during the lifetime of the Plan Member.

**MASTER PLAN DOCUMENT** means the Plan Document detailing the provisions of the Plan.

**MEDICAID** means the medical benefits provided by Title XIX of the Social Security Act, as amended.

**MEDICARE** means the medical benefits provided by Title XVIII of the Social Security Act, as amended.

**PAYMENT PERCENTAGE** means the amount payable by the Plan for Covered Expenses after satisfaction of the Deductible amount, if applicable. The Payment Percentage is shown in the Schedule of Coverage.

**PHYSICIAN** means a legally licensed doctor of medicine and Surgery, doctor of dental medicine or doctor of dental Surgery. A Physician shall not include the Plan Member or any member of his/her Immediate Family.

**PLAN** means the Plan of benefits offered by the Employer according to the provisions of the Master Plan Document.

**PLAN MEMBER** means an Employee or Dependent, as defined in the Master Plan Document, who is covered by the Plan.

**PLAN YEAR** means the twelve month period beginning from the effective date of this Plan. This Plan's Plan Year is July 1st through June 30th. The Plan Year may not be the same as the Coverage Year.

**PROTECTED HEALTH INFORMATION (PHI)** means health information that is created or received by a Covered Entity, or Employer, and relates to:

1. A person's past, present or future physical or mental health;
2. Provision of health care to that person; or
3. Past, present or future payment for that person's health care.

To be considered Protected Health Information the information must be "individually identifiable health information" which means that in addition to the above requirements, the health information must identify the individual or a reasonable basis must exist to believe that an individual can be identified using the information. Protected Health Information covers information in any form (electronic, oral or written).

**QUALIFIED MEDICAL CHILD SUPPORT ORDER (QMCSO)** means a Medical Child Support Order that creates or recognizes the existence of an Alternate Recipient's right to, or assigns to an Alternate Recipient the right to, receive benefits for which a Plan Member or eligible Dependent is entitled under this Plan. In order for such order to be a QMCSO, it must clearly specify the following:

1. The name and last known mailing address of the Plan Member and the name and mailing address of each such Alternate Recipient covered by the order;
2. A reasonable description of the type of coverage to be provided by the Plan to each Alternate Recipient, or the manner in which such type of coverage is to be determined;
3. The period of coverage to which the order pertains; and

4. The name of this Plan.

In addition, a National Medical Support Notice (NMSN) shall be deemed a QMCSO if it:

1. Contains the information set forth below;
  - a. Name of an issuing state agency;
  - b. Name and mailing address of one or more Alternate Recipients (i.e., the child or children of the Plan Member) or the name and address of a substituted official or agency that has been substituted for the mailing address of the Alternate recipient(s);
  - c. Identity of an underlying child support order;
2. Identifies either the specific type of coverage or all available group health coverage. If the Employer receives an NMSN that does not designate either specific type(s) of coverage or all available coverage, the Employer and the Plan Administrator will assume that all are designated;
3. Informs the Plan Administrator that, if a group health plan has multiple options and the Plan Member is not enrolled, the issuing agency will make a selection after the NMSN is qualified, and, if the agency does not respond within 20 days, the child will be enrolled under the Plan's default option (if any); and
4. Specifies that the period of coverage may end for the Alternate Recipient(s) only when similarly situated Dependents are no longer eligible for coverage under the terms of the Plan, or upon the occurrence of certain specified events.

However, such an order need not be recognized as "qualified" if it requires the Plan to provide any type or form of benefit, or any option, not otherwise provided to Plan Members, except to the extent necessary to meet the requirements of a state law relating to Medical Child Support Orders, as described in Social Security Act §1908 (as added by Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1993 §13822).

**SCHEDULE OF COVERAGE** means the Schedule at the beginning of the Master Plan Document, or as later amended, which specifies the level of benefits provided by the Plan.

**SICKNESS** means a disorder of the body, disease, or condition.

**SUMMARY HEALTH INFORMATION** may be individually identifiable health information and it summarizes the claims history, claims expenses or the type of claims experienced by individuals in the Plan, but it excludes all identifiers that must be removed for the information to be de-identified, except that it may contain geographic information to the extent that it is aggregated by five-digit zip code.

**USUAL, CUSTOMARY AND REASONABLE FEE** means a charge for a given service by a provider to the majority of his clients, but such charge must be one which is within the range of fees charged by the majority of providers of similar training and experience, for that service within a specific, limited geographic or socioeconomic area as determined by the Plan. Due consideration will be given to the nature and severity of the condition being treated and any medical complications or unusual circumstances which require additional time, skill or expertise.

The term "area" as it would apply to any particular service, medicine, or supply means a county or such greater area as is necessary to obtain a representative cross-section of a level of expenses.

## SECTION D

### ELIGIBILITY AND EFFECTIVE DATE OF COVERAGE

#### **EMPLOYEE ELIGIBILITY DATE**

For new Employees, coverage becomes available on the first of the month following the date of hire.

Employee absences due to health related factors will be credited toward the eligibility waiting periods. **NOTE:** The Plan will give credit for any waiting periods satisfied in whole or in part under the Employers' previous plan of benefits.

The above requirement regarding length of employment shall be waived in any instance where a Plan Member is merely changing from Dependent status to Employee status, or vice versa. In these instances, coverage shall continue without interruption.

If an Employee loses coverage in this Plan due to Injury, Sickness, layoff, or Employer approved leave of absence and returns to work for the Employer within 3 months of the loss of coverage, he/she will be eligible for coverage on the date of return to work and will **NOT** have to satisfy a new waiting period.

**NOTE:** If an Employee does not enroll for coverage under this Plan when he/she is initially eligible to enroll for coverage, he/she may enroll for coverage under this Plan at a later date subject to the Special Enrollment Period or the Open Enrollment Period, as explained elsewhere in the Plan Document.

#### **EMPLOYEE EFFECTIVE DATE OF COVERAGE**

Coverage becomes effective on the date the eligibility requirement is satisfied, provided the Employee has enrolled for coverage within 30 days from the date he/she first satisfied the eligibility requirements.

#### **DEPENDENT ELIGIBILITY DATE**

An Employee becomes eligible for Dependent coverage on the later of:

1. The date the Employee becomes covered;
2. The date the Employee acquires an eligible Dependent; or

3. The date the Employee is required, by a Qualified Medical Child Support Order or by an administrative process established under state law, to provide Dependent coverage.

### **DEPENDENT EFFECTIVE DATE OF COVERAGE**

A Dependent whose coverage is required under a medical support order will be eligible to participate in the Plan as of the date specified in the order, provided the medical support order satisfies the requirements of Arizona law. The Employer will review a medical support order and determine whether it is qualified under Arizona law. Upon request to the Employer, Members may obtain a copy of the procedures governing medical support order determinations, which is available at no charge.

All other Dependent coverage will become effective on the first of the month following one month from the Employee's date of hire. If Dependent status is acquired after the Employee's initial eligibility, the effective date of coverage shall be one month following the month in which the new Dependent becomes eligible for coverage under the Plan, provided the Employee completes a change form and submits it to the Employer within thirty (30) days after the attainment of Dependent status.

Individuals who become an eligible Dependent of an Employee after the Employee's Effective Date of coverage will be eligible for coverage as explained under the CHANGE IN STATUS provision.

**NOTE:** If an Employee does not enroll his/her eligible Dependents for coverage under this Plan when they are initially eligible to be enrolled for coverage, the Employee may enroll his/her eligible Dependents for coverage under this Plan at a later date subject to the Special Enrollment Period or the Open Enrollment Period, as explained elsewhere in the Plan Document.

### **CHANGE IN STATUS**

If an Employee is covered for single coverage and wants to change to family coverage because of a change in marital status, he/she must request family coverage within 31 days of the date of marriage, in order for coverage to become effective on the date of the marriage.

Should an Employee's marital status change due to divorce or legal separation, notification of that change must be given to the Employer within 60 days of the date of that change.

Employees who have single coverage may request a change to family coverage to add an eligible Dependent child, by submitting a new enrollment form within 31 days of acquiring the child as an eligible Dependent, in which case the child's coverage would become effective on the date he/she became an eligible Dependent of the Employee.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, with respect to an Employee who acquires a new Dependent via birth, adoption, or placement for adoption, coverage for the new Dependent shall begin immediately upon birth, adoption, or placement for adoption and shall not be conditioned upon the enrollment of the new Dependent. However, if an additional premium is charged for the new Dependent and if the new Dependent fails to enroll within the thirty-one (31) day time period referenced above, the coverage shall cease upon expiration of such time period. Even if no additional premium is charged, the Employee should notify the Employer of the birth, adoption, or placement for adoption.

Any request for coverage after the 31 days will be subject to the Special Enrollment Period provision or the Open Enrollment Period.

### **SPECIAL ENROLLMENT PERIOD**

If an Employee declines coverage for himself/herself or for his/her Dependents (including the Employee's spouse) because of other health coverage, the Employee will be able to enroll himself/herself and/or his/her Dependents in this Plan at a future date, provided that the Employee requests coverage within 31 days after other coverage ends. Coverage becomes effective on the first of the month following the date on which the request for enrollment was received by the Employer.

This special enrollment period **ONLY** applies to individuals whose prior Creditable Coverage:

1. Was under COBRA and they exhausted that COBRA coverage; or
2. Was not under COBRA and they lost that prior Creditable Coverage due to:
  - a. events that are similar to COBRA qualifying events (including, but not limited to loss of eligibility as a result of legal separation, divorce, death, termination or reduction in hours of employment or a child aging out under other parent's coverage);
  - b. the plan no longer offering any benefits to a class of similarly situated individuals (e.g. part-time employees);
  - c. the cessation of the employer contributions for that prior Creditable Coverage (actual termination of other coverage is not required);
  - d. moving out of an HMO's service area; or
  - e. reaching a lifetime limit for all benefits.

However, loss of eligibility does **NOT** include a loss due to failure of the individual to pay premiums on a timely basis or termination of coverage for cause (such as making a fraudulent claim or an intentional misrepresentation of a material fact in connection with the plan).

An Employee must make a request for Special Enrollment within 31 days of the loss of the previous Creditable Coverage and must supply the Plan with proof of loss of coverage under the other group health plan.

Additional Special Enrollment rights exist for Employees and their Dependents (who are eligible but not enrolled for coverage) upon either (1) termination of Medicaid or the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) coverage resulting from loss of eligibility; or (2) becoming eligible for premium assistance in this Plan under a Medicaid or SCHIP program. In order to be entitled to this Special Enrollment right, the Employee must request coverage within 60 days of termination or the date the parent or child is determined to be eligible for assistance.

In addition, if an Employee, who declined coverage in this Plan for himself/herself or for his/her Dependents, acquires a new Dependent as a result of marriage, birth, adoption, or placement for adoption, the Employee will be allowed to enroll for coverage for himself/herself and/or his/her spouse and/or the new child, provided that the Employee requests coverage within 31 days after the marriage, birth, adoption or placement for adoption.

#### **EXAMPLES:**

1. In the case of marriage, an Employee who had previously declined coverage could become covered, with or without his/her spouse, under the Special Enrollment Period provision. Coverage becomes effective on the date of marriage.
2. In the case of birth or adoption, an Employee and/or his/her spouse, who had previously declined coverage in this Plan could become covered under the Special Enrollment Period provision. Coverage becomes effective on the child's date of birth, adoption or placement for adoption.

**NOTE:** During a Special Enrollment, the Employee may add a new Dependent under the Employee's current plan option or the Employee may switch to another option, **if applicable** (e.g., an Employee who is covered under this Plan may switch to an HMO plan offered by the Employer or change from one option under this Plan to another option under this Plan).

#### **OPEN ENROLLMENT PERIOD**

If an Employee declines coverage for himself/herself or for his/her Dependents (including the Employee's spouse) at the time such individuals are eligible for coverage, the Employee will be able to enroll himself/herself and/or his/her eligible Dependents during any Open Enrollment Period. Each year, during the month of **May**, the Employer will offer an Open Enrollment Period to eligible individuals (Employees and Dependents) who are not already covered under this Plan. Any individual enrolling for coverage under this Plan during an Open Enrollment Period (other than a new Employee who has not yet satisfied his/her eligibility-waiting period) will have coverage effective on the first of July.

**NOTE:** An Employee's eligible Dependent(s) may **NOT** be covered under this Plan unless the Employee is also covered. (This limitation does not apply to COBRA coverage.)

### **CHOOSING PLAN OPTIONS**

Every year, during the month of May, the Employer will offer an annual enrollment period, during which an Employee who is presently enrolled under one Plan Option may elect to become enrolled in an alternate Plan Option. The effective date of the change in Plan Option will be July 1.

Employees who are presently enrolled under one Plan Option may also elect to become enrolled in an alternate Plan Option if they experience a family status change. A family status change will occur if the Employee gains or loses an eligible Dependent due to divorce, death, loss of eligibility, birth, marriage, adoption or a child reaching the maximum age limit.

Dependents covered by that Employee must be covered under the same Plan Option.

### **TERMINATION OF INDIVIDUAL COVERAGE**

Coverage under this Plan shall terminate at midnight on the earliest of the following:

1. The date the Plan is terminated for all Plan Members;
2. The date a required contribution, if any, is due but the Plan Member fails to make the contribution;
3. With regard to a specific benefit, on the date the benefit is terminated or deleted from the Plan;
4. The date the Plan Member requests termination of any or all coverage under the Plan, subject to IRS Cafeteria rules. The request for termination must be in writing and all forms required by the Plan Administrator must be completed;

5. For Employees: If an Employee does not work the required number of hours to be considered an eligible Employee for any reason other than those specifically listed above, (i.e.; voluntary or involuntary termination of employment; or reduction in hours), coverage will terminate at the end of the month in which the Employee ceases full-time active work;
6. For Dependents:
  - a. Coverage will terminate on the same day as coverage terminates for the Employee under whom they are covered;
  - b. Coverage will terminate at the end of the month in which the individual no longer meets the Plan's Definition of an eligible Dependent;
  - c. For Dependents whose coverage became effective upon their birth, adoption, or placement for adoption under Change in Status, coverage will terminate on the date thirty-one (31) days from the effective date of coverage if an additional premium is charged for the new Dependent and the new Dependent fails to enroll with-in thirty-one (31) days following the birth, adoption, or placement for adoption.
  - d. Coverage will terminate on the date as specified in the Qualified Medical Child Support Order or by an administrative process established under state law if eligibility for Dependent coverage is solely based on this order.

**NOTE:** Coverage shall be canceled automatically, without notice, if a Plan Member:

1. Attempts, through deceit, to obtain benefits that otherwise would not be provided by this Plan; or
2. Attempts to obtain benefits for someone not entitled to benefits under this Plan.

**Rescission.** Coverage under this Plan may be Rescinded under certain circumstances. A determination by the Plan that a Rescission is warranted will be considered an Adverse Benefit Determination for purposes of review and appeal. A Plan Member whose coverage is being Rescinded will be provided a 30 day notice period as described under Health Care Reform and regulatory guidance. Such notice shall be considered an Adverse Benefit Determination. At the conclusion of the 30 day notice

period, coverage shall be terminated retroactive to the date identified in the notification. Claims incurred after the retroactive date of termination shall not be further processed and/or paid under the Plan. Claims incurred after the retroactive date of termination that were paid under the Plan will be treated as erroneously paid claims.

This Plan shall at all times be in compliance with the applicable state family medical leave act and/or the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) of 1993, or as later amended, provided the Employer is required to comply with such acts. The FMLA will run concurrently with any extension of coverage specified above.

## SECTION E

### CONTINUATION OF COVERAGE UPON INDIVIDUAL TERMINATION (COBRA)

A federal law, the Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1985 (COBRA), requires that most employers sponsoring a group health plan (“Plan”) offer Employees and their families covered under their health plan the opportunity for a temporary extension of health coverage (called “COBRA continuation coverage”) in certain instances where coverage under the Plan would otherwise end. This notice is intended to inform Plan Members and beneficiaries, in summary fashion, of the rights and obligations under the continuation coverage provisions of COBRA, as amended and reflected in final and proposed regulations published by the Department of the Treasury. This notice is intended to reflect the law and does not grant or take away any rights under the law. The following paragraphs generally explain COBRA coverage, when it may become available and what a Qualified Beneficiary needs to do to protect his or her right to receive it.

We use the pronoun “you” in the following paragraphs regarding COBRA to refer to each person covered under the Plan who is or may become a Qualified Beneficiary.

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**WHAT IS COBRA CONTINUATION COVERAGE?** COBRA coverage is a temporary extension of Plan coverage when coverage would otherwise end because of a life event known as a “Qualifying Event”. Specific Qualifying Events are listed below in the section entitled “What is a Qualifying Event”.

The Plan has the following components, Dental, and you may be enrolled in one or more of these components. COBRA (and the description of COBRA coverage contained in the plan document and summary plan description “SPD”) applies only to the group health plan benefits offered under the Plan (the Dental) and not to any other benefits offered by the Employer (such as life insurance, disability income, or accidental death or dismemberment benefits).

COBRA coverage is the same coverage that the Plan gives to other Plan Members under the Plan who are not receiving COBRA coverage. Each Qualified Beneficiary who elects COBRA will have the same rights under the Plan as other Plan Members covered under the component or components of the Plan elected by the Qualified Beneficiary, including Open Enrollment and Special Enrollment rights.

If an Employer offers more than one level of benefits and also offers an Open Enrollment Period (during which time, Plan Members are allowed to change to a different level of benefits or to add additional coverage, such as dental or vision), Qualified Beneficiaries must also be allowed to make these selections during an Open Enrollment Period.

**In considering whether or not to take COBRA, you should take into account that a failure to continue your group health coverage will affect your future rights under federal law. You will lose the guaranteed right to purchase individual health insurance policies that do not impose such pre-existing condition exclusions if you do not obtain continuation coverage for the maximum time available to you. You should take into account that you have special enrollment rights under federal law. You have the right to request special enrollment in another group health plan for which you are otherwise eligible (such as a plan sponsored by your spouse's employer) within 30 days after your group health coverage ends because of the Qualifying Event. You will also have the same special enrollment right at the end of continuation coverage if you obtained continuation coverage for the maximum time available to you.**

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**WHO IS A QUALIFIED BENEFICIARY?** In general, a Qualified Beneficiary is:

1. Any individual who, on the day before a Qualifying Event, is covered under a Plan by virtue of being on that day either a covered Employee, the spouse of a covered Employee, or a Dependent child of a covered Employee.
2. A child born to, adopted by, or placed for adoption with a covered Employee during a period of COBRA coverage is considered to be a Qualified Beneficiary provided that, if the covered Employee is a Qualified Beneficiary, the covered Employee has elected COBRA coverage for himself/herself. The child's COBRA coverage begins when the child is enrolled in the Plan, including when enrolled through a Special Enrollment or an Open Enrollment.
3. A child who is receiving benefits under the Plan pursuant to a Qualified Medical Child Support Order (QMCSO), received by the Employer during the covered Employee's period of employment with the Employer, is entitled to the same rights to elect COBRA as an eligible Dependent child of the covered Employee.

If however, an individual is denied or not offered coverage under the Plan under circumstances in which the denial or failure to offer coverage constitutes a violation of applicable law, then the individual will be considered to have had the Plan coverage and will be considered a Qualified Beneficiary if that individual experiences a Qualifying Event.

The term "covered Employee" includes not only common-law Employees (whether part-time or full-time) but also any individual who is provided coverage under the Plan due to his/her performance of services for the Employer sponsoring the Plan (e.g., self-employed individuals, independent contractors, owners or corporate directors).

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**WHAT IS A QUALIFYING EVENT?** If you are a covered **Employee** you will be entitled

to elect COBRA if you lose your group health coverage under the Plan because of either of the following Qualifying Events:

1. your hours of employment are reduced; or
2. your employment ends for any reason other than your gross misconduct.

If you are a covered **spouse** of an Employee, you will be entitled to elect COBRA if you lose your group health coverage under the Plan because of any of the following Qualifying Events:

1. your spouse dies;
2. your spouse's hours of employment are reduced;
3. your spouse's employment ends for any reason other than his/her gross misconduct;
4. your spouse becomes entitled to Medicare; or
5. you become divorced or legally separated from your spouse. Also, if your spouse (the Employee) reduces or eliminates your group health coverage in anticipation of a divorce or legal separation, and a divorce or legal separation later occurs, then the divorce or legal separation may be considered a Qualifying Event for you even though your coverage was reduced or eliminated before the divorce or legal separation.

If you are a covered **Dependent child** of an Employee, you will be entitled to elect COBRA if you lose your group health coverage under the Plan because of any of the following Qualifying Events:

1. the Employee dies;
2. the Employee's hours of employment are reduced;
3. the Employee's employment ends for any reason other than his/her gross misconduct;
4. the Employee becomes entitled to Medicare;
5. the parents of the Dependent child become divorced or legally separated; or
6. you stop being eligible for coverage under the Plan as a Dependent child.

If an Employee takes FMLA leave and does not return to work at the end of the leave, the Employee (and the Employee's spouse and Dependent children, if any) will be

entitled to elect COBRA if:

1. they were covered under the Plan on the day before the FMLA leave began (or became covered during the FMLA leave); and
2. they will lose Plan coverage within 18 months because of the Employee's failure to return to work at the end of the leave. (This means that some individuals may be entitled to elect COBRA at the end of an FMLA leave even if they were not covered under the Plan during the leave.)

If a Qualifying Event occurs, it occurs on the last day of FMLA leave and the applicable maximum coverage period is measured from this date (unless coverage is lost at a later date and the Plan provides for the extension of the required periods, in which case the maximum coverage date is measured from the date when the coverage is lost). Note that the Employee and Dependents will be entitled to COBRA coverage even if they failed to pay the Employee portion of the contribution for coverage under the Plan during the FMLA leave.

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**WHEN IS COBRA COVERAGE AVAILABLE?** When the Qualifying Event is the end of employment, reduction of hours of employment, or death of the Employee, the Plan will offer COBRA coverage to Qualified Beneficiaries. You need not notify the Employer of any of these three Qualifying Events. An Election Form will automatically be provided.

For the other Qualifying Events (divorce or legal separation of the Employee and spouse, or a Dependent child losing eligibility for coverage as a Dependent child), a COBRA Election Form will be sent to you only if you notify the Employer in writing within 60 days after the date on which the Qualified Beneficiary loses (or would lose) coverage under the terms of the Plan as a result of the Qualifying Event.

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**WHAT IS THE ELECTION PERIOD AND HOW LONG MUST IT LAST?** An election period is the time period within which the Qualified Beneficiary can elect COBRA continuation coverage under the Employer's Plan. A Plan can condition availability of COBRA continuation coverage upon the timely election of such coverage. An election of COBRA continuation coverage is a timely election if it is made during the election period. The election period must begin not later than the date the Qualified Beneficiary would lose coverage on account of the Qualifying Event and must not end before the date that is 60 days after the later of the date the Qualified Beneficiary would lose coverage on account of the Qualifying Event or the date notice is provided to the Qualified Beneficiary of his/her right to elect COBRA continuation coverage.

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**HOW MAY COBRA COVERAGE BE ELECTED?** To elect COBRA, you must complete the Election Form that is part of the Plan's COBRA election notice and submit it to the COBRA Administrator.

**Mail, hand-deliver or fax the completed Election Form to:**  
COBRA/Eligibility Department

EBSO, Inc.  
2145 Ford Parkway, Suite 200  
St. Paul, Minnesota 55116-1912  
(651) 695-2500 or 1-800-486-7664  
Fax number (651)695-1648

The Election Form must be completed in writing and mailed, hand-delivered, or faxed to the individual at the address/fax number specified above. The following are not acceptable as COBRA elections and will not preserve COBRA rights: oral communications regarding COBRA coverage, including in-person or telephone statements about an individual's COBRA coverage; electronic communications, including e-mail messages; and faxed communications (unless they are on a proper Election Form).

If mailed, your Election Form must be postmarked (and if hand-delivered or faxed, your Election Form must be received by the individual at the address/fax number specified above) no later than 60 days after the date of the COBRA election notice provided to you at the time of your Qualifying Event. **IF YOU DO NOT SUBMIT A COMPLETED ELECTION FORM BY THIS DUE DATE, YOU WILL LOSE YOUR RIGHT TO ELECT COBRA.**

Each Qualified Beneficiary (including a child who is born to, adopted by or placed for adoption with a COBRA covered Employee during a period of COBRA continuation coverage) must be offered the opportunity to make an independent election to receive COBRA continuation coverage. Covered Employees and spouses (if the spouse is a Qualified Beneficiary) may elect COBRA on behalf of all of the Qualified Beneficiaries, and parents may elect COBRA on behalf of their children.

Qualified Beneficiaries may be enrolled in one or more group health components of the Plan at the time of a Qualifying Event. If a Qualified Beneficiary is entitled to a COBRA election as the result of a Qualifying Event, he/she, may elect COBRA under any or all of the group health components of the Plan under which he/she was covered on the day before the Qualifying Event.

When you complete the Election Form you must notify the Employer if any Qualified Beneficiary has become enrolled under Medicare (Part A, Part B, or both) and, if so, the date of Medicare enrollment. If you become enrolled under Medicare (or first learn that you are enrolled under Medicare) after submitting the Election Form, immediately notify the Employer of the date of your Medicare enrollment at the address specified for delivery of the Election Form.

Qualified Beneficiaries who are entitled to elect COBRA may do so even if they have other group health plan coverage or are enrolled under Medicare benefits on or before the date on which COBRA is elected. However, as discussed in more detail below, a Qualified Beneficiary's COBRA coverage will terminate automatically if, after electing COBRA, he/she becomes enrolled under Medicare benefits or becomes covered under

other group health plan coverage (but only after any applicable pre-existing condition exclusions of that other plan have been exhausted or satisfied). See the section entitled “When may a Qualified Beneficiary’s COBRA continuation coverage be terminated?”.

If, during the election period, a Qualified Beneficiary waives COBRA continuation coverage, the waiver can be revoked at any time before the end of the election period. Revocation of the waiver is an election of COBRA continuation coverage. However, if a waiver is later revoked, coverage need not be provided retroactively (that is, from the date of the loss of coverage until the waiver is revoked). Waivers and revocations of waivers are considered made on the date they are sent to the COBRA Administrator.

If you reject COBRA before the due date, you may change your mind as long as you furnish a completed Election Form before the due date.

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**WHAT ARE THE MAXIMUM COVERAGE PERIODS FOR COBRA CONTINUATION COVERAGE?** The maximum coverage periods are based on the type of Qualifying Event and the status of the Qualified Beneficiary, as shown below:

1. In the case of a Qualifying Event that is a termination of employment or reduction of hours of employment, the maximum coverage period ends 18 months after the Qualifying Event if there is not a disability extension and 29 months after the Qualifying Event if there is a disability extension.
2. In the case of a covered Employee’s enrollment in the Medicare program before experiencing a Qualifying Event that is a termination of employment or reduction of hours of employment, the maximum coverage period for Qualified Beneficiaries other than the covered Employee ends on the later of:
  - a. 36 months after the date the covered Employee becomes enrolled in the Medicare program. For example, if a covered Employee becomes enrolled under Medicare eight months before the date on which his employment terminates, COBRA coverage under the Plan for his spouse and Dependent children who lost coverage as a result of his termination can last up to 36 months after the date the Employee became enrolled under Medicare, which is equal to 28 months after the date of the Qualifying Event (36 months minus 8 months). This COBRA coverage period is available only if the covered Employee becomes enrolled under Medicare within 18 months **BEFORE** the termination or reduction of hours; or
  - b. 18 months (or 29 months, if there is a disability extension) after the date of the covered Employee’s termination of employment or reduction of hours of employment.
3. In the case of any other Qualifying Event than those described above, the

maximum coverage period ends 36 months after the Qualifying Event.

4. In the case of a bankruptcy Qualifying Event, the maximum coverage period for a Qualified Beneficiary who is the covered retired Employee ends on the date of the covered retired Employee's death. The maximum coverage period for a Qualified Beneficiary who is the surviving spouse or Dependent child of the covered retired Employee ends on the earlier of the date of the Qualified Beneficiary's death or the date that is 36 months after the death of the covered retired Employee.

In the case of a Qualified Beneficiary who is a child born to, adopted by or placed for adoption with a COBRA covered Employee during a period of COBRA continuation coverage, the maximum coverage period is the maximum coverage period applicable to the Qualifying Event giving rise to the period of COBRA continuation coverage during which the child was born, adopted or placed for adoption.

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**UNDER WHAT CIRCUMSTANCE CAN THE MAXIMUM COVERAGE PERIOD BE EXPANDED?** If the Qualifying Event that resulted in your COBRA election was the covered Employee's termination of employment or reduction in hours, an extension of the maximum coverage period may be available if a Qualified Beneficiary is disabled or a second Qualifying Event occurs. You must notify the Employer of a disability or a second qualifying event in order to extend the period of COBRA coverage. **FAILURE TO PROVIDE NOTICE OF A DISABILITY OR SECOND QUALIFYING EVENT WILL ELIMINATE THE RIGHT TO EXTEND THE PERIOD OF COBRA COVERAGE.**

1. **Disability extension of COBRA coverage.** If a Qualified Beneficiary is determined by the Social Security Administration to be disabled and you notify the Employer in a timely fashion, all of the Qualified Beneficiaries in your family may be entitled to receive up to an additional 11 months of COBRA coverage, for a total maximum of 29 months. This extension is available only for Qualified Beneficiaries who are receiving COBRA coverage because of a Qualifying Event that was the covered Employee's termination of employment or reduction in hours. The disability must have started at some time before the 61<sup>st</sup> day after the covered Employee's termination of employment or reduction of hours (this includes disabilities that began prior to the Employee's termination of employment or reduction of hours). The disability must last at least until the end of the period of COBRA coverage that would be available without the disability extension (generally 18 months, as described above). Each Qualified Beneficiary will be entitled to the disability extension if one of them qualifies.

The disability extension is available only if you notify the Employer in writing of the Social Security Administration's determination of disability within 60 days after the latest of:

- a. the date of the Social Security Administration's disability

determination;

- b. the date of the covered Employee's termination of employment or reduction of hours; or
- c. the date on which the qualified beneficiary loses (or would lose) coverage under the terms of the Plan as a result of the covered Employee's termination of employment or reduction of hours.

You must provide the Social Security Administration's determination notice within 18 months after the covered Employee's termination of employment or reduction of hours in order to be entitled to a disability extension.

2. **Second Qualifying Event extension of COBRA coverage.** An extension of coverage will be available to spouses and Dependent children who are receiving COBRA coverage if a Second Qualifying Event occurs during the 18 months (or, in the case of a disability extension, the 29 months) following the covered Employee's termination of employment or reduction of hours. The maximum amount of COBRA coverage available when a Second Qualifying Event occurs is 36 months. Such Second Qualifying Events may include the death of a covered Employee, divorce or legal separation from the covered Employee, or a Dependent child's ceasing to be eligible for coverage as a Dependent under the Plan. These events can be a Second Qualifying Event only if they would have caused the Qualified Beneficiary to lose coverage under the Plan if the first Qualifying Event had not occurred. (This extension is not available under the Plan when a covered Employee becomes enrolled under Medicare.)

This extension due to a Second Qualifying Event is available only if you notify the Employer in writing of the Second Qualifying Event within 60 days after the later of:

- a. the date of the Second Qualifying Event; or
- b. the date on which the Qualified Beneficiary would lose coverage under the terms of the Plan as a result of the Second Qualifying Event (if it had occurred while the Qualified Beneficiary was still covered under the Plan).

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**WHAT IS THE COST OF COBRA CONTINUATION COVERAGE?** The amount a Qualified Beneficiary may be required to pay may not exceed 102% (or, in the case of an extension of COBRA coverage due to a disability, 150%) of the cost to the group health Plan for coverage of a similarly situated Plan Member who is not receiving COBRA coverage (including both Employer and Employee contributions). The amount of your COBRA premiums may change from time to time during your period of COBRA coverage and will most likely increase over time. You will be notified of COBRA

premium changes.

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### **WHAT ARE THE COBRA CONTINUATION COVERAGE PAYMENT PROCEDURES?**

If you elect COBRA, you do not have to send any payment with the Election Form. However, you must make your first payment for COBRA coverage no later than 45 days after the date of your election. (This is the date your Election Form is postmarked, if mailed, or the date your Election Form is received by the individual at the designated address/fax number, if hand-delivered or faxed.) See the section above entitled “How may COBRA coverage be elected?”

Your first payment must cover the cost of COBRA coverage from the time your coverage under the Plan would have otherwise terminated up through the end of the month before the month in which you make the first payment. (For example, your employment terminates on September 30, and you lose coverage on September 30. You elect COBRA coverage on November 15. Your initial premium payment equals the premiums for October and November and is due on or before December 30, the 45<sup>th</sup> day after the date of your COBRA election.) You are responsible for making sure that the amount of your first premium payment is correct. You may contact the Employer using the contact information provided under the section entitled “How may COBRA coverage be elected?” to confirm the correct amount of your first payment.

Claims for reimbursement will not be processed and paid until you have elected COBRA and made the first payment for it.

### **If you do not make your first payment for COBRA coverage in full within 45 days after the date of your election, YOU WILL LOSE ALL COBRA RIGHTS UNDER THE PLAN.**

After you make your first payment for COBRA coverage you will be required to make monthly payments for each subsequent month of COBRA coverage. The amount due for each month for each Qualified Beneficiary will be disclosed in the election notice provided to you at the time of your Qualifying Event. Under the Plan, each of these monthly payments for COBRA coverage is due on the first day of the month for that month’s COBRA coverage. If you make a monthly payment on or before the first day of the month to which it applies, your COBRA coverage under the Plan will continue for that month without any break. Following your election of COBRA coverage, you will receive a packet of 12 coupons to submit with your monthly COBRA premium. Periodic notices of payments due for these coverage periods will not be sent (that is, a monthly bill will not be sent to you for your COBRA coverage – it is your responsibility to pay your COBRA premiums on time).

Although monthly payments are due on the first day of each month of COBRA coverage, you will be given a grace period of 30 days after the first day of the month to make each monthly payment. Your COBRA coverage will be provided for each month as long as payment for that month is made before the end of the grace period for that

payment. However, if you pay a monthly payment later than the first day of the month to which it applies, but before the end of the grace period for the month, your coverage under the Plan will be suspended as of the first day of the month and then retroactively reinstated (going back to the first day of the month) when the monthly payment is received. This means that any claim you submit for benefits while your coverage is suspended may be denied and may have to be resubmitted once your coverage is reinstated.

**If you fail to make a monthly payment before the end of the grace period for that month, YOU WILL LOSE ALL RIGHTS TO COBRA COVERAGE UNDER THE PLAN.**

**All COBRA premiums must be paid by check or money order. CASH WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.**

Your first payment and all monthly payments for COBRA coverage must be mailed or hand-delivered to:

COBRA/Eligibility Department  
EBSO, Inc.  
2145 Ford Parkway, Suite 200  
St. Paul, Minnesota 55116-1912  
(651) 695-2500 or 1-800-486-7664  
Fax number (651)695-1648

If mailed, your payment is considered to have been made on the date that it is postmarked. If hand-delivered, your payment is considered to have been made when it is received by the individual at the address specified above. You will not be considered to have made any payment by mailing or hand-delivering a check if your check is returned due to insufficient funds or otherwise.

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**WHEN MAY A QUALIFIED BENEFICIARY'S COBRA CONTINUATION COVERAGE BE TERMINATED?** COBRA coverage is a temporary continuation of coverage. The COBRA coverage periods described above are maximum coverage periods. COBRA coverage can terminate before the end of the maximum coverage period for several reasons, which are described below.

COBRA coverage will automatically terminate before the end of the maximum coverage period if:

1. timely payment is not made to the Plan with respect to the Qualified Beneficiary. **NOTE:** Invalid payments (i.e., checks returned due to insufficient funds) will result in retroactive termination of coverage.
2. the Employer ceases to provide any group health plan (including successor plans) to any Employee.

3. a Qualified Beneficiary becomes covered, after electing COBRA, under another group health plan (but only after any pre-existing condition exclusions of that other plan for a pre-existing condition of the Qualified Beneficiary have been exhausted or satisfied).
4. a Qualified Beneficiary first becomes enrolled under Medicare benefits (Part A, Part B, or both) after electing COBRA.
5. during a disability extension period, the disabled Qualified Beneficiary is determined by the Social Security Administration to no longer be disabled.

You must notify the Employer in writing within 30 days if, after electing COBRA, a Qualified Beneficiary becomes enrolled under Medicare (Part A, Part B, or both) or becomes covered under other group health plan coverage (but only after any pre-existing condition exclusions of that other plan for a pre-existing condition of the Qualified Beneficiary have been exhausted or satisfied). COBRA coverage will terminate (retroactively, if applicable) as of the date of Medicare enrollment or as of the beginning date of the other group health coverage (after exhaustion or satisfaction of any pre-existing condition exclusions for a pre-existing condition of the Qualified Beneficiary). The Employer will require repayment to the Plan of all benefits paid after the termination date, regardless of whether or when you provide notice of Medicare enrollment or other group health plan coverage.

If a disabled Qualified Beneficiary is determined by the Social Security Administration to no longer be disabled, you must notify the Employer of that fact within 30 days after the Social Security Administration's determination. If the Social Security Administration's determination that the Qualified Beneficiary is no longer disabled occurs during a disability extension period, COBRA coverage for all Qualified Beneficiaries will terminate (retroactively, if applicable) as of the first day of the month that is more than 30 days after the Social Security Administration's determination that the Qualified Beneficiary is no longer disabled. The Employer will require repayment to the Plan of all benefits paid after the termination date, regardless of whether or when you provide notice that the disabled Qualified Beneficiary is no longer disabled. (For more information about the disability extension period, see the section above entitled "Under what circumstances can the maximum coverage period be expanded?")

COBRA coverage may also be terminated for any reason the Plan would terminate coverage of a Plan Member not receiving COBRA coverage (such as fraud).

In the case of an individual who is not a Qualified Beneficiary and who is receiving coverage under the Plan solely because of the individual's relationship to a Qualified Beneficiary, if the Plan's obligation to make COBRA continuation coverage available to the Qualified Beneficiary ceases, the Plan is not obligated to make coverage available to the individual who is not a Qualified Beneficiary.

**DOES A QUALIFIED BENEFICIARY HAVE A DUTY TO KEEP THE PLAN INFORMED OF ADDRESS CHANGES?**

In order to protect your family's rights, you must keep the Employer and the Plan's Claims Administrator informed of any changes in the addresses of family members. You should also keep a copy, for your records, of any notices you send to the Employer and the Plan's Claims Administrator.

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**QUESTIONS?** If you have questions about your COBRA continuation coverage, you should contact the Employer or you may contact the nearest Regional or District Office of the U.S. Department of Labor's Employee Benefits Security Administration (EBSA). Addresses and phone numbers of Regional and District EBSA Offices are available through EBSA's website at [www.dol.gov/ebsa](http://www.dol.gov/ebsa).

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**CONTACTS:** You may obtain information about COBRA coverage on request from:

1. **The Employer (Plan Administrator):**

City of San Luis  
1090 E. Union Street  
San Luis, AZ 85349  
928-341-8547

2. **COBRA Administrator:**

COBRA/Eligibility Department  
EBSO, Inc.  
2145 Ford Parkway, Suite 200  
St. Paul, Minnesota 55116-1912  
(651) 695-2500 or 1-800-486-7664  
Fax number (651)695-1648

The contact information for the Plan may change from time to time. The information will be included in the Plan's most recent SPD (if you are not sure whether this is the Plan's most recent SPD, you may request the most recent one from the Employer).

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**YOU MUST GIVE NOTICE OF CERTAIN QUALIFYING EVENTS**

If you or your Dependent(s) experience any of the following qualifying events, you or your Dependent(s) must notify the Plan Administrator/COBRA Administrator within 60 calendar days after the later of the date the qualifying event occurs or the date coverage would end as a result of the qualifying event:

- your divorce or legal separation.
- your child no longer qualifies as a Dependent under the Plan.
- the occurrence of a secondary qualifying event as described in "Second Qualifying Event extension of COBRA coverage" (this notice must be received prior to the end of the initial 18-month or 29-month COBRA period). See "Disability extension of COBRA coverage" for additional notice requirements.

Notice must be made in writing and must include: the name of the Plan; name and address of the Employee covered under the Plan; name and address(es) of the qualified beneficiaries affected by the qualifying event; the qualifying event; the date the qualifying event occurred; and supporting documentation (e.g. divorce decree, birth certificate, disability determination, etc.).

## SECTION F

### UNIFORMED SERVICES CONTINUATION AND REINSTATEMENT PROVISION

#### **Continuation**

A Plan Member who:

1. Is employed by the Employer;
2. Is determined by the Employer to be eligible for benefits under the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act of 1994 (USERRA);
3. Is absent from his/her position of employment with the Employer by reason of service in the uniformed services; and
4. Would otherwise have his/her coverage under the Plan terminated,

may elect to continue the coverage under the Plan that the Plan Member and his/her eligible covered Dependents had prior to such absence for a period not to exceed the lesser of:

1. The twenty four month period beginning on the date on which the Plan Member's absence begins; or
2. The day after the date on which the Plan Member fails to apply for or return to a position of employment as specified by the Employer.

#### **Reinstatement**

Upon re-employment, coverage under the Plan will be reinstated for a person who was absent from his/her position of employment with the Employer by reason of service in the uniformed services, as well as for his/her eligible Dependents who were covered Plan Members under the Plan at the time the absence began provided that:

1. The person was a covered Plan Member under the Plan until the time his/her absence from employment with the Employer commenced by reason of service in the uniformed services;
2. The person makes application for re-employment within the time limit specified by the Employer; and

3. At the time the person makes application for re-employment, he/she is entitled to benefits under the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act of 1994 (USERRA).

In such instances, an exclusion of the Plan, Pre-existing Condition Limitation, or waiting period will not be applied, if that exclusion of the Plan, Pre-existing Condition Limitation, or waiting period would not have been applied had coverage not been terminated as a result of service in the uniformed services. This also applies to any eligible Dependent of the covered person who becomes covered by the Plan as a result of such reinstatement of coverage.

An exclusion or waiting period may be imposed for any Injury or Sickness determined by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to have been incurred in, or aggravated during, the performance of service in the uniformed services.

## SECTION G

### GENERAL LIMITATIONS AND EXCLUSIONS

Notwithstanding any provision in the Plan to the contrary, the Plan will not provide benefits for the following services, dental procedures or supplies, regardless of Dental Necessity or recommendation by a Dental Provider. The Plan Member is responsible for 100% of the expenses associated with the listed exclusions. These expenses are not Covered Services and, therefore, will not count toward the Annual Out-of-Pocket Maximum.

1. Charges for any device ordered while the Plan Member was covered under this Dental Plan and not delivered or installed within thirty (30) days after termination of coverage.
2. Replacement of duplicate, lost missing or stolen appliances or prosthetic devices.
3. Charges for all services, supplies and treatment related to dental implants.
4. Any procedure not listed as a Covered Service.
5. Any procedure that began before the date the Plan Member's dental coverage started to include a service which is:
  - a. An appliance, or modification of an appliance, for which an impression was made before such person became covered under the Dental Plan;
  - b. A crown, bridge or gold restoration, for which a tooth was prepared before such person became covered under the Dental Plan;
  - c. Root canal therapy, for which the pulp chamber was opened before such person became covered under the Dental Plan.

X-rays and prophylaxis shall not be deemed to start a dental procedure.

6. Services, supplies or treatment that is cosmetic in nature, including charges for personalization or characterization of dentures. Veneers or porcelains posterior to the second bicuspids are considered optional, and as such, are not Covered Services.
7. Surgical services with respect to congenital or developmental malformations. These conditions include: cleft palate, mandibular prognathism, enamel hypoplasia, fluorosis, and anodontia.

8. Appliances, restoration or procedures for the purpose of altering vertical dimension, restoring or maintaining occlusion, splinting or replacing tooth structure lost as a result of abrasion or attrition, except as provided under Orthodontic Services.
9. Charges for services, supplies or treatment for which benefits are payable under any employer sponsored group medical or dental plan.
10. A service not furnished by a Dentist, except;
  - a. That performed by a licensed dental hygienist under a Dentist's supervision;
  - b. X-rays ordered by a Dentist; and
  - c. Denturist.
11. Charges for over-dentures, including related root canal therapy and supportive restorations.
12. Replacement of a prosthetic which in the Dentist's opinion can be repaired or does not need replacement.
13. Fixed prosthetics and/or partials for Plan Members through the age of fifteen. An allowance will be made for a temporary acrylic partial.
14. A posterior fixed prosthetic appliance when done in connection with a removable appliance in the same arch.
15. Charges in excess of the least costly plan of treatment when there is more than one accepted method of treatment for a dental condition.
16. Charges resulting from changing from one Dentist to another while receiving treatment, or from receiving care from more than one Dentist for one dental procedure, to the extent the total charges billed exceed the amount that would have been billed if one Dentist had performed all the required Dental Services.
17. Porcelain, gold, porcelain veneer, acrylic veneer, and precious metal crowns over primary teeth for Plan Members through the age of fifteen (15). An allowance will be made for an acrylic crown.
18. Charges for precision attachments, semi-precision attachments, instruction in dental plaque control, dental hygienics, or nutritional counseling.
19. Charges for services or supplies related to diagnosis of, or treatment of temporomandibular joint syndrome, by whatever name called.

20. Expenses for completion of claim forms or for preparation of medical reports; for missed appointments or for telephone consultations.
21. Charges Incurred for treatment of an Injury or Sickness sustained while the Plan Member is participating in an illegal occupation; commission of, or an attempt to commit, a felony; or voluntary participation in a riot, insurrection or civil disobedience.
22. Charges in excess of any maximum benefit stated in the Plan.
23. For expenses made which are in excess of the Usual, Customary and Reasonable Fee.
24. Expenses Incurred by a Plan Member that may be covered or reimbursed by any public program, or by any national, state, provincial, county, or local government or any other political subdivision, instrumentality or agency thereof, except Medicare and Medicaid.
25. Services furnished to the Plan Member in any veteran's Hospital, military Hospital, institution or facility operated by the United States Government, by any state government, by any agency or instrumentality of such government, or any foreign government agency, for which the Plan Member has no legal obligation to pay for services rendered or expenses Incurred, except for care or service furnished by a tax supported state Hospital for treatment of Mental/Nervous Disorders.
26. Services performed by a person who is a member of the Plan Member's Immediate Family or who resides in the Plan Member's home.
27. Expenses for which the Plan Member has no legal obligation to pay or for an expense which would not have been made if the person did not have coverage under this Plan.
28. Charges for taxes or surcharges, other than those which a medical facility is legally required to make.
29. Charges for Out-of-Network services and providers.

## SECTION H

### DENTAL BENEFITS

**NOTE: Out-of-Network providers and services are NOT covered.**

#### **Covered Dental Expenses**

The Plan will pay benefits for Covered Expenses Incurred by a Plan Member for dental services, only when performed by a Dentist or a Dental Hygienist, or other dental provider working under the direction and supervision of the Dentist. The payment is subject to the General Limitations and Exclusions and all other provisions of the Plan. The Payment Percentages and maximums are shown in the Schedule of Coverage.

#### **Class I Services – Preventive and Diagnostic Services**

1. Teeth cleaning
2. Exams
3. Dental x-rays
4. Fluoride treatments
5. Sealants

#### **Class II Services – Basic Services**

1. Fillings (amalgam and anterior, posterior composite (white) fillings)
2. Simple extractions
3. Non-surgical periodontics
4. Endodontics (root canal therapy)

#### **Class III Services – Major Dental Repair Services**

1. Restorative crowns
2. Restorative onlays
3. Bridges
4. Dentures
5. Partial dentures

#### **Class IV Services – Orthodontic Services.**

**NOTE:** Dependent children must be covered under the Dental Plan for twelve (12) consecutive months before orthodontia benefits are available.

1. Active appliances. Allowance includes diagnostic services, the treatment plan, the fitting, making and placing of the active appliance, and all related office visits including post-treatment stabilization.

2. Surgical reposition of the jaw, facial bones and/or teeth to correct malocclusion and x-rays.
3. Any other Class I, II or III services that are performed in connection with orthodontic treatment shall be payable under their appropriate payment percentage and not included under the orthodontic limitations and/or payment percentages.

## SECTION I

### CARE PROVIDED BY THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

The Plan will reimburse for care rendered by the Veterans Administration for non-service connected disabilities, on the same basis as these services are otherwise covered by the Plan.

The Plan will reimburse for care rendered by the United States to military retirees and dependents who are covered by this Plan on an inpatient basis through a facility of the uniformed services, on the same basis as these services are otherwise covered under the Plan.

### COORDINATION OF BENEFITS

The Plan contains a non-profit provision coordinating it with other Plans under which an individual is covered so that total benefits available will not exceed 100% of the Allowable Expense for the services. When this Plan pays second, it will pay, with respect to each claim submitted for payment, 100% of Allowable Expenses less whatever payments were actually made by the Plan (or Plans) that paid first. In addition, when this Plan pays second, it will never pay more in benefits than it would have paid during the Plan Year for each claim as it is submitted had it been the Plan that paid first.

An "Allowable Expense" means any health care service or expense, including coinsurance, copays or copayment and without reduction for any deductible, that is covered in full or in part by any of the Plan covering the person. Allowable Expenses do not include expenses for services received because of an occupational sickness or injury, or expenses for services that are excluded or not covered under this Plan.

"Claim Determination Period" means the time during any one benefit year when a person is covered and incurs charges for services or supplies covered under this Plan and one other plan.

As each claim is submitted, each plan determines its liability and pays or provides benefits based upon Allowable Expenses incurred during the Claim Determination Period. However, that determination is subject to adjustment as later Allowable Expenses are incurred during the same Claim Determination Period.

"Plan" means any plan providing health benefits or health services including but not limited to:

1. Group, blanket or franchise insurance coverage;
2. Group practices and other group pre-payment coverage;
3. Any coverage under labor-management trustee plans, union welfare plans, employer organization plans, or employee benefit organization plans; and
4. Any coverage under governmental programs, such as Medicare, Tricare/CHAMPUS, and any coverage required or provided by any statute, such as no-fault auto insurance.

"Plan" shall not include:

1. School accident type coverage;
2. Hospital indemnity coverage; or
3. Individual insurance coverage.

### **EFFECT ON BENEFITS**

Plans determine the sequence in which they pay benefits, or which plan pays first, by applying uniform order of benefit determination rules in a specific sequence. This Plan uses the order of benefit determination rules established by the National Association of Insurance Commissioners (NAIC). Any Plan that does not use these same rules always pays its benefit first.

When two Plans cover the same person, the following order of benefit determination rules establish which Plan is the primary plan that pays first and which is the secondary plan that pays second. If the first of the following rules does not establish a sequence or order of benefits, the next rule is applied, and so on, until the order of benefits is established. The rules are as follows:

#### **Rule 1: Non-Dependent/Dependent**

- A. The Plan that covers a person as an employee, retiree, member or subscriber (that is, other than as a dependent) pays first; and the Plan that covers the same person as a dependent pays second;
- B. There is one exception to this rule. If the person is also a Medicare beneficiary, and as a result of the provisions of Title XVIII of the Social Security Act and implementing regulations (the Medicare rules), Medicare is:

1. secondary to the Plan covering the person as a dependent; and
2. primary to the Plan covering the person as other than a dependent (that is, the Plan covering the person as a retired employee);

then the order of benefits is reversed, so that the Plan covering the person as a dependent pays first; and the Plan covering the person other than as a dependent (that is, as a retired employee) pays second.

## **Rule 2: Dependent Child Covered Under More Than One Plan.**

- A. The Plan that covers the parent whose birthday falls earlier in the calendar year pays first; and the Plan that covers the parent whose birthday falls later in the calendar year pays second, if:
  1. the parents are married or living together;
  2. the parents are not separated (whether or not they ever have been married); or
  3. a court decree awards joint custody without specifying that one parent has the responsibility to provide health care coverage for the child.
- B. If both parents have the same birthday, the Plan that has covered one of the parents for a longer period of time pays first; and the Plan that covered the other parent for the shorter period of time pays second.
- C. The word “birthday” refers only to the month and day in a calendar year, not the year in which the person was born.
- D. If the specific terms of a court decree state that one parent is responsible for the child’s health care expenses or health care coverage, and the Plan of that parent has actual knowledge of the terms of that court decree, that plan pays first. If the parent with financial responsibility has no coverage for the child’s health care services or expenses, but that parent’s spouse does, the Plan of the spouse of the parent with financial responsibility pays first. This rule applies to plan years commencing after the Plan is given notice of the court decree.
- E. If the parents are divorced, separated or not living together (whether or not they have ever been married), and there is no court decree allocating responsibility for the child’s health care services or expenses, the order of benefit determination among the Plans of the parents and their spouses (if any) is:
  1. The Plan of the custodial parent pays first;

2. The Plan of the spouse of the custodial parent pays second; and
3. The Plan of the non-custodial parents pays third; and
4. The Plan of the spouse of the non-custodial parent pays last.

If the dependent child is covered under a Plan of an individual other than the parents, the order of benefits is determined as if those individuals were the parents of the child. The custody rule is applicable to anyone who has legal custody of the dependent child.

### **Rule 3: Active/Laid-off or Retired Employee**

- A. The Plan that covers a person as an active employee, that is, an employee who is neither laid-off or retired, is primary. The Plan covering that same person as a retired or laid-off employee is secondary. The same would hold true if a person is a dependent of an active employee and that same person is a dependent of a retired or laid-off employee.
- B. 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.
- C. This rule does not apply if Rule #1 described above can be used to determine the order of benefits

This rule is applicable only in the rare situations when the same individual is covered under two plans, one as an active employee and the other as a retired or laid-off employee. This rule does not apply to an individual covered under his or her own Plan as either an active, retired, or laid-off employee and also as a dependent under another Plan. In those situations, Rule #1 should be applied.

### **Rule 4: Continuation Coverage**

- A. If a person whose coverage is provided under a right of continuation under federal or state law (e.g. COBRA) is also covered under another Plan, the Plan that covers the person as an employee, retiree, member or subscriber (or as that person's dependent) pays first, and the Plan providing continuation coverage to that same person pays second.
- B. 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.

This rule is applicable only to the rare situations when an individual is covered under both COBRA and non-COBRA plans as other than a dependent, or as a dependent of an

individual who is covered under both plans as a non-dependent. In the majority of continuation coverage situations, two employee spouses are involved (one on COBRA and one on the basis as active employment). In this scenario, Rule #1 is applicable.

#### **Rule 5: Longer/Shorter Length of Coverage**

If none of the four previous rules determines the order of benefits, the Plan that covered the person for the longer period of time pays first; and the Plan that covered the person for the shorter period of time pays second.

#### **Rule 6: None of the Above Rules Apply**

If the preceding rules do not apply, the allowable expenses shall be shared equally between the Plans.

### **RIGHT TO RECEIVE AND RELEASE NECESSARY INFORMATION**

For the purpose of determining the applicability of and implementing the terms of this provision of this Plan or any other plan, the plan may without the consent of or notice to any persons release to, or obtain from, any insurance company or other organization or person any information with respect to any person which it deems to be necessary for such purposes. Any person claiming benefits under this Plan shall furnish to the Plan information as may be necessary to implement this provision.

### **FACILITY OF PAYMENT**

Whenever payments which should have been made under the Plan in accordance with this provision have been made under any other plan, the Plan shall have the right, exercisable alone and at its sole discretion, to pay any organizations making such other payments any amounts it shall determine to be warranted in order to satisfy the intent of this provision and amounts so paid shall be deemed to be benefits paid under this Plan and to the extent of such payments for covered services, the Plan shall be fully discharged from liability.

## SECTION J

### MEDICARE SELECTION PROVISION

If the Employer has **less** than 20 Employees in the current Calendar Year, Medicare coverage is primary (and this Plan will be secondary) for active Employees age 65 or older and their Dependents 65 or older. This Plan will reduce payment by the amount paid or payable by Medicare.

If the Employer had 20 or **more** Employees in the current or preceding Calendar Year, Federal law requires that Medicare coverage be secondary to this Plan. The Plan Member has the option of rejecting this Plan thereby retaining Medicare as his/her primary coverage. If the Plan Member chooses Medicare as primary, the Employer cannot provide any supplemental coverage. If the Plan Member rejects coverage under this Plan that choice must be made in writing to the Employer.

Federal law also mandates which plan is primary in the case of certain persons who are totally disabled or have end stage renal disease.

**NOTE:** This Plan will determine the primary and secondary payment of claims based on the current rules and regulations set forth by Medicare.

## SECTION K

### GENERAL PROVISIONS

#### **The Plan and The Master Plan Document**

The Plan Sponsor has filed the Master Plan Document in the office of the Human Resource Department, which can be inspected at any time during normal working hours by any Plan Member.

The Plan is a legal entity. Legal notices may be filed with, and legal process served upon, the Plan Administrator.

#### **Plan Administrator**

The Plan Administrator as used herein shall be the person or firm responsible for the day to day functions and management of the Plan. The Plan Administrator is the Employer.

The construction and interpretation of the Plan are vested with the Plan Administrator, in its absolute discretion, including, without limitation, the determination of benefits, eligibility and interpretation of Plan provisions. The Plan Administrator will endeavor to act, whether by general rules or by particular decisions, so as to treat all persons in similar circumstances without discrimination. All such decisions, determinations and interpretations shall be final, conclusive and binding upon all parties having an interest in the Plan.

#### **Named Fiduciary**

The Named Fiduciary is the Plan Administrator and has the authority to control and manage the operation and administration of the program. A participant under the Plan will not receive Plan benefits unless the Plan Administrator determines that the participant is entitled to such benefits.

#### **Claims Administrator**

The Claims Administrator will provide technical services in connection with operation of the coverage and performing other functions.

## **The Plan Is Not A Contract**

The Plan shall not be deemed to constitute a contract between the Employer and any Employee or be a consideration for, or an inducement or condition of, the employment of an Employee. Nothing in the Plan shall be deemed to give any Employee the right to be retained in the service of the Employer or to interfere with the right of the Employer to discharge any Employee at any time; provided, however, that the foregoing shall not be deemed to modify the provision of any collective bargaining agreements which may be made by the Employer with the bargaining representative of any Employees.

## **Exchange Of Information**

The Plan will promptly provide to appropriate Federal, state and local law enforcement authorities and to other appropriate health plans:

1. Information indicating a potential violation of civil, criminal, or administrative laws relating to fraud and abuse with respect to health plans.
2. Information requested by Federal, state, or local law enforcement agencies which the agency states is relevant to an investigation, audit, evaluation, or inspection under the Federal Fraud and Abuse Control Program.
3. Information which would assist in the identification of potential violations or assist in the identification of areas requiring investigation, audit, evaluation, or inspection. Such information may include:
  - a. Surveys; Quality assurance reviews;
  - b. Provider and patient profiles;
  - c. Utilization review, and
  - d. Other similar analyses.

## **Alternative Treatment**

The Plan Administrator has the right to approve coverage for treatment, procedures or facilities that are not normally covered under the Plan, if the Plan Administrator feels that this alternative treatment, procedure or facility offers a cost-effective method of treating the Plan Member's condition. Such approval in no way obligates the Plan Administrator to approve such coverage in the future, nor does it obligate the Plan

Administrator to approve of Alternative Treatment for any other Plan Member. Each case will be decided on its own merits.

### **Free Choice of Physician**

Each Plan Member has a free choice of any Physician/**Dentist** or surgeon, and the Physician/**Dentist**-patient relationship shall be maintained. The Plan Member, together with his Physician/**Dentist**, is ultimately responsible for determining the appropriate course of **dental** treatment, regardless of whether the Plan will pay for all or a portion of the cost of such care.

The PPO providers are merely independent contractors; neither the Plan nor the Plan Administrator make any warranty as to the quality of care that may be rendered by any PPO provider.

### **Qualified Medical Child Support Orders (QMCSO)**

The Plan Administrator shall enroll for immediate coverage under this Plan any Alternate Recipient who is the subject of a Medical Child Support Order that is a “Qualified Medical Child Support Order” (“QMCSO”) if such an individual is not already covered by the Plan as an eligible Dependent, once the Plan Administrator has determined that such order meets the standards for qualification set forth below.

“**Alternate Recipient**” shall mean any child of a Plan Member who is recognized under a Medical Child Support Order as having a right to enrollment under this Plan as the Plan Member’s eligible Dependent. For purposes of the benefits provided under this Plan, an Alternate Recipient shall be treated as an eligible Dependent, but for purposes of the reporting and disclosure requirements under ERISA, an Alternate Recipient shall have the same status as a Plan Member.

Upon receiving a Medical Child Support Order (Order), the Plan Administrator shall, as soon as administratively possible:

1. Notify the Plan Member and each Alternate Recipient covered by the Order (at the address included in the Order) in writing of the receipt of such Order and the Plan’s procedures for determining whether the Order qualifies as a QMCSO; and
2. Make an administrative determination if the Order is a QMCSO and notify the Plan Member and each affected Alternate Recipient of such determination.

Upon receiving a National Medical Support Notice (Notice), the Plan Administrator shall:

1. Notify the state agency issuing the Notice with respect to the child whether coverage of the child is available under the terms of the Plan and, if so:
  - a. Whether the child is covered under the Plan; and
  - b. Either the Effective Date of the coverage or, if necessary, any steps to be taken by the custodial parent or by the official of a state or political subdivision to effectuate the coverage; and
2. Provide to the custodial parent (or any state official serving in a substitute capacity) a description of the coverage available and any forms or documents necessary to effectuate such coverage.

To give effect to this requirement, the Plan Administrator shall:

1. Establish reasonable, written procedures for determining the qualified status of a Medical Child Support Order or National Medical Support Notice; and
2. Permit any Alternate Recipient to designate a representative for receipt of copies of the notices that are sent to the Alternate Recipient with respect to the Order.

A Plan Member may request at any time a copy of QMCSO procedures from the Plan without charge.

### **Other Service Plan Contracts**

If any Plan Member is covered under more than one Plan, the coverage that would be provided under this Plan in the absence of this provision shall be reduced to the extent necessary so that the sum of such reduced coverage, together with the benefits, if any, that are paid or payable under such other Plan contract for health service shall not exceed the total charges for the health service.

### **Worker's Compensation Notice**

The Plan is not in lieu of, is not in any way subject to, and does not affect any requirement for coverage by worker's compensation insurance.

### **Erroneous Payment Refund Provision**

Covered Expenses are occasionally paid erroneously by the Plan (i.e., paid more than once; incorrectly paid under the Plan's terms, conditions, limitations or exclusions; or conditionally paid pending further review). An Employee, Dependent, or health care service provider receiving such an overpayment or erroneous payment shall, upon discovery or notice thereof, return such payment to the Plan within 30 days of discovery or demand. Neither the Plan nor the Plan Administrator shall have any obligation to make any other payment of the bill prior to refund by the health care provider, Employee or Dependent. A health care provider may not apply an erroneous or duplicate payment to another bill balance or any other Dependent. The Plan Administrator shall have the exclusive right to choose who will repay it for an overpayment or erroneous payment (i.e., including but not limited to the Employee, Dependent, health care service provider or another health benefit plan). If the Plan elects to seek refund from the Employee or Dependent, recovery of the overpaid amount shall, at the Plan Administrator's option, be reimbursed in a lump-sum, time payments or deducted from future claims presented for processing.

Health care service providers accepting payment for services from the Plan, in consideration of such payments, further agree to submit claims for reimbursement in strict accord with their state's health care practice acts, ICD-10, or CPT standards, Medicare guidelines, HCPCS standards, or other standards approved by the Plan Administrator.

Any claims not paid in accordance with the above provisions shall be repaid to the Plan within 30 days of discovery or demand or incur a pre-judgment interest rate of 1 ½% per month. The Plan shall be entitled to litigation costs and actual attorney fees in the event it becomes necessary to institute suit to recover duplicate or erroneous payments or payments of improperly billed charges.

### **Conformity With Applicable Law**

This Plan shall be deemed to automatically be amended to conform as required by any applicable law, regulation or the order or judgment of a court of competent jurisdiction governing provisions of this Plan, including, but not limited to, stated maximums, exclusions or limitations. In the event that any law, regulation or the order or judgment of a court of competent jurisdiction causes the Plan Administrator to pay claims which are otherwise limited or excluded under this Plan, such payments will be considered as being in accordance with the terms of this Plan Document.

### **Clerical Error**

Clerical errors, such as inaccurate transcription of premiums, Effective Dates, termination dates, or such as erroneous mailings, shall not change the rights or obligations of any party under the Plan and shall not operate to grant additional benefits to Plan Members.

## **Fraud**

The following actions by any Plan Member, or a Plan Member's knowledge of such actions being taken by another, constitute fraud and will result in immediate termination of all coverage under this Plan for that Plan Member:

1. Attempting to submit a claim for benefits (which includes attempting to fill a prescription) for a person who is not a Plan Member in the Plan;
2. Attempting to file a claim for a Plan Member for services which were not rendered or drugs or other items that were not provided;
3. Providing false or misleading information in connection with enrollment in the Plan; or
4. Providing any false or misleading information to the Plan.

## **No Waiver**

The failure of the Plan Administrator to strictly enforce any provision of this Plan shall not be construed as a waiver of the provision. Rather, the Plan Administrator reserves the right to strictly enforce each and every provision of this Plan at any time regardless of the prior conduct of the Plan Administrator and regardless of the similarity of the circumstances or the number of prior occurrences.

## **Plan Contributions**

The Plan Administrator shall, from time to time, evaluate the funding method of the Plan and determine the amount to be contributed by the Employer and the amount to be contributed by each Plan Member.

The Plan Sponsor shall fund the Plan in a manner consistent with the provisions of the Internal Revenue Code and such other laws and regulations as shall be applicable to the end that the Plan shall be funded on a lawful and sound basis; but, to the extent permitted by governing law, the Plan Administrator shall be free to determine the manner and means of funding the Plan. The amount of the Plan Member's contribution will be determined from time to time by the Plan Administrator.

## **Booklets**

The Plan Administrator has issued to each Employee an individual booklet, which summarizes the benefits to which the person is entitled, to whom benefits are payable, and the provisions of the Plan affecting the Plan Members.

### **Entire Plan**

The Plan including any amendments, the Schedule of Coverage, any other applicable schedules, the attached papers, and the individual applications, if any, of the Employees and eligible Dependents, constitute the entire description of benefits between the parties and any statement made by the Employer or by any Employee shall not, in any way, change such benefits.

All statements made by the Employer or by a Plan Member shall be deemed representations and not warranties. Such statements shall not void or reduce the benefits under this Plan or be used in defense of a claim unless they are contained in writing and signed by the Employer or by the Plan Member, as the case may be. A statement made shall not be used in any legal contest unless a copy of the instrument containing the statement is or has been furnished to the other party to such contest.

### **Plan Modification and Amendment**

The City Manager of the Company shall be empowered to amend this Plan or any benefit under this Plan at any time by a written instrument signed by the City Manager. An increase or decrease in Plan benefits will become effective as of the date specified in the Plan or in an applicable amendment.

The Plan will furnish each Plan Member with a summary of any material reductions in covered services or benefits not later than 60 days after the effective date of such change.

### **Plan Termination**

The City Manager of the Company may terminate the Plan at any time. Upon termination, the rights of the Plan Members to benefits are limited to claims incurred and due up to the date of termination. Any termination of the Plan will be communicated to Plan Members.

### **Assignment**

The Plan Member's benefit payments may not be assigned except by consent of the Company to other than suppliers of medical services.

### **Automatic Assignment**

All medical/**dental** expense benefits payable under this Plan shall be paid to the medical/**dental** service provider, unless the claimant furnishes proof of payment of the medical/**dental** expenses at the time the claim is filed with the Claims Administrator, in which case the benefits shall be paid to the claimant.

### **Physical Examination**

The Plan at its own expense shall have the right and opportunity to examine any Plan Member, whose Injury or Sickness is the basis of a claim, as often as it may reasonably require while a claim is pending.

### **Disclosure Of Electronic Protected Health Information (“Electronic PHI”) To The Plan Sponsor For Plan Administration Functions**

To enable the Plan Sponsor to receive and use Electronic PHI for Plan Administration Functions (as defined in 45 CFR § 164.504(a)), the Plan Sponsor agrees to:

1. Implement Administrative, Physical, and Technical Safeguards that reasonably and appropriately protect the Confidentiality, Integrity and Availability of the Electronic PHI that it creates, receives, maintains, or transmits on behalf of the Plan;
2. Ensure that adequate separation between the Plan and the Plan Sponsor, as required in 45 CFR § 164.504(f)(2)(iii), is supported by reasonable and appropriate Security Measures;
3. Ensure that any agent, including a subcontractor, to whom the Plan Sponsor provides Electronic PHI created, received, maintained, or transmitted on behalf of the Plan, agrees to implement reasonable and appropriate Security Measures to protect the Electronic PHI; and
4. Report to the Plan any Security Incident of which it becomes aware.

Any terms not otherwise defined shall have the meanings set forth in the Security Standards.

### **Privacy Standards**

1. Disclosure of Summary Health Information to the Plan Sponsor.

In accordance with the Privacy Standards, the Plan may disclose Summary Health Information to the Plan Sponsor, if the Plan Sponsor requests the Summary Health Information for the purpose of (a) obtaining premium bids from health plans for providing health insurance coverage under this Plan or (b) modifying, amending or terminating the Plan.

“Summary Health Information” may be individually identifiable health information and it summarizes the claims history, claims expenses or the type of claims experienced by individuals in the Plan, but it excludes all identifiers that must be removed for the information to be de-identified, except that it may contain geographic information to the extent that it is aggregated by five-digit zip code.

2. Disclosure of Protected Health Information (“PHI”) to the Plan Sponsor for Plan Administration Purposes.

In order that the Plan Sponsor may receive and use PHI for Plan Administration purposes, the Plan Sponsor agrees to:

- a. Not use or further disclose PHI other than as permitted or required by the Plan Documents or as Required by Law (as defined in the Privacy Standards);
- b. Ensure that any agents, including a subcontractor, to whom the Plan Sponsor provides PHI received from the Plan agree to the same restrictions and conditions that apply to the Plan Sponsor with respect to such PHI;
- c. Not use or disclose PHI for employment-related actions and decisions or in connection with any other benefit or employee benefit plan of the Plan Sponsor, except pursuant to an authorization which meets the requirements of the Privacy Standards;
- d. Report to the Plan any PHI use or disclosure that is inconsistent with the uses or disclosures provided for of which the Plan Sponsor becomes aware;
- e. Make available PHI in accordance with section 164.524 of the Privacy Standards (45 CFR 164.524);
- f. Make available PHI for amendment and incorporate any amendments to PHI in accordance with Section 164.526 of the Privacy Standards (45 CFR 164.526);

- g. Make available the information required to provide an accounting of disclosures in accordance with Section 164.528 of the Privacy Standards (45 CFR 164.528);
- h. Make its internal practices, books and records relating to the use and disclosure of PHI received from the Plan available to the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (“HHS”), or any other officer or employee of HHS to whom the authority involved has been delegated, for purposes of determining compliance by the Plan with Part 164, Subpart E, of the Privacy Standards (45 CFR 164.500 *et seq*);
- i. If feasible, return or destroy all PHI received from the Plan that the Plan Sponsor still maintains in any form and retain no copies of such PHI when no longer needed for the purpose for which disclosure was made, except that, if such return or destruction is not feasible, limit further uses and disclosures to those purposes that make the return or destruction of the PHI infeasible; and
- j. Ensure that adequate separation between the Plan and the Plan Sponsor, as required in Section 164.504(f)(2)(iii) of the Privacy Standards (45 CFR 164.504(f)(2)(iii)), is established as follows:
  - i. The following Employees or classes of Employees, or other persons under control of the Plan Sponsor, shall be given access to the PHI to be disclosed:
 

HR Department  
City Manager
  - ii. The access to and use of PHI by the individuals described in subsection (i) above shall be restricted to the Plan Administration functions that the Plan Sponsor performs for the Plan.
  - iii. In the event any of the individuals described in subsection (i) above do not comply with the provisions of the Plan Document relating to use and disclosure of PHI, the Plan Sponsor shall impose reasonable sanctions as necessary, in its discretion, to ensure that no further non-compliance occurs. Such sanctions shall be imposed progressively (for example, an oral warning, a written warning, time off without pay and termination), if appropriate, and shall be imposed so that they are commensurate with the severity of the violation.

“Plan Administration” activities are limited to activities that would meet the definition of payment or health care operations, but do not include functions to modify, amend or terminate the Plan or solicit bids from prospective issuers. “Plan Administration” functions include quality assurance, claims processing, auditing, monitoring and management of carve-out plans, such as vision and dental. It does not include any employment-related functions or functions in connection with any other benefit or benefit plans.

The Plan shall disclose PHI to the Plan Sponsor only upon receipt of a certification by the Plan Sponsor that (a) the Plan Documents have been amended to incorporate the above provisions and (b) the Plan Sponsor agrees to comply with such provisions.

3. Disclosure of Certain Enrollment Information to the Plan Sponsor.

Pursuant to Section 164.504(f)(1)(iii) of the Privacy Standards (45 CFR 164.504(f)(1)(iii)), the Plan may disclose to the Plan Sponsor information on whether an individual is participating in the Plan or is enrolled in or has disenrolled from a health insurance issuer or health maintenance organization offered by the Plan.

4. Disclosure of PHI to Obtain Stop-loss or Excess Loss Coverage.

The Plan Sponsor hereby authorizes and directs the Plan, through the Plan Administrator or Claims Administrator, to disclose PHI to stop-loss carriers, excess loss carriers or managing general underwriters (MGUs) for underwriting and other purposes in order to obtain and maintain stop-loss or excess loss coverage related to benefit claims under the Plan. Such disclosures shall be made in accordance with the Privacy Standards.

5. Other Disclosures and Uses of PHI.

With respect to all other uses and disclosures of PHI, the Plan shall comply with the Privacy Standards.

## SECTION L

### SUBROGATION/RIGHT OF REIMBURSEMENT

#### Payment Condition

The Plan, in its sole discretion, may elect to conditionally advance payment of benefits in those situations where an Injury, Sickness, disease or disability is caused in whole or in part by, or results from the acts or omissions of Plan Members, and/or their Dependents, beneficiaries, estate, heirs, guardian, personal representative, or assigns (collectively referred to hereinafter in this section as "Plan Member(s)") or a third party, where any party besides the Plan may be responsible for expenses arising from an incident, and/or other funds are available, including but not limited to no-fault, uninsured motorist, underinsured motorist, medical payment provisions, third party assets, third party insurance, and/or guarantor(s) of a third party (collectively "Coverage").

Plan Member(s), his or her attorney, and/or legal guardian of a minor or incapacitated individual agrees that acceptance of the Plan's conditional payment of medical benefits is constructive notice of these provisions in their entirety and agrees to maintain 100% of the Plan's conditional payment of benefits or the full extent of payment from any one or combination of first and third party sources in trust, without disruption except for reimbursement to the Plan or the Plan's assignee. The Plan shall have an equitable lien on any funds received by the Plan Member(s) and/or their attorney from any source and said funds shall be held in trust until such time as the obligations under this provision are fully satisfied. The Plan Member(s) agrees to include the Plan's name as a co-payee on any and all settlement drafts. Further, by accepting benefits the Plan Member(s) understands that any recovery obtained pursuant to this section is an asset of the Plan to the extent of the amount of benefits paid by the Plan and that the Plan Member shall be a trustee over those Plan assets.

In the event a Plan Member(s) settles, recovers, or is reimbursed by any Coverage, the Plan Member(s) agrees to reimburse the Plan for all benefits paid or that will be paid by the Plan on behalf of the Plan Member(s). If the Plan Member(s) fails to reimburse the Plan out of any judgment or settlement received, the Plan Member(s) will be responsible for any and all expenses (fees and costs) associated with the Plan's attempt to recover such money.

If there is more than one party responsible for charges paid by the Plan, or may be responsible for charges paid by the Plan, the Plan will not be required to select a particular party from whom reimbursement is due. Furthermore, unallocated settlement funds meant to compensate multiple injured parties of which the Plan Member(s) is/are only one or a few, that unallocated settlement fund is considered designated as an "identifiable" fund from which the plan may seek reimbursement.

#### Subrogation

As a condition to participating in and receiving benefits under this Plan, the Plan Member(s) agrees to assign to the Plan the right to subrogate and pursue any and all claims, causes of action or rights that may arise against any person, corporation and/or entity and to any Coverage to which the Plan Member(s) is entitled, regardless of how classified or characterized, at the Plan's discretion, if the Plan Member(s) fails to so pursue said rights and/or action.

If a Plan Member(s) receives or becomes entitled to receive benefits, an automatic equitable lien attaches in favor of the Plan to any claim, which any Plan Member(s) may have against any Coverage and/or party causing the Sickness or Injury to the extent of such conditional payment by the Plan plus reasonable costs of collection. The Plan Member is obligated to notify the Plan or its authorized representative of any settlement prior to finalization of the settlement, execution of a release, or receipt of applicable funds. The Plan Member is also obligated to hold any and all funds so received in trust on the Plan's behalf and function as a trustee as it applies to those funds until the Plan's rights described herein are honored and the Plan is reimbursed.

The Plan may, at its discretion, in its own name or in the name of the Plan Member(s) commence a proceeding or pursue a claim against any party or Coverage for the recovery of all damages to the full extent of the value of any such benefits or conditional payments advanced by the Plan.

If the Plan Member(s) fails to file a claim or pursue damages against:

1. The responsible party, its insurer, or any other source on behalf of that party.
2. Any first party insurance through medical payment coverage, personal injury protection, no-fault coverage, uninsured or underinsured motorist coverage.
3. Any policy of insurance from any insurance company or guarantor of a third party.
4. Workers' compensation or other liability insurance company.
5. Any other source, including but not limited to crime victim restitution funds, any medical, disability or other benefit payments, and school insurance coverage.

the Plan Member(s) authorizes the Plan to pursue, sue, compromise and/or settle any such claims in the Plan Member's/Plan Members' and/or the Plan's name and agrees to fully cooperate with the Plan in the prosecution of any such claims. The Plan Member(s) assigns all rights to the Plan or its assignee to pursue a claim and the recovery of all expenses from any and all sources listed above.

### **Right of Reimbursement**

The Plan shall be entitled to recover 100% of the benefits paid, without deduction for attorneys' fees and costs or application of the common fund doctrine, made whole doctrine, or any other similar legal or equitable theory, without regard to whether the Plan Member(s) is fully compensated by his or her recovery from all sources. The Plan shall have an equitable lien which supersedes all common law or statutory rules, doctrines, and laws of any State prohibiting assignment of rights which interferes with or compromises in any way the Plan's equitable lien and right to reimbursement. The obligation to reimburse the Plan in full exists regardless of how the judgment or settlement is classified and whether or not the judgment or settlement specifically designates the recovery or a portion of it as including medical, disability, or other expenses. If the Plan Member's/Plan Members' recovery is less than the benefits paid, then the Plan is entitled to be paid all of the recovery achieved. Any funds received by the Plan Member are deemed held in constructive trust and should not be dissipated or disbursed until such time as the Plan Member's obligation to reimburse the Plan has been satisfied in accordance with these provisions. The Plan Member is also obligated to hold any and all funds so received in trust on the Plan's behalf and function as a trustee as it applies to those funds until the Plan's rights described herein are honored and the Plan is reimbursed.

No court costs, experts' fees, attorneys' fees, filing fees, or other costs or expenses of litigation may be deducted from the Plan's recovery without the prior, express written consent of the Plan.

The Plan's right of subrogation and reimbursement will not be reduced or affected as a result of any fault or claim on the part of the Plan Member(s), whether under the doctrines of causation, comparative fault or contributory negligence, or other similar doctrine in law. Accordingly, any lien reduction statutes, which attempt to apply such laws and reduce a subrogating Plan's recovery will not be applicable to the Plan and will not reduce the Plan's reimbursement rights.

These rights of subrogation and reimbursement shall apply without regard to whether any separate written acknowledgment of these rights is required by the Plan and signed by the Plan Member(s).

This provision shall not limit any other remedies of the Plan provided by law. These rights of subrogation and reimbursement shall apply without regard to the location of the event that led to or caused the applicable Sickness, Injury, disease or disability.

### **Plan Member is a Trustee Over Plan Assets**

Any Plan Member who receives benefits and is therefore subject to the terms of this section is hereby deemed a recipient and holder of Plan assets and is therefore deemed a trustee of the Plan solely as it relates to possession of any funds which may be owed to the Plan as a result of any settlement, judgment or recovery through any other means arising from any injury or accident. By virtue of this status, the Plan Member understands that he or she is required to:

1. Notify the Plan or its authorized representative of any settlement prior to finalization of the settlement, execution of a release, or receipt of applicable funds.
2. Instruct his or her attorney to ensure that the Plan and/or its authorized representative is included as a payee on all settlement drafts.
3. In circumstances where the Plan Member is not represented by an attorney, instruct the insurance company or any third party from whom the Plan Member obtains a settlement, judgment or other source of Coverage to include the Plan or its authorized representative as a payee on the settlement draft.
4. Hold any and all funds so received in trust, on the Plan's behalf, and function as a trustee as it applies to those funds, until the Plan's rights described herein are honored and the Plan is reimbursed.

To the extent the Plan Member disputes this obligation to the Plan under this section, the Plan Member or any of its agents or representatives is also required to hold any/all settlement funds, including the entire settlement if the settlement is less than the Plan's interests, and without reduction in consideration of attorneys' fees, for which he or she exercises control, in an account segregated from their general accounts or general assets until such time as the dispute is resolved.

No Plan Member, beneficiary, or the agents or representatives thereof, exercising control over plan assets and incurring trustee responsibility in accordance with this section will have any authority to accept any reduction of the Plan's interest on the Plan's behalf.

### **Excess Insurance**

If at the time of Injury, Sickness, disease or disability there is available, or potentially available any Coverage (including but not limited to Coverage resulting from a judgment at law or settlements), the benefits under this Plan shall apply only as an excess over such other sources of Coverage, except as otherwise provided for under the Plan's Coordination of Benefits section.

The Plan's benefits shall be excess to any of the following:

1. The responsible party, its insurer, or any other source on behalf of that party.
2. Any first party insurance through medical payment coverage, personal injury protection, no-fault coverage, uninsured or underinsured motorist coverage.

3. Any policy of insurance from any insurance company or guarantor of a third party.
4. Workers' compensation or other liability insurance company.
5. Any other source, including but not limited to crime victim restitution funds, any medical, disability or other benefit payments, and school insurance coverage.

### **Separation of Funds**

Benefits paid by the Plan, funds recovered by the Plan Member(s), and funds held in trust over which the Plan has an equitable lien exist separately from the property and estate of the Plan Member(s), such that the death of the Plan Member(s), or filing of bankruptcy by the Plan Member(s), will not affect the Plan's equitable lien, the funds over which the Plan has a lien, or the Plan's right to subrogation and reimbursement.

### **Wrongful Death**

In the event that the Plan Member(s) dies as a result of his or her Injuries and a wrongful death or survivor claim is asserted against a third party or any Coverage, the Plan's subrogation and reimbursement rights shall still apply, and the entity pursuing said claim shall honor and enforce these Plan rights and terms by which benefits are paid on behalf of the Plan Member(s) and all others that benefit from such payment.

### **Obligations**

It is the Plan Member's/Plan Members' obligation at all times, both prior to and after payment of medical benefits by the Plan:

1. To cooperate with the Plan, or any representatives of the Plan, in protecting its rights, including discovery, attending depositions, and/or cooperating in trial to preserve the Plan's rights.
2. To provide the Plan with pertinent information regarding the Sickness, Disease, disability, or Injury, including accident reports, settlement information and any other requested additional information.
3. To take such action and execute such documents as the Plan may require to facilitate enforcement of its subrogation and reimbursement rights.
4. To do nothing to prejudice the Plan's rights of subrogation and reimbursement.
5. To promptly reimburse the Plan when a recovery through settlement, judgment, award or other payment is received.
6. To notify the Plan or its authorized representative of any settlement prior to finalization of the settlement.

7. To not settle or release, without the prior consent of the Plan, any claim to the extent that the Plan Member may have against any responsible party or Coverage.
8. To instruct his or her attorney to ensure that the Plan and/or its authorized representative is included as a payee on any settlement draft.
9. In circumstances where the Plan Member is not represented by an attorney, instruct the insurance company or any third party from whom the Plan Member obtains a settlement to include the Plan or its authorized representative as a payee on the settlement draft.
10. To make good faith efforts to prevent disbursement of settlement funds until such time as any dispute between the Plan and Plan Member over settlement funds is resolved.

If the Plan Member(s) and/or his or her attorney fails to reimburse the Plan for all benefits paid or to be paid, as a result of said injury or condition, out of any proceeds, judgment or settlement received, the Plan Member(s) will be responsible for any and all expenses (whether fees or costs) associated with the Plan's attempt to recover such money from the Plan Member(s).

The Plan's rights to reimbursement and/or subrogation are in no way dependent upon the Plan Member's/Plan Members' cooperation or adherence to these terms.

### **Offset**

If timely repayment is not made, or the Plan Member and/or his or her attorney fails to comply with any of the requirements of the Plan, the Plan has the right, in addition to any other lawful means of recovery, to deduct the value of the Plan Member's amount owed to the Plan. To do this, the Plan may refuse payment of any future medical benefits and any funds or payments due under this Plan on behalf of the Plan Member(s) in an amount equivalent to any outstanding amounts owed by the Plan Member to the Plan. This provision applies even if the Plan Member has disbursed settlement funds.

### **Minor Status**

In the event the Plan Member(s) is a minor as that term is defined by applicable law, the minor's parents or court-appointed guardian shall cooperate in any and all actions by the Plan to seek and obtain requisite court approval to bind the minor and his or her estate insofar as these subrogation and reimbursement provisions are concerned.

If the minor's parents or court-appointed guardian fail to take such action, the Plan shall have no obligation to advance payment of medical benefits on behalf of the minor. Any court costs or legal fees associated with obtaining such approval shall be paid by the minor's parents or court-appointed guardian.

## **Language Interpretation**

The Plan Administrator retains sole, full and final discretionary authority to construe and interpret the language of this provision, to determine all questions of fact and law arising under this provision, and to administer the Plan's subrogation and reimbursement rights. The Plan Administrator may amend the Plan at any time without notice.

## **Severability**

In the event that any section of this provision is considered invalid or illegal for any reason, said invalidity or illegality shall not affect the remaining sections of this provision and Plan. The section shall be fully severable. The Plan shall be construed and enforced as if such invalid or illegal sections had never been inserted in the Plan.

## SECTION M

### CLAIM/APPEAL PROCEDURES

The procedures outlined below must be followed by Plan Members ("claimants") to obtain payment of health benefits under this Plan.

All claims and questions regarding health claims should be directed to the Claims Administrator. The Plan Administrator shall be ultimately and finally responsible for adjudicating such claims and for providing full and fair review of the decision on such claims in accordance with the following provisions. Benefits under the Plan will be paid only if the Plan Administrator decides in its discretion that the claimant is entitled to them. The responsibility to process claims in accordance with the Master Plan Document and summary plan description may be delegated to the Claims Administrator; provided, however, that the Claims Administrator is not a fiduciary of the Plan and does not have the authority to make decisions involving the use of discretion. The Plan Administrator has retained the services of an independent third party administrator, EBSO, Inc. ("Claims Administrator") to provide technical services, including the processing of claims.

Each Plan Member claiming benefits under the Plan shall be responsible for supplying, at such times and in such manner as the Plan Administrator, in its sole discretion may require, written proof that the expenses were incurred and that the benefit is covered under the Plan. If the Plan Administrator in its sole discretion shall determine that the claimant has not incurred a Covered Expense or that the benefit is not covered under the Plan, or if the claimant shall fail to furnish such proof as is requested, no benefits shall be payable under the Plan.

Under the Plan, there are four types of claims: Pre-service (Urgent and Non-urgent), Concurrent Care and Post-service.

#### **Definitions**

Words which are capitalized in this document are either defined below or in the Master Plan Document (see Definitions of General Terms, General Information and General Provisions) and summary plan description.

#### ***Pre-service Claims:***

A "Pre-service Claim" arises when there is a claim for a benefit under the Plan and the Plan conditions receipt of the benefit, in whole or in part, on approval of the benefit in advance of obtaining medical care.

A "Pre-service Urgent Care Claim" arises when there is any claim for medical care or treatment with respect to which the application of the time periods for making non-urgent care determinations could seriously jeopardize the life or health of the claimant

or the claimant's ability to regain maximum function, or, in the opinion of a physician with knowledge of the claimant's medical condition, would subject the claimant to severe pain that cannot be adequately managed without the care or treatment that is the subject of the claim.

**It is important to remember that, if a claimant needs medical care for a condition which could seriously jeopardize his life, there is no need to contact the Plan for prior approval. The claimant should obtain such care without delay.**

Further, if the Plan does not require the claimant to obtain approval of a medical service prior to getting treatment, then there is no "Pre-service Claim." The claimant simply follows the Plan's procedures with respect to any notice which may be required after receipt of treatment, and files the claim as a Post-service Claim.

### ***Concurrent Claims:***

A "Concurrent Claim" arises when the Plan has approved an on-going course of treatment to be provided over a period of time or number of treatments, and either (a) the Plan determines that the course of treatment should be reduced or terminated, or (b) the claimant requests extension of the course of treatment beyond that which the Plan has approved.

If the Plan does not require the claimant to obtain approval of a medical service prior to getting treatment, then there is no need to contact the Plan Administrator to request an extension of a course of treatment. The claimant simply follows the Plan's procedures with respect to any notice which may be required after receipt of treatment, and files the claim as a Post-service Claim.

### ***Post-service Claims:***

A "Post-service Claim" is a claim for a benefit under the Plan after the services have been rendered.

### **When Health Claims Must Be Filed**

Health claims must be filed with the Claims Administrator within six months of the date charges for the service were incurred. However in no event, except in the absence of legal capacity, will claims be accepted later than 12 months from the date the charge in question was incurred. Charges are considered incurred when treatment or care is given or supplies are provided. **Claims filed later than that date shall be denied.**

A Pre-service Claim (including a Concurrent Claim that also is a Pre-service Claim) is considered to be filed when the request for approval of treatment or services is made and received by the Utilization Review Organization in accordance with the Plan's Utilization Review procedures.

However, a Post-service Claim is considered to be filed when the following information is received by the Claims Administrator, together with a Form HCFA, Form UB92 or Form ADA:

1. The date of service;
2. The date the Injury or Sickness began;
3. The name, address, telephone number and tax identification number of the provider of the services or supplies;
4. The place where the services were rendered;
5. The diagnosis and procedure codes;
6. The amount of charges;
7. The name of the Plan and Plan ID #;
8. The name and home address of the Employee;
9. The Employee's social security number;
10. The name and home address of the patient; and
11. The patient's social security number.

Upon receipt of this information, the claim will be deemed to be filed with the Plan. The Utilization Review Organization will determine if enough information has been submitted to enable proper consideration of the Pre-service Claim or Pre-service Urgent Claim. The Claims Administrator will determine if enough information has been submitted to enable proper consideration of the post-service claim. If not, more information may be requested as provided herein. This additional information must be received by the Claims Administrator within 45 days (or by the Utilization Review Organization within 48 hours in the case of Pre-service Urgent Care Claims) from receipt by the claimant of the request for additional information. **Failure to do so may result in claims being declined or reduced.**

**NOTE:** The Plan does not consider inquiries about benefits, eligibility or the circumstances under which benefits might be paid, to be claims. An inquiry does not become a claim unless the proper claim procedure is followed. Further, questions concerning eligibility for benefits, such as calls from providers of medical services, are NOT ever considered claims.

## **Timing of Claim Decisions**

The Plan Administrator shall notify the claimant, in accordance with the provisions set forth below, of any adverse benefit determination (and, in the case of Pre-service Claims and Concurrent Claims, of decisions that a claim is payable in full) within the following timeframes:

### **Pre-service Urgent Care Claims:**

If the claimant has provided all of the necessary information, as soon as possible, taking into account the medical exigencies, but not later than 72 hours after receipt of the claim.

If the claimant has not provided all of the information needed to process the claim, then the claimant will be notified as to what specific information is needed as soon as possible, but not later than 24 hours after receipt of the claim. The claimant will be notified of a determination of benefits as soon as possible, but not later than 48 hours, taking into account the medical exigencies, after the earliest of (a) the Plan's receipt of the specified information, or (b) the end of the period afforded the claimant to provide the information.

### **Pre-service Non-urgent Care Claims:**

If the claimant has provided all of the information needed to process the claim, in a reasonable period of time appropriate to the medical circumstances, but not later than 15 days after receipt of the claim, unless an extension has been requested, then prior to the end of the 15-day extension period.

If the claimant has not provided all of the information needed to process the claim, then the claimant will be notified as to what specific information is needed as soon as possible, but not later than 5 days after receipt of the claim. The claimant will be notified of a determination of benefits in a reasonable period of time appropriate to the medical circumstances, either prior to the end of the extension period (if additional information was requested during the initial processing period), or by the date agreed to by the Plan Administrator and the claimant (if additional information was requested during the extension period).

### **Concurrent Claims:**

Plan Notice of Reduction or Termination. If the Plan Administrator is notifying the claimant of a reduction or termination of a course of treatment (other than by Plan amendment or termination), before the end of such period of time or number of treatments. The claimant will be notified sufficiently in advance of the reduction or termination to allow the claimant to appeal and obtain a determination on review of that adverse benefit determination before the benefit is reduced or terminated.

Request by Claimant Involving Urgent Care. If the Plan Administrator receives a request from a claimant to extend the course of treatment beyond the period of time or number of treatments that is a claim involving Urgent Care, as soon as possible, taking into account the medical exigencies, but not later than 24 hours after receipt of the claim, as long as the claimant makes the request at least 24 hours prior to the expiration of the prescribed period of time or number of treatments. If the claimant submits the request with less than 24 hours prior to the expiration of the prescribed period of time or number of treatments, the request will be treated as a claim involving Urgent Care and decided within the Urgent Care timeframe.

Request by Claimant Involving Non-urgent Care. If the Plan Administrator receives a request from the claimant to extend the course of treatment beyond the period of time or number of treatments that is a claim not involving Urgent Care, the request will be treated as a new benefit claim and decided within the timeframe appropriate to the type of claim (either as a Pre-service Non-urgent Claim or a Post-service Claim).

### **Post-service Claims:**

If the claimant has provided all of the information needed to process the claim, in a reasonable period of time, but not later than 30 days after receipt of the claim, unless an extension has been requested, then prior to the end of the 15-day extension period.

If the claimant has not provided all of the information needed to process the claim and additional information is requested during the initial processing period, then the claimant will be notified of a determination of benefits prior to the end of the extension period, unless additional information is requested during the extension period, then the claimant will be notified of the determination by a date agreed to by the Plan Administrator and the claimant.

Extensions – Pre-service Urgent Care Claims. No extensions are available in connection with Pre-service Urgent Care Claims.

Extensions – Pre-service Non-urgent Care Claims. This period may be extended by the Plan for up to 15 days, provided that the Plan Administrator both determines that such an extension is necessary due to matters beyond the control of the Plan and notifies the claimant, prior to the expiration of the initial 15-day processing period, of the circumstances requiring the extension of time and the date by which the Plan expects to render a decision.

Extensions – Post-service Claims. This period may be extended by the Plan for up to 15 days, provided that the Plan Administrator both determines that such an extension is necessary due to matters beyond the control of the Plan and notifies the claimant, prior to the expiration of the initial 30-day processing period, of the circumstances requiring the extension of time and the date by which the Plan expects to render a decision.

Calculating Time Periods. The period of time within which a benefit determination is required to be made shall begin at the time a claim is deemed to be filed in accordance with the procedures of the Plan.

### **Notification of an Adverse Benefit Determination**

The Plan Administrator shall provide a claimant with a notice, either in writing or electronically (or, in the case of Pre-service Urgent Care Claims, by telephone, facsimile or similar method, with written or electronic notice following within 3 days), containing the following information:

1. A reference to the specific portion(s) of the Master Plan Document and summary plan description upon which a denial is based;
2. Specific reason(s) for a denial;
3. A description of any additional information necessary for the claimant to perfect the claim and an explanation of why such information is necessary;
4. A description of the Plan's review procedures and the time limits applicable to the procedures, including a statement of the claimant's right to bring a civil action following an adverse benefit determination on final review;
5. A statement that the claimant is entitled to receive, upon request and free of charge, reasonable access to, and copies of, all documents, records and other information relevant to the claimant's claim for benefits;
6. The identity of any medical, dental or vocational experts consulted in connection with a claim, even if the Plan did not rely upon their advice (or a statement that the identity of the expert will be provided, upon request);
7. Any rule, guideline, protocol or similar criterion that was relied upon in making the determination (or a statement that it was relied upon and that a copy will be provided to the claimant, free of charge, upon request);
8. In the case of denials based upon a medical judgment (such as whether the treatment is Medical Necessary or Experimental), either an explanation of the scientific or clinical judgment for the determination, applying the terms of the Plan to the claimant's medical circumstances, or a statement that such explanation will be provided to the claimant, free of charge, upon request; and
9. In a claim involving Urgent Care, a description of the Plan's expedited review process.

Requested copies will be provided to the claimant within a reasonable period of time, not to exceed 30 days from the date the Plan receives the written request for copies.

## **Appeal of Adverse Benefit Determinations – Internal Review**

### **A. Procedures for Review of Adverse Benefit Determinations**

In cases where a claim for benefits is denied, in whole or in part, and the claimant believes the claim has been denied wrongly, the claimant may appeal the denial and review relevant documents. The claims procedures of this Plan provide a claimant with a reasonable opportunity for a full and fair review of a claim and adverse benefit determination. More specifically, the Plan provides:

1. Claimants at least 180 days following receipt of a notification of an initial adverse benefit determination within which to appeal the determination. If the claimant does not appeal on time, he/she will lose the right to file suit in court and will have failed to exhaust the Plan's internal administrative appeal procedures, which is generally a prerequisite to bringing suit;
2. Claimants the opportunity to submit written comments, documents, records, and other information relating to the claim for benefits;
3. For a review that is independent from the initial adverse benefit determination and is conducted by an appropriate named fiduciary of the Plan who is not the same individual who decided the claimant's initial adverse benefit determination and who is not also that individual's subordinate;
4. For a review that takes into account all comments, documents, records, and other information submitted by the claimant relating to the claim, without regard to whether such information was submitted or considered in the prior benefit determination;
5. That, if an adverse benefit determination is based in whole or in part upon a medical judgment, the Plan fiduciary shall consult with an independent health care professional who has appropriate training and experience in the field of medicine involved in the medical judgment and who is not the same person as the health care professional consulted in connection with the initial adverse benefit determination;
6. For the identity of medical/vocational experts consulted in connection with the appeal, even if the Plan did not rely upon their advice; and
7. In an Urgent Care Claim, for an expedited review process pursuant to which:
  - a. A request for an expedited appeal of an adverse benefit determination may be submitted orally or in writing by the claimant; and

- b. All necessary information, including the Plan's benefit determination on review, shall be transmitted between the Plan and the claimant by telephone, facsimile, or other available similarly expeditious method.

## **B. Requirements for Appeal**

The claimant must file the appeal in writing (although oral appeals are permitted for Pre-service Urgent Care Claims) within 180 days following receipt of the notice of an initial adverse benefit determination. For Pre-service Urgent Care Claims, if the claimant chooses to orally appeal, claimant may telephone: Appeal Dept. EBSO, Inc. at 800-558-7798. To file an appeal in writing, the claimant's appeal must be addressed as follows and mailed and/or faxed to the following number: *Attention: Appeal Dept. c/o EBSO, Inc. 215 Stanford Parkway, Findlay, OH 45840. Fax (419) 423-5834.*

It shall be the responsibility of the claimant to submit proof that the claim for benefits is covered and payable under the provisions of the Plan. Any appeal must include:

1. The name of the Employee;
2. The name of the claimant;
3. The Employee's social security number;
4. The claimant's social security number;
5. The group name and identification number;
6. All facts and theories supporting the claim for benefits. **Failure to include any theories or facts in the appeal will result in their being deemed waived. In other words, the claimant will lose the right to raise factual arguments and theories which support this claim if the claimant fails to include them in the appeal;**
7. A statement in clear and concise terms of the reason or reasons for disagreement with the handling of the claim; and
8. Any material or information that the claimant has which indicates that the claimant is entitled to benefits under the Plan.

If the claimant provides all of the required information, it may be that the expenses will be eligible for payment under the Plan.

## **C. Notification of Benefit Determination on Review**

The Plan Administrator shall notify the claimant of the Plan's benefit determination on review within the following timeframes:

Pre-service Urgent Care Claims: As soon as possible, taking into account the medical

exigencies, but not later than 72 hours after receipt of the appeal.

Pre-service Non-urgent Care Claims: Within a reasonable period of time appropriate to the medical circumstances, but not later than 30 days after receipt of the appeal.

Concurrent Claims: The response will be made in the appropriate time period based upon the type of claim – Pre-service Urgent, Pre-service Non-urgent or Post-service.

Post-service Claims: Within a reasonable period of time, but not later than 60 days after receipt of the appeal.

Calculating Time Periods. The period of time within which the Plan's determination is required to be made shall begin at the time an appeal is filed in accordance with the procedures of this Plan, without regard to whether all information necessary to make the determination accompanies the filing.

#### **D. Manner and Content of Notification of Adverse Benefit Determination on Review.**

The Plan Administrator shall provide a claimant with notification, with respect to Pre-service Urgent Care Claims, by telephone, facsimile or similar method, and with respect to all other types of claims, in writing or electronically, of a Plan's adverse benefit determination on review, setting forth:

1. The specific reason or reasons for the denial;
2. Reference to the specific portion(s) of the Master Plan Document and summary plan description on which the denial is based;
3. The identity of any medical, dental or vocational experts consulted in connection with the claim, even if the Plan did not rely upon their advice;
4. A statement that the claimant is entitled to receive, upon request and free of charge, reasonable access to, and copies of, all documents, records, and other information relevant to the claimant's claim for benefits;
5. If an internal rule, guideline, protocol, or other similar criterion was relied upon in making the adverse determination, a statement that such rule, guideline, protocol, or other similar criterion was relied upon in making the adverse determination and that a copy of the rule, guideline, protocol, or other similar criterion will be provided free of charge to the claimant upon request;
6. If the adverse benefit determination is based upon a medical judgment, a statement that an explanation of the scientific or clinical judgment for the determination, applying the terms of the Plan to the claimant's medical circumstances, will be provided free of charge upon request;

7. A description of any available External Review process and how to initiate an External Review;
8. The following statement: "You and your Plan may have other voluntary alternative dispute resolution options, such as mediation. One way to find out what may be available is to contact your local U.S. Department of Labor Office or the Plan Administrator."

If, for any reason, the claimant does not receive a written response to the appeal within the appropriate time period set forth above, the claimant may assume that the appeal has been denied and the Plan's internal review procedures have been exhausted.

## **Appeal of Adverse Benefit Determinations – External Review**

### **A. Overview**

If the claim is denied, the claimant may be eligible to have his/her claim reviewed by an Independent Review Organization (IRO) pursuant to a process called "External Review." Generally, External Review is available only after the claim denial has been upheld after the final level of appeal under the Plan. The claimant may, however, in limited circumstances have the right to have the claim reviewed by an IRO prior to exhausting the Plan's appeal process. See **Expedited External Review** for further details.

### **B. Request for Review**

External Review is available only for medical claims (excluding dental and vision) that involve medical judgment (including, for example, those based on the Plan's requirements for medical necessity, appropriateness, health care setting, level of care, or effectiveness of a covered benefit; or a determination as to whether a treatment is experimental or investigational) and for rescissions of coverage (i.e. retroactive cancellations of coverage because of the Plan Member's fraud or intentional misrepresentation of a material fact regarding eligibility for coverage).

Federal government agency guidance may further limit or broaden the scope of External Review. The Plan will provide an External Review process in accordance with applicable guidance.

A request for External Review must be filed in accordance with the instructions contained in the claimant's appeal denial notice and must be received not later than four months after the date he/she receives the appeal denial notice. If there is no corresponding date four months after the date of the appeal denial notice, then the request must be filed by the first day of the fifth month following receipt of the notice. For example, if the date of the denial notice is October 30, because there is no February 30, the request must be filed by March 1. If the last filing date would fall on a Saturday, Sunday, or Federal holiday, the last filing date is extended to the next day that is not a Saturday, Sunday, or Federal holiday.

### **C. Preliminary Review**

Within five business days after receiving the claimant's External Review request, the Plan Administrator will complete a preliminary review to determine whether his/her request is complete and eligible for External Review. That preliminary review will determine: whether the claimant was covered under the Plan at the time the item or service was requested or provided; whether the final denial of his/her appeal related to the claimant's failure to meet the Plan's eligibility requirements; whether the claimant exhausted the Plan's internal appeal process (or are not required to exhaust the process); and whether the claimant has provided all the information and forms required to process an External Review.

Within one business day after the completion of the preliminary review, the Plan Administrator will notify the claimant of one of the following:

1. That his/her request is complete, but she/he is not eligible for external review. This notice will state the reasons for the ineligibility and provide contact information for the Employee Benefits Security Administration.
2. That his/her request is incomplete, but may still be eligible for external review. This notice will describe the information or materials needed to complete the request. The claimant will be permitted to provide the required information by the later of: (a) the last day of the four month filing period or (b) 48-hours after receipt of the notice.
3. That his/her request is complete and eligible for external review.

### **D. Referral to IRO**

If the claimant's request for External Review is complete and eligible, the Plan Administrator will assign a qualified IRO to conduct the External Review and within five business days after making the assignment will provide the IRO with the documents and information the Plan Administrator considered in making its final appeal denial.

The claimant will have at least 10 days to submit additional information to the IRO. If the claimant submits additional information, the IRO will send that information to the Plan and the Plan may reconsider its determination. If the Plan decides, on reconsideration, to reverse its benefits denial and provide coverage or payment, then the external review can be terminated.

If the Plan does not reverse its determination, the IRO will review all of the information and documents timely received. In reaching a decision the IRO will review the claim and not be bound by any decisions or conclusions reached during the Plan's internal claims and appeal process. In addition to the documents and information provided, the IRO, to the extent the information or documents are available and the IRO considers them appropriate will

consider the following in reaching a decision: the claimant's medical records; the attending health care professional's recommendation; reports from the appropriate health care professionals and other documents submitted by the Plan Administrator, the claimant's treating provider; the terms of the Plan, to ensure that the IRO's decision is not contrary to the terms of the Plan; appropriate practice guidelines; any applicable clinical review criteria developed and used by the Plan; and the opinion of the IRO's clinical reviewer(s).

The IRO must provide written notice to the claimant and the Plan Administrator of the final External Review decision within 45 days after the IRO receives the request for External Review. If the IRO reverses the Plan's determination, the Plan must immediately provide coverage or payment for the claim.

#### **E. Expedited External Review**

Under the following circumstances, the claimant may be eligible to file for an expedited External Review:

1. If the claimant receives a claim denial that involves a medical condition for which the timeframe for completion of an expedited internal appeal with the Plan Administrator would seriously jeopardize the claimant's life or health, or that would jeopardize the claimant's ability to regain maximum function, and the claimant has filed a request for an expedited internal appeal; or
2. If the claimant receives a final appeal denial from the Plan Administrator and: he/she has a medical condition for which the timeframe for completion of a standard external appeal would seriously jeopardize his/her life or health, or would jeopardize his/her ability to regain maximum function; or if the final claim denial concerns an admission, availability of care, continued stay, or health care item or service for which the claimant has received emergency services but have not been discharged from a facility.

Immediately upon receipt of the request for an expedited External Review, the Plan Administrator will complete a preliminary review of the claimant's request in order to determine his/her eligibility for expedited External Review. Immediately after completion of the preliminary review, the Plan Administrator will issue the claimant a written notification of his/her eligibility for expedited External Review. If the claimant's request is complete but not eligible for External Review, the notice will include the reasons for ineligibility. If the claimant's request is incomplete, the notice will describe the information or materials needed to make the request complete and the claimant will have an opportunity to complete the request.

Upon a determination that a request is eligible for expedited External Review, the Plan Administrator will assign an IRO for review and transmit all necessary documents and

information to the IRO. The IRO must provide notice, to the claimant and the Plan Administrator of the final External Review decision as expeditiously as possible, but in no event later than 72 hours after the IRO receives the request for the expedited External Review.

**All claim review procedures provided for in the Plan must be exhausted before any legal action is brought. Any legal action for the recovery of any benefits must be commenced within one year after the Plan's claim review procedures have been exhausted.**

### **Appointment of Authorized Representative**

A claimant is permitted to appoint an authorized representative to act on his behalf with respect to a benefit claim or appeal of a denial. An assignment of benefits by a claimant to a provider will not constitute appointment of that provider as an authorized representative. To appoint such a representative, the claimant must complete a form which can be obtained from the Plan Administrator or the Claims Administrator. **In the event a claimant designates an authorized representative, all future communications from the Plan will be with the representative, rather than the claimant, unless the claimant directs the Plan Administrator, in writing, to the contrary.**