



Everything you need to know about your health plan

Independence 
Personal Choice



Questions?

Visit ibxpress.com or

Call 1-800-ASK BLUE
(TTY: 711)

Welcome to Independence Blue Cross

Thank you for choosing Independence Blue Cross. Our goal is to provide you with health care coverage that can help you manage your health care needs. This Benefit Booklet will help you understand your Independence coverage so that you can take full advantage of your membership by becoming familiar with the benefits and services available to you.

You'll find valuable information on:

- What services are and are not covered by your health insurance.
- How decisions are made about what is covered.
- How to use our member website, ibxpress.com.
- How to get in touch with us if you have a problem.

If you have any other questions, feel free to call Customer Service at 1-800-ASK-BLUE (TTY: 711) and we will be happy to assist you.

Again, thank you for being a member of Independence Blue Cross. We look forward to providing you with quality health care coverage.

Introduction to your health plan

You have Personal Choice® PPO coverage, which means you have the freedom to see any doctor or specialist in or out of our large network, without a referral. You will also receive the highest level of benefits when you receive care through our "preferred" network.

Using your ID card

You and your covered dependents will each receive an Independence Blue Cross identification (ID) card. It is important to take your ID card with you wherever you go because it contains information like what to pay when visiting your doctor, specialist, or the emergency room (ER). You should present your ID card when you receive care, including doctor visits or when checking in at the ER.

The back of your ID card provides information about medical services, what to do in an emergency situation, and how to use your benefits when out of network. If any information on your ID card is incorrect, you misplace an ID card, or need to print out a temporary ID card, you may do so through ibxpress.com, our member website. You may also call 1-800-ASK-BLUE (TTY: 711) and we will issue you a new ID card.

IBX Wire

When you receive your ID card, call the toll-free number on the sticker affixed to the card to confirm receipt. You will also be given the option to sign up for IBX Wire, a free messaging service. IBX Wire is an innovative way for you to receive timely and helpful communications on your smartphone. If you choose to opt in, you will have access to a private message board and will receive text messages about once every other week that communicate helpful, relevant information about your health plan, maximizing your benefits, and wellness programs.

Locating a network physician or hospital

You have access to our expansive provider network of physicians, specialists, and hospitals. You may search our provider network by going to www.ibx.com/providerfinder. You may search by specialty (e.g. internal or pediatrics), location, gender preference, and distance. You may also call 1-800-ASK-BLUE (TTY: 711) and a Customer Service associate will help you locate a provider.

How to receive care

Scheduling an appointment

Simply call your doctor's office and request an appointment. If possible, call network providers 24 hours in advance if you are unable to make it to a scheduled appointment.

Obtaining precertification

You are not required to obtain precertification when you are treated in a Personal Choice network hospital or facility or by a Personal Choice network physician. If your Personal Choice network provider fails to obtain precertification, you will not be responsible for financial penalties.

When you must obtain precertification:

If you are receiving care from a BlueCard PPO provider, another Blue plan provider, or an out-of-network provider, you are responsible for initiating precertification or prior authorization.

Call 1-800-ASK-BLUE (TTY: 711) to speak with a Care Management and Coordination team member to obtain precertification for your need.

Using your preventive care benefits

Quality care and prevention are vital to your long-term health and well-being.

That's why we cover 100 percent of certain preventive services, offering them without a copayment, coinsurance, or deductible if received from your in-network provider.

Covered preventive services include, but are not limited to:

- screenings for:
 - breast, cervical, and colon cancer
 - vitamin deficiencies during pregnancy
 - diabetes
 - high cholesterol
 - high blood pressure
- routine vaccinations for children, adolescents, and adults as determined by the CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)
- women's preventive health services, such as:
 - well-woman visits (annually);
 - screening for gestational diabetes;
 - human papillomavirus (HPV) DNA testing;
 - counseling for sexually transmitted infections;
 - counseling and screening for human immunodeficiency virus (HIV);
 - screening and counseling for interpersonal and domestic violence;
 - breastfeeding support, supplies (breast pumps), and counseling;
 - generic formulary contraceptives, certain brand formulary contraceptives, and FDA-approved over-the-counter female contraceptives with a prescription.

Be sure to consult with your doctor for preventive services and/or screenings.



Sign up for IBX Wire

When you receive your ID card, opt in to IBX Wire to receive text messages about your health plan.

* Medical contraceptive procedures, including implantable contraceptive devices and injectable contraceptives, are covered with no cost-sharing when performed by participating In-network providers. If your health plan includes a prescription drug benefit, certain FDA approved contraceptives are covered with no cost-sharing when the prescription is filled at a participating In-network pharmacy. Other exemptions may apply. Refer to your member handbook and/or benefit booklet to determine if your plan covers in-network preventive services and/or preventive drugs with no cost-sharing.

Wellness Guidelines

Your health and wellness are important. That's why we provide you with these nationally recommended tests and screenings to help you and your family stay healthy. We encourage you to take the time to review these guidelines and discuss them with your health care provider. Some of these services may require cost-sharing. * Additional resources along with tips to stay healthy and safe and topics to discuss with your health care provider are included.

To download our Wellness Guidelines, log on to ibxpress.com and click on the *Health & Wellness Programs* tab. Then click on *Healthy Living*, and then on *Wellness Guidelines*.

* The Wellness Guidelines are a summary of recommendations based on the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force and other nationally recognized sources. These recommendations have been reviewed by our network health care providers. This information is not a statement of benefits. Please refer to your health benefit plan contract/member handbook or benefits handbook for terms, limitations, or exclusions of your health benefits plan. Please contact our Customer Service department with questions about which preventive care benefits apply to you. The telephone number for Customer Service can be found on your ID card.

Emergency care

In the event of an emergency, go immediately to the emergency room of the nearest hospital. If you believe your situation is particularly severe, call 911 for assistance.

A medical emergency is typically thought of as a medical or psychiatric condition in which symptoms are so severe, that the absence of immediate medical attention could place one's health in serious jeopardy. Most times, a hospital emergency room is not the most appropriate place for you to be treated.

Hospital emergency rooms provide emergency care and must prioritize patients' needs. The most seriously hurt or ill patients are treated first. If you are not in that category, you could wait a long time.

Urgent Care

Urgent care is necessary treatment for a non-life-threatening, unexpected illness or accidental injury that requires prompt medical attention when your doctor is unavailable. Examples include sore throat, fever, sinus infection, ear ache, cuts, rashes, sprains, and broken bones.

You may visit an urgent care center which offers a convenient, safe, and affordable treatment alternative to emergency room care when you can't get an appointment with your own doctor.

Retail health clinic

Retail health clinics are another alternative when you can't get an appointment with your own doctor for non-emergency care. Retail health clinics use certified nurse practitioners who treat minor, uncomplicated illness or injury. Some retail health clinics may also offer flu shots and vaccinations.

Not sure what facility to use? Go to www.ibx.com/findcarenow to help you decide where to go for care.

When to go to the ER:

- heart attack
- electrical burn

When to go to an urgent care center:

- sore throat
 - ear ache
-

You're covered while traveling with BlueCard® PPO

You can travel with the peace of mind knowing that Blue goes with you wherever you go. With BlueCard PPO, you simply present your ID card to any participating Blue Cross® and/or Blue Shield® PPO provider across the country and your costs are the same as if you were being treated by an in-network local doctor or hospital.

If you run into a medical emergency when you are far away from home, you have two different options:

- In a true emergency, go to the nearest ER.
- In an urgent care situation, find a BlueCard provider in the area. Call 1-800-810-BLUE (TTY: 711) to find an in-network provider in the area. You may also visit an urgent care center for medical issues if an in-network provider is unavailable and if you do not require the medical services of an emergency room. You may also visit the BlueCard Doctor and Hospital Finder at www.bcbs.com.

Receiving services for mental health, alcohol, or substance abuse treatment

Magellan Behavioral Health administers your mental health and substance abuse benefits like outpatient or inpatient mental health or substance abuse services.

Call 1-800-ASK-BLUE (TTY: 711). Refer to the terms and conditions of your group health plan to find out if you have coverage for mental health and substance abuse benefits.

Stay Connected

On ibxpress.com you can conveniently and securely view your benefits and claims information and use the tools that help you take control of your health.

As an Independence Blue Cross member, you and your dependents 14 years of age and older can create your own accounts on ibxpress.com.

Register on ibxpress.com

To register, simply go to ibxpress.com, click *Register*, and then follow the directions. You will need information from your ID card to register, so be sure to have it handy.

Once you're registered, log on to ibxpress.com to:

- view your benefits information;
- review claims information;
- review annual out-of-pocket expenses;
- request a replacement ID card and print a temporary ID card;
- view and print referrals;
- download forms.

Online tools to help make informed health care decisions

The ibxpress.com website also provides you with tools and resources to help you make informed health care decisions:

- **Provider Finder and Hospital Finder** help you find the participating doctors and hospitals that are equipped to handle your needs. Simple navigation helps you get fast and accurate results. Plus, when you select your health plan type your results are customized based on your network, making it easy to locate a participating doctor, specialist, hospital, or other medical facility. You'll even be able to read patient ratings and reviews and rate your doctors and write your own reviews.

Out of the area and need care?

Call 1-800-810-BLUE
(TTY: 711) to find an in-network provider in the area.

- **Health Encyclopedia** provides information on more than 160 health topics and the latest news on common conditions.
- **Treatment Cost Estimator** helps you estimate your costs within certain geographic areas for hundreds of common conditions — including tests, procedures, and health care visits, so you can plan and budget for your expenses. You even have access to tools and programs to help you make lifestyle changes by helping you get started, setting reachable goals, and giving you ways to track your progress.
- **Personal Health Profile** gives a clear picture of what you are doing right and ways to stay healthy. After completing the Personal Health Profile, you will receive a confidential and personalized action plan.
- **My Health Assistant** is a personal coaching tool that provides an interactive, targeted approach to healthy behavior change.
- **Health Trackers** allow you to track your blood pressure, cholesterol, body fat, and even exercises.
- **Personal Health Record** helps you store, maintain, track, and manage your health information in one centralized and secure location. Your Personal Health Record is updated once we process claims received from participating providers. Save money with wellness discounts from Blue365®.



Download the IBX App

After you download the IBX App, simply use your ibxpress.com username and password to log in.

You can enjoy exclusive value-added discounts and offers on programs and services from leading national companies.

Blue365 gives you an easy-to-use, valuable resource to save on healthy programs and services. Visit www.blue365deals.com to see the latest discounts.

Manage your health on the go with the IBX App

Download the free IBX App for your smartphone to help you make the most of your health plan. The IBX App gives you easy access to your health care coverage 24/7, wherever you are. Use the Doctor's Visit Assistant on the IBX App to:

- view and share your ID card
- check the status of referrals and claims
- access your health history and prescribed medications
- record notes and upload photos of symptoms to discuss with your doctor

The IBX App also offers expanded provider search capabilities and other ways to manage your health on the go:

- find doctors, hospitals, urgent care centers, and Patient-centered Medical Homes
- access benefit information
- track deductibles and spending account balances
- Download from the App store or Google Marketplace. Log in to the App with the same username and password you use for ibxpress.com.

Connect with us on Facebook and Twitter

“Like” the Independence Blue Cross page on Facebook or follow us on Twitter, and you'll find a whole new approach to making healthy lifestyle changes, one step at a time.

- Receive health and wellness tips that can help you improve your well-being.
- Enter contests and promotions.
- Connect with other health-minded fans.

Follow us!

www.facebook.com/ibx
www.twitter.com/ibx

Customer Support

When you need us, we're here for you. You can contact us to discuss anything pertaining to your health care, including:

- benefits and eligibility
- claims status
- requesting a new ID card
- wellness programs

Email

To send a secure email to Customer Service, log on to www.ibxpress.com and click on the *Contact Us link*. On the Contact Us page you will see a link that allows you to send your inquiries or comments directly to Customer Service.

Mail

Independence Blue Cross
1901 Market Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103-1480

Our walk-in service, located at 1919 Market Street, 2nd Floor, is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Call

Call 1-800-ASK-BLUE (TTY: 711) to speak to one of our experienced Customer Service team members, who are available to answer your questions Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Services for members with special needs

If a language other than English is your primary language, call Customer Service at 1-800-ASK-BLUE (TTY: 711) and they will work with you through an interpreter over the telephone to help you understand your benefits and answer any questions you may have.

Key terms

You will find key terms and definitions in detail included in the benefit booklet. You may also view the glossary of key terms in Health Care Reform by visiting ibx.com/HCR_Glossary.



Your one-stop shop

ibxpress.com

THE PERSONAL CHOICE HEALTH BENEFITS PROGRAM

A COMPREHENSIVE MAJOR MEDICAL GROUP BENEFIT BOOKLET

Administered by

QCC Insurance Company
(Called "the Claims Administrator")
A Pennsylvania Corporation
Located at
1901 Market Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103

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Language Access Services

If you, or someone you're helping, has questions about QCC Insurance Company, you have the right to get help and information in your language at no cost. To talk to an interpreter, call 1-800-275-2583 TTY 711.

Si usted, o alguien a quien usted está ayudando, tiene preguntas acerca de QCC Insurance Company, tiene derecho a obtener ayuda e información en su idioma sin costo alguno. Para hablar con un intérprete, llame al 1-800-275-2583 TTY 711.

如對 QCC Insurance Company 有任何問題，請您或您所幫助的人聯系我們提供的免費多語言信息服務。翻譯服務請撥打 1-800-275-2583。

Nếu quý vị hoặc người mà quý vị đang trợ giúp có câu hỏi về QCC Insurance Company, quý vị có quyền nhận được trợ giúp và thông tin bằng ngôn ngữ của quý vị hoàn toàn miễn phí. Để yêu cầu thông dịch viên, hãy gọi số 1-800-275-2583.

Если у вас или лица, которому вы помогаете, имеются вопросы по поводу программы QCC Insurance Company, то вы имеете право на бесплатное получение помощи и информации на вашем языке. Для разговора с переводчиком позвоните по телефону 1-800-275-2583.

Wann du hoscht en Froog, odder ebber, wu du helpscht, hot en Froog baut QCC Insurance Company, hoscht du es Recht fer Hilf un Information in deinre eegne Schprooch griege, un die Hilf koschtet nix. Wann du mit me Interpreter schwetze witt, kannscht du 1-800-275-2583 uffrufe.

QCC Insurance Company 와 관련하여 궁금한 사항이 있으신 경우, 귀하 또는 귀하의 지원을 받는 사람은 관련 정보 및 지원을 해당 언어로 무료로 받으실 수 있습니다. 통역사와 상담하시려면 1-800-275-2583 로 전화해 주십시오.

Se tu o qualcuno che stai aiutando avete domande su QCC Insurance Company, hai il diritto di ottenere gratuitamente aiuto e informazioni nella tua lingua. Per parlare con un interprete, puoi chiamare il numero 1-800-275-2583.

إذا كان لديك أو لدى شخص تساعد أسئلة بخصوص QCC Insurance Company، فلديك الحق في الحصول على المعلومات الضرورية بلغتك دون أي تكلفة. للتحدث مع مترجم اتصل بـ 1-800-275-2583.

Si vous, ou quelqu'un que vous aidez, a des questions à propos de QCC Insurance Company, vous avez le droit d'obtenir gratuitement de l'aide et l'information dans votre langue. Pour parler à un interprète, appelez 1-800-275-2583.

Wenn Sie selbst oder eine Person, der Sie helfen, Fragen über QCC Insurance Company haben, so haben Sie das Recht, kostenlos Hilfe und Informationen in Ihrer Sprache anzufordern. Um mit einem Dolmetscher zu sprechen, rufen Sie bitte die Nummer 1-800-275-2583 an.

જો તમને અથવા તમે કોઈને મદદ કરી રહ્યા તેમાંથી કોઈને QCC Insurance Company વિશે પ્રશ્નો હોય, તો તમને મદદ અને માહિતી તમારી ભાષામાં કોઈપણ ખર્ચ વિના મેળવવાનો અધિકાર છે. દુભાષિયા સાથે વાત કરવા માટે, આ 1-800-275-2583 પર કોલ કરો

Jeśli Ty lub osoba, której pomagasz macie pytania odnośnie do programu QCC Insurance Company, mogą Państwo uzyskać bezpłatną informację i pomoc w Waszym języku. Aby porozmawiać z tłumaczem, proszę zadzwonić pod numer 1-800-275-2583.

Si ou menm, oswa yon moun w ap ede, gen kesyon konsènan QCC Insurance Company, ou gen dwa pou resevwa èd ak enfòmasyon nan lang ou gratis. Pou pale ak yon entèprèt, rele 1-800-275-2583.

បើអ្នក ឬក៏នរណាម្នាក់ដែលអ្នកកំពុងជួយ មានសំណួរអំពី QCC Insurance Company អ្នកមានសិទ្ធិក្នុងការ ទទួលជំនួយនិងព័ត៌មានជាភាសារបស់អ្នក ដោយឥតគិតថ្លៃ។ ដើម្បីជជែកជាមួយអ្នកបកប្រែ សូមហៅ ទូរសព្ទទៅលេខ 1-800-275-2583។

Se você, ou alguém a quem você está ajudando, tem perguntas sobre o QCC Insurance Company, você tem o direito de obter ajuda e informação em seu idioma e sem custos. Para falar com um intérprete, ligue para 1-800-275-2583.

Dii kwe'é atah nilínígíí QCC Insurance Company haada yit'éego bína ídílkidgo éi doodago háida bíká anilyeedígíí t'áadoo le'é yína'ídílkidgo bee ná ahóót'i'díí t'áa hazaadk'ehjí háká a'doowołgo bee haz'á doo báh ílínígóó. Ata' halne'ígíí kojí' bich'í' hodíílnih 1-800-275-2583.

Kung ikaw, o ang taong iyong tinutulungan, ay may mga katanungan tungkol sa QCC Insurance Company, may karapatan kang makakuha ng tulong at impormasyon sa iyong wika nang walang gastos. Upang makausap ang isang interpreter, tumawag sa 1-800-275-2583.

ご本人やお客様の周りの人が、QCC Insurance Company についてご質問などがある場合、無料でご希望の言語でのサポートや情報を入手することができます。インタプリタをご利用の方は、1-800-275-2583 までお電話ください。

اگر شما یا شخصی که به وی کمک می کنید، در رابطه با QCC Insurance Company سوالی دارید، این حق برای شما محفوظ است که بدون نیاز به پرداخت هر نوع هزینه، اطلاعات مربوطه را به زبان خود دریافت نمایید. جهت گفتگو با یک مترجم، با شماره 1-800-275-2583 تماس حاصل فرمایید.

Nondiscrimination Notice & Notice of Availability of Auxiliary Aids & Services

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

QCC Insurance Company:

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

If you need these services, contact our Civil Rights Coordinator. If you believe that QCC Insurance Company has failed to provide these services or discriminated in another way on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, or sex, you can file a grievance with our Civil Rights Coordinator. You have five ways to file a grievance:

- In person or by mail :
QCC Insurance Company
ATTN: Civil Rights Coordinator
1901 Market Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103
- By phone: 888-377-3933 (TTY 711)
- By fax: 215-761-0245
- By email: civilrightscordinator@ibx.com

If you need help filing a grievance, our Civil Rights Coordinator is available to help you.

You can also file a civil rights complaint with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office for Civil Rights electronically through the Office for Civil Rights Complaint Portal, available at <https://ocrportal.hhs.gov/ocr/portal/lobby.jsf> or by mail or phone at: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 200 Independence Avenue SW., Room 509F, HHH Building, Washington, DC 20201, 1-800-368-1019, 800-537-7697 (TDD).

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

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INTRODUCTION

Thank you for joining QCC Insurance Company (the Claims Administrator). Our goal is to provide Members with access to quality health care coverage. This Benefit Booklet is a summary of the Members benefits and the procedures required in order to receive the benefits and services to which Members are entitled. Members' specific benefits covered by the Claims Administrator are described in the **Description of Covered Services** section of this Benefit Booklet. Benefits, exclusions and limitations appear in the **Exclusions – What Is Not Covered** and the **Schedule of Covered Services** sections of this Benefit Booklet.

Please remember that this Benefit Booklet is a summary of the provisions and benefits provided in the Program selected by the Member's Group. Additional information is contained in the Group Program Document available through the Member's Group benefits administrator. The information in this Benefit Booklet is subject to the provisions of the Group Program Document. If changes are made to the Members Group's Program, the Member will be notified by the Members Group benefits administrator. Group Program Document changes will apply to benefits for services received after the effective date of change.

If changes are made to this Program, the Member will be notified. Changes will apply to benefits for services received on or after the effective date unless otherwise required by applicable law. The effective date is the *later* of:

- The effective date of the change;
- The Members Effective Date of coverage; or
- The Group Program Document anniversary date coinciding with or next following that service's effective date.

Please read the Benefit Booklet thoroughly and keep it handy. It will answer most questions regarding the Claims Administrator's procedures and services. **If Members have any other questions, they should call the Claims Administrator's Customer Service Department ("Customer Service") at the telephone number shown on the Members Identification Card ("ID Card").**

Any rights of a Member to receive benefits under the Group Program Document and Benefit Booklet are personal to the Member and may not be assigned in whole or in part to any person, Provider or entity, nor may benefits be transferred, either before or after Covered Services are rendered. However, a Member can assign benefit payments to the custodial parent of a Dependent covered under the Group Program Document and Benefit Booklet, as required by law.

See **Important Notices** section for updated language and coverage changes that may affect this Benefit Booklet.

Your Costs		
Benefit Period	Contract Year (12 month period beginning on Group's anniversary date)	
	IN-NETWORK	OUT-OF-NETWORK
Program Deductible⁽¹⁾		
Individual	None	\$500
Family	None	\$1,000*
<p>* In each Benefit Period, it will be applied to all family members covered under a Family Coverage. A Deductible will not be applied to any covered family member once that covered family member has satisfied the individual Deductible, or the family Deductible has been satisfied for all covered family members combined.</p>		
Coinsurance⁽¹⁾	0% for Covered Services, except as otherwise specified in the <i>Schedule of Covered Services</i> .	30% for Covered Services, except as otherwise specified in the <i>Schedule of Covered Services</i> .
Out-of-Pocket Limit		
Individual	\$1,500	\$3,000
Family	\$3,000	\$6,000
<p><i>Note for Out-Of-Pocket Limit shown above: When a Member Incurs the level of In-Network Out-of-Pocket expenses listed above of Copayment expense in one Benefit Period for In-Network Covered Services, no additional Copayment(s) will be required for the balance of that Benefit Period. After the Family In-Network Out-of-Pocket Limit amount has been met for Covered Services by Members under the same Family Coverage in a Benefit Period, no additional Copayment(s) will be required for the balance of that Benefit Period. However, no family member will contribute more than the individual In-Network Out-of-Pocket amount. The amount of the In-Network Care Individual Out-of-Pocket Limit and In-Network Care Family Out-of-Pocket Limit will only include expenses for Essential Health Benefits. The In-Network dollar amounts specified shall not include any expense Incurred for any Penalty amount. When a Member Incurs the level of Out-of-Network Out-of-Pocket expenses listed above of Coinsurance expense in one Benefit Period for Out-of-Network Covered Services, the Coinsurance percentage will be reduced to 0%, for the balance of that Benefit Period. After the Family Out-of-Network Out-of-Pocket Limit amount has been met for Covered Services by Members under the same Family Coverage in a Benefit Period, the Coinsurance percentage will be reduced to 0% for the balance of that Benefit Period. However, no family member will contribute more than the individual Out-of-Network Out-of-Pocket amount. The Out-of-Network dollar amounts specified shall not include any expense Incurred for any Deductible, Penalty or Copayment amount.</i></p>		
Lifetime Maximum	Unlimited	Unlimited

SCHEDULE OF COVERED SERVICES

This **Schedule of Covered Services** is an overview of the benefits you are entitled to. More details can be found in **the Description of Covered Services** section.

Subject to the exclusions, conditions and limitations of this Program, a Member is entitled to benefits for the Covered Services described in this **Schedule of Covered Services** during a Benefit Period, subject to any Copayment, Deductible, Coinsurance, Out-of-Pocket Limit or Lifetime Maximum. The percentages for Coinsurance and Covered Services shown in this **Schedule of Covered Services** are not always calculated on actual charges. For an explanation on how Coinsurance is calculated, see the "Covered Expense" definition in the **Important Definitions** section.

Some Covered Services must be Precertified before the Member receives the services. Failure to obtain a required Precertification for a Covered Service could result in a reduction of benefits. More information on Precertification is found in the **General Information** section.

BENEFIT	IN-NETWORK	OUT-OF-NETWORK
Alcohol Or Drug Abuse And Dependency⁽³⁾		
Inpatient Hospital Detoxification and Rehabilitation	\$150 Copayment per day, to a maximum of \$750 per admission*	30%, after Deductible**
Hospital and Non-Hospital Residential Care	\$150 Copayment per day, to a maximum of \$750 per admission*	30%, after Deductible**
Outpatient Treatment	\$30 Copayment per visit	30%, after Deductible
<p>* In-Network Benefit Period Maximum: Unlimited Inpatient days. This maximum is combined for all In-Network Inpatient Hospital Services, Mental Health/Psychiatric Care and Treatment for Alcohol Or Drug Abuse And Dependency benefits.</p> <p>** Out-of-Network Benefit Period Maximum: 70 Inpatient days. This maximum is combined for all Out-of-Network Inpatient Hospital Services, Mental Health/Psychiatric Care and Treatment for Alcohol Or Drug Abuse And Dependency benefits. This maximum is part of, not separate from, In-Network days maximum.</p>		
Allergy Extract/Injections⁽¹⁾	None	30%, after Deductible
Allergy Testing⁽⁴⁾	None	30%, after Deductible
Ambulance Services⁽⁴⁾		
Emergency Services	None	None, Deductible does not apply
Non-Emergency Services	None	30%, after Deductible

BENEFIT	IN-NETWORK	OUT-OF-NETWORK
Autism Spectrum Disorders⁽⁴⁾	Same cost-sharing as any other medical service within the applicable medical service (For example, Therapy Services, Diagnostic Services, etc.)	Same cost-sharing as any other medical service within the applicable medical service (For example, Therapy Services, Diagnostic Services, etc.)
<p><i>Note for Autism Spectrum Disorders shown above:</i></p> <p>Annual Benefit Maximum for non-essential benefits: \$38,852.</p> <p>Benefit Period Maximums and visit limits do not apply</p> <p>If this Program does not provide coverage for prescription drugs, Autism Spectrum Disorders medications are covered less the applicable Coinsurance per 30 day prescription order:</p> <p>Generic Coinsurance – 30% Brand Coinsurance – 30%</p> <p>Deductible does not apply</p>		
Blood⁽³⁾	None	30%, after Deductible
Colorectal Cancer Screening⁽⁴⁾	\$150 Copayment per date of service	30%, after Deductible
Day Rehabilitation Program⁽⁴⁾	None	30%, after Deductible
<p><i>Note for Day Rehabilitation Program shown above:</i> Benefit Period Maximum: 30 In-Network/Out-of-Network visits</p>		
Diabetic Education Program⁽⁴⁾	None	Not Covered
<p><i>Note for Diabetic Education Program shown above:</i> Copayments, Deductibles and Maximum amounts do not apply to this benefit</p>		
Diabetic Equipment And Supplies⁽⁴⁾	None	30%, after Deductible
<p><i>Note for Diabetic Equipment and Supplies shown above:</i> Subject to any Copayment and Deductible applicable to Durable Medical Equipment benefits.</p>		
Diagnostic Services⁽⁴⁾ X-Ray: radiology, Ultrasound and Nuclear Medicine, ECG, EEG, Sleep Studies, Other	\$30 Copayment per date of service	30%, after Deductible
Durable Medical Equipment⁽⁴⁾	\$30 Copayment per rental period or item purchased	30%, after Deductible
Emergency Care Services⁽⁴⁾	\$40 Copayment per visit (waived if admitted)	\$40 Copayment per visit (waived if admitted), Deductible does not apply.
Home Health Care⁽⁴⁾	None	30%, after Deductible
Hospice Services⁽³⁾	None	30%, after Deductible
<p><i>Note for Hospice Services shown above:</i> Respite Care: Maximum of seven In-Network/Out-of-Network days every six months.</p>		

BENEFIT	IN-NETWORK	OUT-OF-NETWORK
Hospital Services⁽²⁾		
Facility Charge	\$150 Copayment per day, to a maximum of \$750 per admission*	30%, after Deductible**
Professional Charge	None	30%, after Deductible
<p>* In-Network Benefit Period Maximum: Unlimited Inpatient days. This maximum is combined for all In-Network Inpatient Hospital Services, Mental Health/Psychiatric Care and Treatment for Alcohol Or Drug Abuse And Dependency benefits.</p> <p>** Out-of-Network Benefit Period Maximum: 70 Inpatient days. This maximum is combined for all Out-of-Network Inpatient Hospital Services, Mental Health/Psychiatric Care and Treatment for Alcohol Or Drug Abuse And Dependency benefits. This maximum is part of, not separate from, In-Network days maximum.</p>		
Immunizations⁽¹⁾	None	30%, Deductible does not apply
Injectable Medications⁽⁴⁾	None	30%, after Deductible
Insulin And Oral Agents⁽⁴⁾	None, less the Copayment amount, if applicable	None, less the Copayment amount, if applicable
<p><i>Note for Insulin and Oral Agents shown above:</i> If this Program does not provide coverage for prescription drugs, insulin and oral agents are covered less the applicable Copayment per prescription order: Generic Copayment - \$10 Brand Copayment - \$15</p>		
Laboratory and Pathology Tests⁽⁴⁾	None	30%, after Deductible
Maternity/OB-GYN/Family Services⁽³⁾		
Elective Abortions		
Professional Service	\$20* Copayment per Provider per date of service	30%, after Deductible
Outpatient Facility Charges	\$150 Copayment*	30%, after Deductible
*Only one Copayment will apply depending upon place of service.		

BENEFIT	IN-NETWORK	OUT-OF-NETWORK
Maternity/Obstetrical Care Professional Service Facility Service	Single Copayment of \$20*	30%, after Deductible
	\$150 Copayment per day, to a maximum of \$750 per admission	30%, after Deductible
	None	30%, after Deductible
Newborn Care	None	30%, after Deductible
Medical Care ⁽²⁾	None	30%, after Deductible
Medical Foods and Nutritional Formulas ⁽⁴⁾	None	30%, Deductible does not apply
Mental Health/Psychiatric Care ⁽³⁾ Inpatient	\$150 Copayment per day, to a maximum of \$750 per admission*	30% , after Deductible**
	Outpatient	\$30 Copayment per visit
<p>* In-Network Benefit Period Maximum: Unlimited Inpatient days. This maximum is combined for all In-Network Inpatient Hospital Services, Mental Health/Psychiatric Care and Treatment for Alcohol Or Drug Abuse And Dependency benefits.</p> <p>** Out-of-Network Benefit Period Maximum: 70 Inpatient days. This maximum is combined for all Out-of-Network Inpatient Hospital Services, Mental Health/Psychiatric Care and Treatment for Alcohol Or Drug Abuse And Dependency benefits. This maximum is part of, not separate from, In-Network days maximum.</p>		
Non-Surgical Dental Services ⁽⁴⁾	None	30%, after Deductible
<i>Note for Non-Surgical Dental Services shown above: Dental Services as a Result of Accidental Injury</i>		
Nutrition Counseling For Weight Management ⁽¹⁾	None	30%, after Deductible
<i>Note for Nutrition Counseling For Weight Management shown above: Benefit Period Maximum: 6 In-Network/Out-of-Network visits</i>		
Preventive Care – Adult ⁽¹⁾	None	30%, Deductible does not apply
Preventive Care – Pediatric ⁽¹⁾	None	30%, Deductible does not apply
Primary Care Physician Office Visits/Retail Clinics ⁽¹⁾	\$20 Copayment per visit	30%, after Deductible

BENEFIT	IN-NETWORK	OUT-OF-NETWORK
Private Duty Nursing Services⁽⁴⁾	None	30%, after Deductible
<i>Note for Private Duty Nursing Services shown above: Benefit Period Maximum: 360 In-Network/Out-of-Network hours.</i>		
Prosthetic Devices⁽⁴⁾	\$30 Copayment per item purchased	30%, after Deductible
Restorative Services⁽⁴⁾	\$30 Copayment per visit	30%, after Deductible
<i>Note for Restorative Services shown above: Benefit Period Maximum: 30 In-Network/Out-of-Network visits. Lifetime Maximum: 8 In-Network/Out-of-Network visits for orthoptic/pleoptic therapy.</i>		
Skilled Nursing Facility Services⁽²⁾	None	30%, after Deductible
<i>Note for Skilled Nursing Facility Services shown above Benefit Period Maximum: 120 In-Network/Out-of-Network Inpatient days</i>		
Specialist Office Visits⁽⁴⁾	\$30 Copayment per visit	30%, after Deductible
Surgical Services⁽³⁾		
Outpatient Facility Charge	\$150 Copayment per date of service	30%, after Deductible
Outpatient Professional Charge Assistant Surgeon	None	30%, after Deductible
Outpatient Anesthesia	None	30%, after Deductible
<i>Note for Outpatient Anesthesia as shown above: Services administered by a nurse anesthetist not employed by a Professional Provider are paid at 50%</i>		
Second Surgical Opinion	\$30 Copayment per opinion.	30%, after Deductible
<i>Note for Surgical Services shown above: If more than one surgical procedure is performed by the same Professional Provider during the same operative session, the Claims Administrator will pay 100% of the Covered Service for the highest paying procedure and 50% of the Covered Services for each additional procedure.</i>		

BENEFIT	IN-NETWORK	OUT-OF-NETWORK
Therapy Services⁽⁴⁾		
Cardiac Rehabilitation Therapy	\$20 Copayment per session	30%, after Deductible
<i>Note for Cardiac Rehabilitation Therapy shown above</i> Benefit Period Maximum: 36 In-Network/Out-of-Network sessions.		
Chemotherapy	None	30%, after Deductible
Dialysis	None	30%, after Deductible
Infusion Therapy	None	30%, after Deductible
Physical Therapy/Occupational Therapy/Speech Therapy	\$20 Copayment per sessions 1-30, and \$30 Copayment for sessions 31-60.	30%, after Deductible
<i>Note for Physical Therapy/Occupational Therapy/Speech Therapy shown above:</i> Benefit Period Maximum: 60 In Network/Out of Network sessions of Physical Therapy/Occupational Therapy/Speech Therapy combined. Benefit Period Maximum amounts that apply to Physical Therapy do not apply to the treatment of lymphedema related to mastectomy.		
Pulmonary Rehabilitation Therapy	\$20 Copayment per session	30%, after Deductible
<i>Note for Pulmonary Rehabilitation Therapy shown above:</i> Benefit Period Maximum: 12 In-Network/Out-of-Network sessions.		
Radiation Therapy	None	30%, after Deductible
Respiratory Therapy	\$20 Copayment per visit	30%, after Deductible
Transplant Services⁽³⁾		
Inpatient Facility Charges	\$150 Copayment per day, to a maximum of \$750 per admission*	30%, after Deductible
Outpatient Facility Charge	\$150 Copayment per date of service	30%, after Deductible>
Urgent Care Centers⁽⁴⁾	\$28 Copayment per visit	30%, after Deductible
Women's Preventive Care⁽¹⁾	None	30%, Deductible does not apply
<i>Note for Women's Preventive Care shown above: Contraceptives mandated by the Women's Preventive Services provision of PPACA, are covered at 100% for generic products and for certain brand products when a generic alternative or equivalent to the brand product does not exist. All other Brand contraceptive products are not covered.</i>		

- (1) Located in the Primary & Preventive Care Section of the ***Description of Covered Services***
- (2) Located in the Inpatient Section of the ***Description of Covered Services***
- (3) Located in the Inpatient/Outpatient Section of the ***Description of Covered Services***
- (4) Located in the Outpatient Section of the ***Description of Covered Services***

DESCRIPTION OF COVERED SERVICES

Subject to the exclusions, conditions and limitations of this Program, a Member is entitled to benefits for the Covered Services described in this **Description of Covered Services** section during a Benefit Period, subject to any Copayment, Deductible, Coinsurance, Out-of-Pocket Limit or Lifetime Maximum. These amounts and percentages, and other cost-sharing requirements are specified in the **Schedule of Covered Services**.

Covered Services may be provided by either an In-Network or Out-of-Network Provider. However, the Member will maximize the benefits available when Covered Services are provided by a Provider that belongs to the Personal Choice Network (an In-Network Provider) and has a contract with the Claims Administrator to provide services and supplies to the Member. The Member will be held harmless for Out-of-Network differentials if: an In-Network Provider fails to provide written notice to the Member of the Provider's Out-of-Network status for certain services; or, an In-Network Provider provides a written order for certain services to be performed by an In-Network Provider that has Out-of-Network status for those services and that Provider performs such service. The **General Information** section provides more detail regarding In-Network and Out-of-Network Providers, the Personal Choice Network, and the reimbursement of Covered Services provided by Facility Providers and Professional Providers.

Some Covered Services must be Precertified before the Member receives the services. Precertification of services is a vital program feature that reviews Medical Necessity of certain procedures and/or admissions. In certain cases, Precertification helps determine whether a different treatment may be available that is equally effective yet less traumatic. Precertification also helps determine the most appropriate setting for certain services. Failure to obtain a required Precertification for a Covered Service could result in a reduction of benefits. More information on Precertification is found in the **General Information** section.

PRIMARY AND PREVENTIVE CARE

A Member is entitled to benefits for Primary Care and Preventive Care Covered Services when deemed Medically Necessary and billed for by a Provider. Cost-sharing requirements are specified in the **Schedule of Covered Services**.

"Preventive Care" services generally describe health care services performed to catch the early warning signs of health problems. These services are performed when the Member has no symptoms of disease. "Primary Care" services generally describe health care services performed to treat an illness or injury.

The Claims Administrator reviews the schedule of Covered Services, at certain times. Reviews are based on recommendations from organizations such as:

- The American Academy of Pediatrics;
- The American College of Physicians;
- The U.S. Preventive Services Task Force; and
- The American Cancer Society.

Accordingly, the frequency and eligibility of Covered Services are subject to change. A schedule of Preventive Care Covered Services can be found by accessing the following link:

www.ibx.com/preventive_services.

The Claims Administrator reserves the right to modify the schedule at any time. However, the Member has to be given a written notice of the change, before the change takes effect.

Allergy Injections

Benefits are provided for allergy extracts and allergy injections.

Immunizations

The Claims Administrator will provide coverage for the following:

- Pediatric immunizations;
- Adult immunizations; and
- The agents used for the immunizations.

All immunizations, and the agents used for them, must conform to the standards set by the *Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) of the Center for Disease Control, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.*

Pediatric and adult immunization ACIP schedules may be found by accessing the following link: www.ibx.com/preventive_services

The benefits for these pediatric immunizations are limited to Members under 21 years of age.

Nutrition Counseling for Weight Management

The Claims Administrator will provide coverage for nutrition counseling visits or sessions for the purpose of weight management. However, they need to be performed and billed by any of the following Providers, in an office setting:

- By the Member's Physician;
- By a Specialist; or
- By a Registered Dietitian (RD).

This benefit is in addition to any other nutrition counseling Covered Services described in this Benefit Booklet.

Osteoporosis Screening (Bone Mineral Density Testing or BMDT)

The Claims Administrator will provide coverage for Bone Mineral Density Testing (BMDT), in accordance with the schedule of Preventive Care Covered Services. The method used needs to be one that is approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. This test determines the amount of mineral in a specific area of the bone. It is used to measure bone strength, which depends on both bone density and bone quality. Bone quality refers to how the bone is built, architecture, turnover and mineralization of bone.

A BMDT must be prescribed by a Professional Provider legally authorized to prescribe such items under law.

Preventive Care - Adult

The Claims Administrator will provide coverage for routine physical examinations, including a complete medical history, and other Covered Services, in accordance with the schedule of Preventive Care Covered Services found at www.ibx.com/preventive_services.

Preventive Care - Pediatric

The Claims Administrator will provide coverage for routine physical examinations, including a complete medical history, and other Covered Services, in accordance with the schedule of Preventive Care Covered Services found at www.ibx.com/preventive_services.

Primary Care Physician Office Visits/Retail Clinics

The Claims Administrator will provide coverage for Medical Care visits, by a Primary Care Provider, for any of the following services:

- The examination of an illness or injury;
- The diagnosis of an illness or injury; and
- The treatment of an illness or injury.

For the purpose of this benefit, "Office Visits" include:

- Medical Care visits to a Provider's office;
- Medical Care visits by a Provider to a Member's residence; or
- Medical Care consultations by a Provider on an Outpatient basis.

In addition to Office Visits a Member may receive Medical Care at a Retail Clinic. Retail Clinics are staffed by certified family nurse practitioners, who are trained to diagnose, treat, and write prescriptions when clinically appropriate. Nurse practitioners are supported by a local Physician who is on-call during clinic hours to provide guidance and direction when necessary.

Examples of treatment and services that are provided at a Retail Clinic include, but are not limited to:

- Sore throat;
- Ear, eye, or sinus infection;
- Allergies;
- Minor burns;
- Skin infections or rashes; and
- Pregnancy testing.

Women's Preventive Care

The Claims Administrator will provide coverage for an initial physical examination for pregnant women to confirm pregnancy, screening for gestational diabetes, and other Covered Services, in accordance with the schedule of Preventive Care Covered Services found at www.ibx.com/preventive_services. Covered Services and Supplies include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Routine Gynecological Exam, Pap Smear: Female Members are covered for one routine gynecological exam each Benefit Period. This includes the following:
 - A pelvic exam and clinical breast exam; and
 - Routine Pap smears.These must be done in accordance with the recommendations of the *American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists*.
- Mammograms: Coverage will be provided for screening and diagnostic mammograms. The Claims Administrator will only provide coverage for benefits for mammography if the following applies:
 - It is performed by a qualified mammography service provider.
 - That service provider is properly certified by the appropriate state or federal agency.
 - That certification is done in accordance with the Mammography Quality Assurance Act of 1992.
- Breastfeeding comprehensive support and counseling from trained providers; access to breastfeeding supplies, including coverage for rental of hospital-grade breastfeeding pumps under Durable Medical Equipment supplier with Medical Necessity review; and coverage for

lactation support and counseling provided during postpartum hospitalization, Mother's Option visits, and obstetrician or pediatrician visits for pregnant and nursing women at no cost share to the Member when provided by an In-Network Provider.

- Contraception: Food and Drug Administration-approved contraceptive methods, including contraceptive devices, injectable contraceptives, IUDs and implants; sterilization procedures, and patient education and counseling, not including abortifacient drugs, at no cost share to the Member when provided by an In-Network Provider.

INPATIENT SERVICES

Unless otherwise specified in this Benefit Booklet, services for Inpatient Care are Covered Services when they are:

- Deemed Medically Necessary;
- Provided by a Facility Provider and billed by a Provider; and
- Preapproved by the Claims Administrator.

Look in the ***Schedule of Covered Services*** section to find how much of those or other costs the Member is required to share (pay).

Hospital Services

- Ancillary Services

The Claims Administrator will provide coverage for all ancillary services usually provided and billed for by Hospitals, except for personal convenience items. This includes, but is not limited to:

- Meals, including special meals or dietary services, as required by the Member's condition;
- Use of operating room, delivery room, recovery room, or other specialty service rooms and any equipment or supplies in those rooms;
- Casts, surgical dressings, and supplies, devices or appliances surgically inserted within the body;
- Oxygen and oxygen therapy;
- Anesthesia when administered by a Hospital employee, and the supplies and use of anesthetic equipment;
- Therapy Services when administered by a person who is appropriately licensed and authorized to perform such services;
- All drugs and medications (including intravenous injections and solutions);
 - For use while in the Hospital;
 - Which are released for general use; and
 - Which are commercially available to Hospitals.
- Use of special care units, including, but not limited to intensive care units or coronary care units; and
- Pre-admission testing.

- Room and Board

The Claims Administrator will provide coverage for general nursing care and such other services as are covered by the Hospital's regular charges for accommodations in the following:

- An average semi-private room, as designated by the Hospital; or a private room, when designated by the Claims Administrator as semi-private for the purposes of this Program in Hospitals having primarily private rooms;
- A private room, when Medically Necessary;

- A special care unit, such as intensive or coronary care, when such a designated unit with concentrated facilities, equipment and supportive services is required to provide an intensive level of care for a critically ill patient;
- A bed in a general ward; and
- Nursery facilities.

Benefits are provided up to the number of days specified in the ***Schedule of Covered Services***.

A Copayment may apply to an In-Network Inpatient Admission, if specified in the ***Schedule of Covered Services***. For purposes of calculating the total Copayment due, an admission occurring within ten calendar days of discharge date from a previous admission shall be treated as part of the previous admission.

In computing the number of days of benefits:

- The Claims Administrator will count the day of the Member's admission; but not the day of the Member's discharge.
- If the Member is admitted and discharged on the same day, it will be counted as one day.

The Claims Administrator will only provide coverage for days spent during an uninterrupted stay in a Hospital.

It will not provide coverage for:

- Time spent outside of the Hospital, if the Member interrupts the stay and then stay past midnight on the day the interruption occurs; or
- Time spent in the Hospital after the discharge hour that the Member's attending Physician has recommended that further Inpatient care is not required.

Medical Care

The Claims Administrator will provide coverage for Medical Care rendered to the Member, in the following way, except as specifically provided.

It is Medical Care that is rendered:

- By a Professional Provider who is in charge of the case;
- While the Member is an Inpatient in a Hospital, Rehabilitation Hospital or Skilled Nursing Facility; and
- For a condition not related to Surgery, pregnancy, radiation therapy or Mental Illness.

Such care includes Inpatient intensive Medical Care rendered to the Member:

- While the Member's condition requires a Professional Provider's constant attendance and treatment; and
- For a prolonged period of time.

▪ Concurrent Care

The Claims Administrator will provide coverage for the following services, while the Member is an Inpatient, when they occur together:

- Services rendered to the Member by a Professional Provider:
 - Who is not in charge of the case; but
 - Whose particular skills are required for the treatment of complicated conditions.

- Services rendered to the Member as an Inpatient in a:
 - Hospital;
 - Rehabilitation Hospital; or
 - Skilled Nursing Facility.

This does not include:

- Observation or reassurance of the Member;
- Standby services;
- Routine preoperative physical examinations;
- Medical Care routinely performed in the pre- or post-operative or pre- or post-natal periods; or
- Medical Care required by a Facility Provider's rules and regulations.

- **Consultations**

The Claims Administrator will provide coverage for Consultation services when rendered in both of the following ways:

- By a Professional Provider, at the request of the attending Professional Provider; and
- While the Member is an Inpatient in a:
 - Hospital;
 - Rehabilitation Hospital; or
 - Skilled Nursing Facility.

Benefits are limited to one consultation per consultant during any Inpatient confinement.

Consultations do not include staff consultations which are required by the Facility Provider's rules and regulations.

Skilled Nursing Facility Services

The Claims Administrator will provide coverage for a Skilled Nursing Facility:

- When Medically Necessary as determined by the Claims Administrator.
- Up to the Maximum days specified in the ***Schedule of Covered Services***.

The Member must require treatment:

- By skilled nursing personnel;
- Which can be provided only on an Inpatient basis in a Skilled Nursing Facility.

A Copayment may apply to an In-Network Inpatient Admission, if specified in the ***Schedule of Covered Services***. For purposes of calculating the total Copayment due, an admission occurring within ten calendar days of discharge date from any previous admission shall be treated as part of the previous admission.

In computing the number of days of benefits:

- The Claims Administrator will count the day of the Member's admission; but not the day of the Member's discharge.
- If the Member is admitted and discharged on the same day, it will be counted as one day.

The Claims Administrator will only provide coverage for days spent during an uninterrupted stay in a Skilled Nursing Facility.

It will not provide coverage for:

- Time spent outside of the Skilled Nursing Facility, if the Member interrupts their stay and then stays past midnight on the day the interruption occurs;
- Time spent if the Member remains past midnight of the day on which the interruption occurred; or
- Time spent in the Skilled Nursing Facility after the discharge hour that the Member's attending Physician has recommended that further Inpatient care is not required.

INPATIENT/OUTPATIENT SERVICES

The Member is entitled to benefits for Covered Services while the Member is an Inpatient in a Facility Provider or on an Outpatient basis when both of the following happen:

- Deemed Medically Necessary; and
- Billed for by a Provider.

Look in the ***Schedule of Covered Services*** section to find how much of those or other costs the Member is required to share (pay).

Blood

The Claims Administrator will provide coverage for the administration of blood and blood processing from donors. In addition, benefits are also provided for:

- Autologous blood drawing, storage or transfusion.
 - This refers to a process that allows the Member to have their own blood drawn and stored for personal use.
 - One example would be self-donation, in advance of planned Surgery.
- Whole blood, blood plasma and blood derivatives:
 - Which are not classified as drugs in the official formularies; and
 - Which have not been replaced by a donor.

Hospice Services

The Claims Administrator will provide coverage for palliative and supportive services provided to a terminally ill Member through a Hospice program by a Hospice Provider. This also includes Respite Care.

- Who is eligible: The Member will be eligible for Hospice benefits if both of the following occur:
 - The Member's attending Physician certifies that the Member has a terminal illness, with a medical prognosis of six months or less; and
 - The Member elects to receive care primarily to relieve pain.
- The goal of care and what is included: Hospice Care provides services to make the Member as comfortable and pain-free as possible. This is primarily comfort care, and it includes:
 - Pain relief;
 - Physical care;
 - Counseling; and
 - Other services, that would help the Member cope with a terminal illness, rather than cure it.
- What happens to the treatment of the Member's illness: When the Member elects to receive Hospice Care:
 - Benefits for treatment provided to cure the terminal illness are no longer provided.
 - The Member can also change their mind and elect to *not* receive Hospice Care anymore.

- How long Hospice care continues: Benefits for Covered Hospice Services shall be provided until whichever occurs first:
 - The Member's discharge from Hospice Care; or
 - The Member's death.
- Respite Care for the Caregiver: If the Member were to receive Hospice Care primarily in the home, the Member's primary caregiver may need to be relieved, for a short period. In such a case, the Claims Administrator will provide coverage for the Member to receive the same kind of care in the following way:
 - On a short-term basis;
 - As an Inpatient; and
 - In a Medicare certified Skilled Nursing Facility.
 This can only be arranged when the Hospice considers such care necessary to relieve primary caregivers in the Member's home.

Maternity/OB-GYN/Family Services

- Elective Abortions
The Claims Administrator will provide coverage for services provided in a Facility Provider that is a Hospital or Birth Center. It also includes services performed by a Professional Provider for the voluntary termination of a pregnancy by a Member, which is a Covered Expense under this Program.
- Maternity/Obstetrical Care
The Claims Administrator will provide coverage for Covered Services rendered in the care and management of a pregnancy for a Member.
 - Pre-notification - The Claims Administrator should be notified of the need for maternity care within one month of the first prenatal visit to the Physician or midwife.
 - Facility and Professional Services - The Claims Administrator will provide coverage for:
 - Facility services: Provided by a Facility Provider that is a Hospital or Birth Center; and
 - Professional services: Performed by a Professional Provider or certified nurse midwife.
 - Scope of Care - The Claims Administrator will provide coverage for:
 - Prenatal care; and
 - Postnatal care.
 - Type of delivery - Maternity care Inpatient benefits will be provided for:
 - 48 hours for vaginal deliveries; and
 - 96 hours for cesarean deliveries.
 Except as otherwise approved by the Claims Administrator.
 - Home Health Care for Early Discharge: In the event of early post-partum discharge from an Inpatient Admission:
 - Benefits are provided for Home Health Care, as provided for in the Home Health Care benefit.
- Newborn Care
 - A Member's newborn child will be entitled to benefits provided by this Program:
 - From the date of birth up to a maximum of 31 days.

- Such coverage within the 31 days will include care which is necessary for the treatment of:
 - Medically diagnosed congenital defects;
 - Medically diagnosed birth abnormalities;
 - Medically diagnosed prematurity; and
 - Routine nursery care.
- Coverage for a newborn may be continued beyond 31 days under conditions specified in the **General Information** section of this Benefit Booklet.

Mental Health/Psychiatric Care

The Claims Administrator will provide coverage for the treatment of Mental Illness and Serious Mental Illness based on the services provided and reported by the Provider. Upon request, the Claims Administrator will make available the criteria for Medical Necessity determinations made under the Program for Mental Health/Psychiatric Care to any current or potential Member, Dependent or In-Network Provider.

- Regarding the provision of care other than Mental Health/Psychiatric Care: When a Provider renders Medical Care, other than Mental Health/Psychiatric Care, for a Member with Mental Illness and Serious Mental Illness, payment for such Medical Care:
 - Will be based on the Medical Benefits available; and
 - Will not be subject to the Mental Health/Psychiatric Care limitations.

If a Member is facing a crisis and is currently in treatment, contact the Member's therapist because they are most familiar with the Member's condition. Personal Choice Mental healthcare providers maintain 24-hour coverage, so they are able to provide the care the Member needs most. If there is an Emergency, or the Member is having particularly severe symptoms, follow the same procedures outlined in the Emergency Care services section of this Benefit Booklet. Emergency Care will be considered In-Network Care.

- Inpatient Treatment

The Claims Administrator will provide coverage, subject to the Benefit Period limitation(s) stated in the **Schedule of Covered Services**, during an Inpatient Admission for treatment of Mental Illness and Serious Mental Illness. For maximum benefits, treatment must be received from an In-Network Facility Provider and Inpatient visits for the treatment of Mental Illness and Serious Mental Illness must be performed by an In-Network Professional Provider.

Covered Services include treatments such as:

- Psychiatric visits;
- Psychiatric consultations;
- Individual and group psychotherapy;
- Electroconvulsive therapy;
- Psychological testing; and
- Psychopharmacologic management.

A Copayment may apply to an In-Network Inpatient Admission, if specified in the **Schedule of Covered Services**. For purposes of calculating the total Copayment due, an admission occurring within ten calendar days of discharge date from a previous admission shall be treated as part of the previous admission.

- Outpatient Treatment

The Claims Administrator will provide coverage for Outpatient treatment of Mental Illness and Serious Mental Illness. For maximum benefits, treatment must be performed by an In-Network Professional Provider/In-Network Facility Provider.

Covered Services include treatments such as:

- Psychiatric visits;
- Psychiatric consultations;
- Individual and group psychotherapy;
- Licensed Clinical Social Worker visits;
- Masters Prepared Therapist visits;
- Electroconvulsive therapy;
- Psychological testing;
- Psychopharmacologic management; and
- Psychoanalysis.

▪ **Benefit Period Maximums for Mental Health/Psychiatric Care**

All Inpatient Mental Health/Psychiatric Care for both Mental Illness and Serious Mental Illness are covered up to the Maximum day amount(s) per Benefit Period specified in the **Schedule of Covered Services**. Out-of-Network Benefit Period maximums are part of, not separate from, In-Network Benefit Period maximums.

Routine Patient Costs Associated With Qualifying Clinical Trials

- The Claims Administrator provides coverage for Routine Patient Costs Associated with Participation in a Qualifying Clinical Trial (see the **Important Definitions** section).
- To ensure coverage and appropriate claims processing, the Claims Administrator must be notified in advance of the Member's participation in a Qualifying Clinical Trial. Benefits are payable if the Qualifying Clinical Trial is conducted by an In-Network Professional Provider, and conducted in an In-Network Facility Provider. If there is no comparable Qualifying Clinical Trial being performed by an In-Network Professional Provider, and in an In-Network Facility Provider, then the Claims Administrator will consider the services by an Out-of-Network Provider, participating in the clinical trial, as covered if the clinical trial is deemed a Qualifying Clinical Trial (see **Important Definitions** section) by the Claims Administrator.

Surgical Services

The Claims Administrator will provide coverage for surgical services provided:

- By a Professional Provider, and/or a Facility Provider
- For the treatment of disease or injury.

Separate payment will not be made for:

- Inpatient preoperative care or all postoperative care normally provided by the surgeon as part of the surgical procedure.

Covered Services also include:

- Congenital Cleft Palate - The orthodontic treatment of congenital cleft palates:
 - That involve the maxillary arch (the part of the upper jaw that holds the teeth);
 - That is performed together with bone graft Surgery; and
 - That is performed to correct bony deficits that are present with extremely wide clefts affecting the alveolus.
- Mastectomy Care - The Claims Administrator will provide coverage for the following when performed after a mastectomy:
 - All stages of reconstruction of the breast on which the mastectomy has been performed;
 - Surgery and reconstruction of the other breast to produce a symmetrical appearance;
 - Protheses and physical complications all stages of mastectomy, including lymphedemas; and
 - Surgery to reestablish symmetry or alleviate functional impairment, including, but not limited to:
 - Augmentation;
 - Mammoplasty;
 - Reduction mammoplasty; and
 - Mastopexy.

- Coverage is also provided for:
 - The surgical procedure performed in connection with the initial and subsequent insertion or removal of Prosthetic Devices (either before or after Surgery) to replace the removed breast or portions of it;
 - The treatment of physical complications at all stages of the mastectomy, including lymphedemas. Treatment of lymphedemas is not subject to any benefit Maximum amounts that may apply to "Physical Therapy" services as provided under the subsection entitled "Therapy Services" of this section; and
 - Routine neonatal circumcisions, any voluntary surgical procedure for sterilization and any Surgery performed for the reversal of a sterilization procedure.

- Anesthesia
 - The Claims Administrator will provide coverage for the administration of Anesthesia:
 - In connection with the performance of Covered Services;
 - When rendered by or under the direct supervision of a Professional Provider other than the surgeon, assistant surgeon or attending Professional Provider.
 - General Anesthesia, along with hospitalization and all related medical expenses normally Incurred as a result of the administration of general Anesthesia, when rendered in conjunction with dental care provided to Members age seven or under and for developmentally disabled Members when determined by the Claims Administrator to be Medically Necessary and when a successful result cannot be expected for treatment under local Anesthesia, or when a superior result can be expected from treatment under general Anesthesia.

- Assistant at Surgery

The Claims Administrator will provide coverage for an assistant surgeon's services if:

 - The assistant surgeon actively assists the operating surgeon in the performance of covered Surgery; and
 - The Member's condition or the type of Surgery must require the active assistance of an assistant surgeon as determined by the Claims Administrator.

Surgical assistance is not covered when performed by a Professional Provider who himself performs and bills for another surgical procedure during the same operative session.

- Hospital Admission for Dental Procedures or Dental Surgery

The Claims Administrator will provide coverage for a Hospital admission in connection with dental procedures or Surgery only when:

 - The Member has an existing non-dental physical disorder or condition; and
 - Hospitalization is Medically Necessary to ensure the Member's health.

Dental procedures or Surgery performed during such a confinement will only be covered for the services described in "Oral Surgery" and "Assistant at Surgery" provisions.

- Oral Surgery

The Claims Administrator will provide coverage for Covered Services provided by a Professional Provider and/or Facility Provider for:

 - Orthognathic Surgery - Surgery on the bones of the jaw (maxilla or mandible) to correct their position and/or structure for the following clinical indications only:
 - For accidents: The initial treatment of Accidental Injury/trauma (That is, fractured facial bones and fractured jaws), in order to restore proper function.
 - For congenital defects: In cases where it is documented that a severe congenital defect (That is, cleft palate) results in speech difficulties that have not responded to non-surgical interventions.

- For chewing and breathing problems: In cases where it is documented (using objective measurements) that chewing or breathing function is materially compromised (defined as greater than two standard deviations from normal) where such compromise is not amenable to non-surgical treatments, and where it is shown that orthognathic Surgery will decrease airway resistance, improve breathing, or restore swallowing.
- Other Oral Surgery - Defined as Surgery on or involving the teeth, mouth, tongue, lips, gums, and contiguous structures. Covered Service will only be provided for:
 - Surgical removal of impacted teeth which are partially or completely covered by bone;
 - Surgical treatment of cysts, infections, and tumors performed on the structures of the mouth; and
 - Surgical removal of teeth prior to cardiac Surgery, Radiation Therapy or organ transplantation.
- Second Surgical Opinion (Voluntary)
 The Claims Administrator will provide coverage for consultations for Surgery to determine the Medical Necessity of an elective surgical procedure.
 - "Elective Surgery" is that Surgery which is not of an Emergency or life threatening nature;
 - Such Covered Services must be performed and billed by a Professional Provider other than the one who initially recommended performing the Surgery.
 - One additional consultation, as a third opinion, is eligible in cases where the second opinion disagrees with the first recommendation. In such instances the Member will be eligible for a maximum of two such consultations involving the elective surgical procedure in question, but limited to one consultation per consultant.

Transplant Services

When a Member is the recipient of transplanted human organs, marrow, or tissues, benefits are provided for all Inpatient and Outpatient transplants, which are beyond the Experimental/Investigative stage. Benefits, are also provided for those services to the Member which are directly and specifically related to the covered transplantation. This includes services for the examination of such transplanted organs, marrow, or tissue and the processing of Blood provided to a Member:

- When both the recipient and the donor are Members, the payment of their respective medical expenses shall be covered by their respective benefit programs.
- When only the recipient is a Member, and the donor has no available coverage or source for funding, benefits provided to the donor will be charged against the recipient's coverage under this Program. The donor benefits are limited to only those not provided or available to the donor from any other source. This includes, but is not limited to, other insurance coverage, or coverage by the Claims Administrator or any government program. When only the recipient is a Member and the donor has available coverage or a source for funding, the donor must use such coverage or source for funding as no benefits are provided to the donor under this Program.
- When only the donor is a Member, the donor is entitled to the benefits of this Program for all related donor expenses, subject to the following additional limitations:
 - The benefits are limited to only those benefits not provided or available to the donor from any other source for funding or coverage in accordance with the terms of this Program;
 - and
 - No benefits will be provided to the donor recipient.

- If any organ or tissue is sold rather than donated to the Member recipient, no benefits will be payable for the purchase price of such organ or tissue.

Treatment for Alcohol Or Drug Abuse And Dependency

- Alcohol Or Drug Abuse And Dependency is a disease that can be described as follows: It is an addiction to alcohol and/or drugs. It is also the compulsive behavior that results from this addiction.
 - This addiction makes it hard for a person to function well with other people.
 - It makes it hard for a person to function well in the work that they do.
 - It will also cause person's body and mind to become quite ill if the alcohol and/or drugs are taken away.
- The Claims Administrator will provide coverage for the care and treatment of Alcohol Or Drug Abuse And Dependency:
 - Provided by a licensed Hospital or licensed Facility Provider or an appropriately licensed behavioral health Provider.
 - Subject to the Maximum(s) shown in the **Schedule of Covered Services**; and
 - According to the provisions outlined below.
- For maximum benefits, treatment must be received from an In-Network Provider. If a Member is facing a crisis and is currently in treatment, contact the Member's therapist because they are most familiar with the Member's condition. Personal Choice Mental healthcare providers maintain 24-hour coverage, so they are able to provide the care the Member needs most. If there is an Emergency, or the Member is having particularly severe symptoms, follow the same procedures outlined in the Emergency Care services section of this Benefit Booklet. Emergency Care will be considered In-Network Care.
- To Access Treatment for Alcohol Or Drug Abuse And Dependency:
 - Call the behavioral health management company at the phone number shown on the Members ID Card.
 - Upon request, the Claims Administrator will make available the criteria for Medical Necessity determinations made under the Program for Alcohol Or Drug Abuse And Dependency to any current or potential Member, Dependent or In-Network Provider.
- Inpatient Treatment
 - Inpatient Detoxification
Covered Services include:
 - Lodging and dietary services;
 - Physician, Psychologist, nurse, certified addictions counselor, Masters Prepared Therapists, and trained staff services;
 - Diagnostic x-rays;
 - Psychiatric, psychological and medical laboratory testing; and
 - Drugs, medicines, use of equipment and supplies.

A Copayment may apply to an In-Network Inpatient Admission, if specified in the **Schedule of Covered Services**. For purposes of calculating the total Copayment due, any admission occurring within ten calendar days of discharge date from any previous admission shall be treated as part of the previous admission.

- Hospital and Non-Hospital Residential Treatment
Hospital or Non-Hospital Residential Treatment of Alcohol Or Drug Abuse And Dependency shall be covered on the same basis as any other illness covered under this Program.

Covered services include:

- Lodging and dietary services;
- Physician, Psychologist, nurse, certified addictions counselor and trained staff services;
- Rehabilitation therapy and counseling;
- Family counseling and intervention;
- Psychiatric, psychological and medical laboratory testing; and
- Drugs, medicines, use of equipment and supplies.

A Copayment may apply to an In-Network Inpatient Admission, if specified in the **Schedule of Covered Services**. For purposes of calculating the total Copayment due, any admission occurring within ten calendar days of discharge date from any previous admission shall be treated as part of the previous admission.

▪ **Outpatient Treatment**

– Covered services include:

- Diagnosis and treatment of substance abuse, including Outpatient Detoxification by the appropriately licensed behavioral health Provider;
- Appropriately licensed behavioral health providers including Physician, Psychologist, nurse, certified addictions counselor, Masters Prepared Therapists, and trained staff services;
- Rehabilitation therapy and counseling;
- Family counseling and intervention;
- Psychiatric, psychological and medical laboratory testing; and
- Medication management and use of equipment and supplies.

OUTPATIENT SERVICES

Unless otherwise specified in this Benefit Booklet, services for Outpatient Care are Covered Services when:

- Deemed Medically Necessary; and
- Billed for by a Provider.

Look in the **Schedule of Covered Services** section to find how much of those or other costs the Member is required to share (pay).

Ambulance Services

The Claims Administrator will provide coverage for ambulance services. However, these services need to be:

- Medically Necessary as determined by the Claims Administrator; and
- Used for transportation in a specially designed and equipped vehicle that is used only to transport the sick or injured and only when the following applies;
 - The vehicle is licensed as an ambulance, where required by applicable law;
 - The ambulance transport is appropriate for the Member's clinical condition;
 - The use of any other method of transportation, such as taxi, private car, wheel-chair van or other type of private or public vehicle transport would endanger the Member's medical condition; and
 - The ambulance transport satisfies the destination and other requirements as stated under Regarding Emergency Ambulance transport or Regarding Non-Emergency Ambulance transports.

Benefits are payable for air or sea ambulance transportation only if the Member's condition, and the distance to the nearest facility able to treat the Member's condition, justify the use of an alternative to land transport.

- Regarding Emergency Ambulance transport: The ambulance must be transporting the Member:
 - From the Member's home, or the scene of an accident or Medical Emergency;
 - To the nearest Hospital, or other Emergency Care Facility, that can provide the Medically Necessary Covered Services for the Member's condition.
- Regarding Non-Emergency Ambulance transports: Non-Emergency air transport may be covered to return the Member to an In-Network Facility Provider within a reasonable distance, as determined by the Claims Administrator, with the capability of treating the condition for which transfer is necessary within the Personal Choice Network service area for required continuing care (when a Covered Service), when such care immediately follows an Inpatient emergency admission and the Member is not able to return to the Personal Choice Network service area by any other means. This type of transportation is provided when the Member's medical condition requires uninterrupted care and attendance by qualified medical staff during transport that cannot be safely provided by land ambulance. Transportation back to the Personal Choice Network service area will not be covered for family members or companions.

Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD)

The Claims Administrator will provide coverage for the diagnostic assessment and treatment of Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) for Members under 21 years of age subject to the Annual Benefit Maximum specified in the ***Schedule of Covered Services***.

Diagnostic assessment is defined as Medically Necessary assessments, evaluations or tests performed by a licensed Physician, licensed Physician assistant, licensed Psychologist or Certified Registered Nurse practitioner, or Autism Service Provider to diagnose whether an individual has an Autism Spectrum Disorder. Results of the diagnostic assessment shall be valid for a period of not less than 12 months, unless a licensed Physician or licensed Psychologist determines an earlier assessment is necessary.

Treatment of Autism Spectrum Disorders shall be identified in an ASD Treatment Plan and shall include any Medically Necessary Pharmacy Care, Psychiatric Care, Psychological Care, Rehabilitative Care and Therapeutic Care that is:

- Prescribed, ordered or provided by a licensed Physician, licensed Physician assistant, licensed Psychologist, Licensed Clinical Social Worker or Certified Registered Nurse practitioner;
- Provided by an Autism Service Provider, including a Behavior Specialist; or
- Provided by a person, entity or group that works under the direction of an Autism Service Provider.

An ASD Treatment Plan shall be developed by a licensed Physician or licensed Psychologist pursuant to a comprehensive evaluation or reevaluation performed in a manner consistent with the most recent clinical report or recommendations of the American Academy of Pediatrics. The ASD Treatment Plan may be reviewed by the Claims Administrator once every six months. A more or less frequent review can be agreed upon by the Claims Administrator and the licensed Physician or licensed Psychologist developing the ASD Treatment Plan.

Treatment of Autism Spectrum Disorders will include any of the following Medically Necessary services that are listed in an ASD Treatment Plan developed by a licensed Physician or licensed Psychologist:

- Applied Behavioral Analysis - The design, implementation and evaluation of environmental modifications, using behavioral stimuli and consequences, to produce socially significant improvement in human behavior or to prevent loss of attained skill or function, including the use of direct observation, measurement and functional analysis of the relations between environment and behavior.
- Pharmacy Care - Medications prescribed by a licensed Physician, licensed physician assistant or Certified Registered Nurse practitioner and any assessment, evaluation or test prescribed or ordered by a licensed Physician, licensed physician assistant or Certified Registered Nurse practitioner to determine the need or effectiveness of such medications. If this Program provides benefits for prescription drugs the ASD medications may be purchased at a pharmacy, subject to the cost-sharing arrangement applicable to the prescription drug coverage. If this Program does not provide coverage for prescription drugs, ASD medications may be purchased at a pharmacy, and the Member will be reimbursed at 100% less the applicable Coinsurance amount shown in the **Schedule of Covered Services**. Benefits are available for up to a 30 day supply.
- Psychiatric Care - Direct or consultative services provided by a Physician who specializes in psychiatry.
- Psychological Care - Direct or consultative services provided by a Psychologist.
- Rehabilitative Care - Professional services and treatment programs, including applied behavioral analysis, provided by an Autism Service Provider to produce socially significant improvements in human behavior or to prevent loss of attained skill or function.
- Therapeutic Care - Services provided by speech language pathologists, occupational therapists or physical therapists.

Upon full or partial denial of coverage for any Autism Spectrum Disorders benefits, a Member shall be entitled to file an Appeal. The Appeal process will:

- Provide internal review followed by independent external review; and
- Have levels, expedited and standard Appeal time frames, and other terms established by the Claims Administrator consistent with applicable Pennsylvania and federal law.

Appeal filing procedures will be described in notices denying any Autism Spectrum Disorders benefits. Full Appeal process descriptions will be provided after a new Appeal is initiated and can also be obtained at any time by contacting Member Services.

Colorectal Cancer Screening

The Claims Administrator will provide coverage for colorectal cancer screening for Symptomatic Members, Nonsymptomatic Members over age 50, and Nonsymptomatic Members under age 50 who are at high risk or increased risk for colorectal cancer. Coverage for colorectal cancer screening must be in accordance with the current American Cancer Society guidelines, and consistent with approved medical standards and practices. The method and frequency of screening to be utilized shall be:

- Coverage for Symptomatic Members shall include a colonoscopy, sigmoidoscopy or any combination of colorectal cancer screening tests at a frequency determined by a treating Physician.

- Coverage for Nonsymptomatic Members over age 50 shall include, but not be limited to:
 - An annual fecal occult blood test;
 - A sigmoidoscopy, a screening barium enema, or a test consistent with approved medical standards and practices to detect colon cancer, at least once every five years; and
 - A colonoscopy at least once every ten years.
- Coverage for Nonsymptomatic Members under age 50 who are at high or increased risk for colorectal cancer shall include a colonoscopy or any combination of colorectal cancer screening tests.

"Nonsymptomatic Member at high or increased risk" means a Member who poses a higher than average risk for colorectal cancer according to the current American Cancer Society guidelines on screening for colorectal cancer.

"Symptomatic Member" means a Member who experiences a change in bowel habits, rectal bleeding or persistent stomach cramps, weight loss or abdominal pain.

Day Rehabilitation Program

The Claims Administrator will provide coverage for a Medically Necessary Day Rehabilitation Program when provided by a Facility Provider under the following conditions:

- Intensity of need for therapy: The Member must require intensive Therapy services, such as Physical, Occupational and/or speech Therapy 5 days per week for 4 to 7 hours per day;
- Ability to communicate: The Member must have the ability to communicate (verbally or non-verbally); their needs; they must also have the ability to consistently follow directions and to manage their own behavior with minimal to moderate intervention by professional staff;
- Willingness to participate: The Member must be willing to participate in a Day Rehabilitation Program; and
- Family support: The Member's family must be able to provide adequate support and assistance in the home and must demonstrate the ability to continue the rehabilitation program in the home.

Limitations: This benefit is subject to the limits shown in the ***Schedule of Covered Services***.

Diabetic Education Program

When prescribed by a Professional Provider legally authorized to prescribe such items under law, the Claims Administrator will provide coverage for diabetes Outpatient self-management training and education, including medical nutrition, for the treatment of:

- Insulin-dependent diabetes;
- Insulin-using diabetes;
- Gestational diabetes; and
- Noninsulin-using diabetes.

When Physician certification must occur: The attending Physician must certify that a Member requires diabetic education on an Outpatient basis, under the following circumstances:

- Upon the initial diagnosis of diabetes;
- Upon a significant change in the Member's symptoms or condition; or
- Upon the introduction of new medication or a therapeutic process in the treatment or management of the Member's symptoms or condition.

Requirements that must be met: Outpatient diabetic education services will be covered when they meet specific requirements.

- These requirements are based on the certification programs for Outpatient diabetic education developed by the American Diabetes Association and the Pennsylvania Department of Health.
- Specific requirements: Outpatient diabetic education services and education program must:
 - Be provided by an In-Network Provider; and
 - Be conducted under the supervision of a licensed health care professional with expertise in diabetes, and subject to the requirements of the Claims Administrator.

Covered services include Outpatient sessions that include, but may not be limited to, the following information:

- Initial assessment of the Member's needs;
- Family involvement and/or social support;
- Psychological adjustment for the Member;
- General facts/overview on diabetes;
- Prevention and treatment of complications for chronic diabetes, (That is, foot, skin and eye care);
- Nutrition including its impact on blood glucose levels;
- Exercise and activity;
- Medications;
- Monitoring and use of the monitoring results;
- Use of community resources; and
- Pregnancy and gestational diabetes' if applicable

Diabetic Equipment and Supplies

- Coverage and costs: The Claims Administrator will provide coverage for diabetic equipment and supplies purchased from a Durable Medical Equipment Provider. This is subject to any applicable Deductible, Copayment and/or Coinsurance requirements applicable to Durable Medical Equipment benefits.
- When diabetic equipment and supplies can be purchased at a pharmacy: If this Program provides benefits for prescription drugs (other than coverage for insulin and oral agents only):
 - Certain Diabetic Equipment and Supplies, including insulin and oral agents, may be purchased at a Pharmacy, if available;
 - This will be subject to the cost-sharing arrangements, applicable to the Prescription Drug coverage.
- When diabetic equipment and supplies are not available at a Pharmacy:
 - The diabetic equipment and supplies will be provided under the Durable Medical Equipment benefit;
 - This will be subject to the cost-sharing arrangements applicable to Durable Medical Equipment.
- Covered Diabetic Equipment:
 - Blood glucose monitors;
 - Insulin pumps;
 - Insulin infusion devices; and
 - Orthotics and podiatric appliances for the prevention of complications associated with diabetes.

- Covered Diabetic Supplies:
 - Blood testing strips;
 - Visual reading and urine test strips;
 - Insulin and insulin analogs*;
 - Injection aids;
 - Insulin syringes;
 - Lancets and lancet devices;
 - Monitor supplies;
 - Pharmacological agents for controlling blood sugar levels*;
 - Glucagon emergency kits.

* **Note:** If this Program does not provide coverage for prescription drugs, insulin and oral agents are covered as provided under the 'Insulin and Oral Agents' benefits.

Diagnostic Services

The Claims Administrator will provide coverage for the following Diagnostic Services, when ordered by a Professional Provider and billed by a Professional Provider, and/or a Facility Provider:

- Diagnostic x-rays, consisting of radiology, ultrasound, and nuclear medicine;
- Diagnostic laboratory and pathology tests.
- Diagnostic medical procedures consisting of ECG, EEG, Sleep Studies, and other diagnostic medical procedures approved by the Claims Administrator.
- Allergy testing, consisting of percutaneous, intracutaneous and patch tests.
- Genetic testing and counseling.
This includes services provided to a Member at risk for a specific disease that is a result of:
 - Family history; or
 - Exposure to environmental factors that are known to cause physical or mental disorders.

When clinical usefulness of specific genetic tests has been established by the Claims Administrator, these services are covered for the purpose of:

- Diagnosis;
- Screening;
- Predicting the course of a disease;
- Judging the response to a therapy;
- Examining risk for a disease; or
- Reproductive decision-making.

Durable Medical Equipment

The Claims Administrator will provide coverage for the rental or, at the option of the Claims Administrator, the purchase of Durable Medical Equipment when:

- Prescribed by a Professional Provider and required for therapeutic use; and
- Determined to be Medically Necessary by the Claims Administrator.

Although an item may be classified as Durable Medical Equipment it may not be covered in every instance. Durable Medical Equipment, as defined in the **Important Definitions** section, that includes equipment that meets the following criteria:

- It is durable and can withstand repeated use. An item is considered durable if it can withstand: repeated use, (That is, the type of item that could normally be rented). Medical Supplies of an expendable nature are not considered "durable" (For example, see the "Non-reusable supplies" provisions of the "Durable Medical Equipment" exclusion of the **Exclusions - What Is Not Covered** section of this Program);
- It customarily and primarily serves a medical purpose;
- It is generally not useful to a person without an illness or injury. The item must be expected to make a meaningful contribution to the treatment of the Member's illness, injury, or to improvement of a malformed body part; and
- It is appropriate for home use.

- **Replacement and Repair:**
The Claims Administrator will provide coverage for the repair or replacement of Durable Medical Equipment when the equipment does not function properly; and is no longer useful for its intended purpose, in the following limited situations:
 - Due to a change in a Member's condition: When a change in the Member's condition requires a change in the Durable Medical Equipment the Claims Administrator will provide repair or replacement of the equipment;
 - Due to breakage: When the Durable Medical Equipment is broken due to significant damage, defect, or wear, the Claims Administrator will provide repair or replacement only if the equipment's warranty has expired and it has exceeded its reasonable useful life as determined by the Claims Administrator.

Breakage under warranty: If the Durable Medical Equipment breaks while it is under warranty, replacement and repair is subject to the terms of the warranty. Contacts with the manufacturer or other responsible party to obtain replacement or repairs based on the warranty are the responsibility of:

- The Claims Administrator in the case of rented equipment; and
- The Member in the case of purchased equipment.

Breakage during reasonable useful lifetime: The Claims Administrator will not be responsible if the Durable Medical Equipment breaks during its reasonable useful lifetime for any reason not covered by warranty. (For example, the Claims Administrator will not provide benefits for repairs and replacements needed because the equipment was abused or misplaced.)

Cost to repair vs. cost to replace: The Claims Administrator will provide benefits to repair Durable Medical Equipment when the cost to repair is less than the cost to replace it. For purposes of replacement or repair of Durable Medical Equipment:

- Replacement means the removal and substitution of Durable Medical Equipment or one of its components necessary for proper functioning;
- A repair is a restoration of the Durable Medical Equipment or one of its components to correct problems due to wear or damage or defect.

Emergency Care Services

- **The In-Network level of benefits provided:** Benefits for Emergency Care Services provided by a Hospital Emergency Room or other Outpatient Emergency Facility are provided by the Claims Administrator. They are provided at the In-Network level of benefits, regardless of whether the Member is treated by a In-Network or Out-of-Network Provider.
- **Where to call and where to go:** If Emergency Services are required, whether the Member is located in or outside the Personal Choice Network service area: Call 911 or seek treatment immediately at the emergency department of the closest Hospital or Outpatient Emergency Facility.
- **What Emergency Care is:** Emergency Care services are Outpatient services and supplies provided by a Hospital or Facility Provider and/or Professional Provider for initial treatment of the Emergency.
- **Examples of an Emergency include:**
 - Heart attack;
 - Loss of Consciousness or respiration;
 - Cardiovascular accident;
 - Convulsions;
 - Severe Accidental Injury; and
 - Other acute medical conditions as determined by the Claims Administrator.

Note: Should any dispute arise as to whether an Emergency existed or as to the duration of an Emergency: The determination by the Claims Administrator shall be final.

Home Health Care

- **Covered Services:** The Claims Administrator will provide coverage for the following services when performed by a licensed Home Health Care Provider:
 - Professional services of appropriately licensed and certified individuals;
 - Intermittent skilled nursing care;
 - Physical Therapy;
 - Speech Therapy;
 - Well mother/well baby care following release from an Inpatient maternity stay; and
 - Care within 48 hours following release from an Inpatient Admission when the discharge occurs within 48 hours following a mastectomy.
- **Regarding well mother/well baby care:** With respect to well mother/well baby care following early release from an Inpatient maternity stay, Home Health Care services must be provided within 48 hours if:
 - Discharge occurs earlier than 48 hours of a vaginal delivery; or
 - Discharge occurs earlier than 96 hours of a cesarean delivery.No cost-sharing shall apply to these benefits when they are provided after an early discharge from the Inpatient maternity stay.
- **Regarding other medical services and supplies:** The Claims Administrator will also provide coverage for certain other medical services and supplies, when provided along with a primary service. Such other services and supplies include:
 - Occupational Therapy;
 - Medical social services; and
 - Home health aides in conjunction with skilled services and other services which may be approved by the Claims Administrator.
- **Regarding Medical Necessity:** Home Health Care benefits will be provided only when prescribed by the Member's attending Physician, in a written Plan Of Treatment and approved by the Claims Administrator as Medically Necessary.
- **Regarding the issue of being confined:** There is no requirement that the Member be previously confined in a Hospital or Skilled Nursing Facility prior to receiving Home Health Care.
- **Regarding being Homebound:** With the exception of Home Health Care provided to a Member, immediately following an Inpatient release for maternity care, the Member must be Homebound in order to be eligible to receive Home Health Care benefits by a Home Health Care Provider. This means that leaving the Home could be harmful to such person, would involve a considerable and taxing effort, and that the Member is unable to use transportation without another's assistance.

Injectable Medications

The Claims Administrator will provide coverage for injectable medications required in the treatment of an injury or illness when administered by a Professional Provider.

- **Specialty Drugs**
 - Refer to a medication that meets certain criteria including, but not limited to:
 - The drug is used in the treatment of a rare, complex, or chronic disease;
 - A high level of involvement is required by a healthcare provider to administer the drug;
 - Complex storage and/or shipping requirements are necessary to maintain the drug's stability;
 - The drug requires comprehensive patient monitoring and education by a healthcare provider regarding safety, side effects, and compliance; and

- Access to the drug may be limited.

To obtain a list of Specialty Drugs please logon to www.ibx.com or Call the Customer Service telephone number shown on the Member's Identification Card.

- **Standard Injectable Drugs**

- Standard Injectable Drugs refer to a medication that is either injectable or infusible, but is not defined by the Claims Administrator to be a Self-Administered Prescription Drug or a Specialty Drug.
- Standard Injectable Drugs include, but are not limited to:
 - Allergy injections and extractions; and
 - Injectable medications such as antibiotics and steroid injections that are administered by a Professional Provider.
- Self-Administered Prescription Drugs generally are not covered.
- For more information on Self-Administered Prescription Drugs:
 - Please refer to the ***Exclusions - What Is Not Covered*** section and the description of "Insulin and Oral Agents" coverage in the ***Description of Covered Services*** section.

Insulin and Oral Agents

The Claims Administrator will provide coverage for insulin and oral agents to control blood sugar as prescribed by a Physician and dispensed by a licensed pharmacy. Benefits are available for up to a 34 day supply when dispensed from a retail pharmacy.

Medical Foods and Nutritional Formulas

- The Claims Administrator will provide coverage for Medical Foods when provided for the therapeutic treatment of inherited errors of metabolism (IEMs) such as:

- Phenylketonuria;
- Branched-chain ketonuria;
- Galactosemia; and
- Homocystinuria.

Coverage is provided when administered on an Outpatient basis, either orally or through a tube.

- The Claims Administrator will provide coverage for Nutritional Formulas when the Nutritional Formula is taken orally or through a tube by an infant or child suffering from Severe Systemic Protein Allergy, food protein-induced enterocolitis syndrome, eosinophilic disorders, or short-bowel syndrome that do not respond to treatment with standard milk or soy protein formulas and casein hydrolyzed formulas.

The Claims Administrator will provide coverage for Medical Foods and Nutritional Formulas when provided through a Durable Medical Equipment supplier or in connection with Infusion Therapy as provided for in this Program.

An estimated basal caloric requirement for Medical Foods and Nutritional Formula is not required for IEMs, or for when administered through a tube.

Benefits are exempt from Deductible requirements.

Non-Surgical Dental Services

The Claims Administrator will provide coverage only for:

- The initial treatment of Accidental Injury/trauma, (That is, fractured facial bones and fractured jaws), in order to restore proper function.

Restoration of proper function includes the dental services required for the initial restoration or replacement of Sound Natural Teeth, required for the initial treatment for the Accidental Injury/trauma. This includes:

- The first caps;
 - Crowns;
 - Bridges; and
 - Dentures (but not dental implants).
- The preparation of the jaws and gums required for initial replacement of Sound Natural Teeth. Injury as a result of chewing or biting is not considered an Accidental Injury. See the exclusion of dental services in the **Exclusions - What Is Not Covered** section for more information on what dental services are not covered.

Private Duty Nursing Services

The Claims Administrator will provide coverage up to the number of hours as specified in the **Schedule of Covered Services** for Outpatient services for Private Duty Nursing performed by a Licensed Registered Nurse (RN) or a Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) when ordered by a Physician and which are Medically Necessary as determined by the Claims Administrator.

Prosthetic Devices

The Claims Administrator will provide coverage for expenses Incurred for Prosthetic Devices (except dental prostheses) required as a result of illness or injury. Expenses for Prosthetic Devices are subject to medical review by the Claims Administrator to determine eligibility and Medical Necessity.

Such expenses may include, but not be limited to:

- The purchase, fitting, necessary adjustments and repairs of Prosthetic Devices which replace all or part of an absent body organ including contiguous tissue or which replace all or part of the function of an inoperative or malfunctioning body organ;
- The supplies and replacement of parts necessary for the proper functioning of the Prosthetic Device;
- Breast prostheses required to replace the removed breast or portions thereof as a result of mastectomy and prostheses inserted during reconstructive Surgery incident and subsequent to mastectomy; and
- Benefits are provided for the following visual Prosthetics when Medically Necessary and prescribed for one of the following conditions:
 - Initial contact lenses prescribed for treatment of infantile glaucoma;
 - Initial pinhole glasses prescribed for use after Surgery for detached retina;
 - Initial corneal or scleral lenses prescribed:
 - In connection with the treatment of keratoconus; or
 - To reduce a corneal irregularity other than astigmatism;
 - Initial scleral lenses prescribed to retain moisture in cases where normal tearing is not present or adequate; and

- Initial pair of basic eyeglasses when prescribed to perform the function of a human lens (aphakia) lost as a result of:
 - Accidental Injury;
 - Trauma; or
 - Ocular Surgery.

The repair and replacement provisions do not apply to this item.

Benefits for replacement of a Prosthetic Device or its parts will be provided:

- When there has been a significant change in the Member's medical condition that requires the replacement;
- If the prostheses breaks because it is defective;
- If the prostheses breaks because it exceeds its life expectancy, as determined by the manufacturer; or
- For a Dependent's child due to the normal growth process when Medically Necessary.

The Claims Administrator will provide benefits to repair Prosthetic Devices when the cost to repair is less than the cost to replace it. For purposes of replacement or repair of the prostheses, replacement means the removal and substitution of the prostheses or one of its components necessary for proper functioning. A repair is a restoration of the prostheses or one of its components to correct problems due to wear or damage. However, the Claims Administrator will not provide benefits for repairs and replacements needed because the prostheses was abused or misplaced.

If a Prosthetic Device breaks and is under warranty, it is the responsibility of the Member to work with the manufacturer to replace or repair it.

Restorative Services

The Claims Administrator will provide coverage, subject to the Benefit Period Maximum stated in the Schedule of Covered Services, for Restorative Services when performed by a Professional Provider in order to restore loss of function of a body part.

- Restorative Services are any services, other than those specifically detailed under "Therapy Services":
 - Provided in accordance with a specific plan of treatment related to the Member's condition;
 - Which generally involve neuromuscular training (training of the nerves and muscles) as a course of treatments over weeks or months.
- Examples of Restorative Services include, but are not limited to:
 - Manipulative treatment of functional loss from back disorder;
 - Therapy treatment of functional loss following foot surgery; and
 - Orthoptic/pleoptic therapy.

Specialist Office Visit

The Claims Administrator will provide coverage for Specialist Services Medical Care provided in the office by a Provider other than a Primary Care Provider.

For the purpose of this benefit "in the office" includes:

- Medical Care visits to a Provider's office;
- Medical Care visits by a Provider to the Member's residence; or
- Medical Care consultations by a Provider on an Outpatient basis.

Therapy Services

The Claims Administrator will provide coverage, subject to the Benefit Period Maximum stated in the Schedule of Covered Services, for the following services prescribed by a Physician and performed by a Professional Provider, a therapist who is registered or licensed by the appropriate authority to perform the applicable therapeutic service, and/or Facility Provider, which are used in treatment of an illness or injury to promote recovery of the Member.

- Cardiac Rehabilitation Therapy
Refers to a medically supervised rehabilitation program designed to improve a patient's tolerance for physical activity or exercise.
- Chemotherapy
The treatment of malignant disease by chemical or biological antineoplastic agents used to kill or slow the growth of cancerous cells. Such agents are eligible for coverage when they are injected or infused into the body by a Professional Provider. The cost of these drugs, is covered, provided the drugs are approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) as antineoplastic agents and administered as described in this paragraph.

Note: If this Program does not provide coverage for prescription drugs, oral antineoplastic agents are covered as provided under the benefits described above.

- Dialysis
The treatment of acute renal failure or chronic irreversible renal insufficiency for removal of waste materials from the body by hemodialysis, peritoneal dialysis, hemoperfusion, or chronic ambulatory peritoneal dialysis (CAPD), or continuous cyclical peritoneal dialysis (CCPD).
- Infusion Therapy
The infusion of drug, hydration, or nutrition (parenteral or enteral) into the body by a Professional Provider. Infusion therapy includes all professional services, supplies, and equipment that are required to safely and effectively administer the therapy. Infusion may be provided in a variety of settings (For example, home, office, Outpatient) depending on the level of skill required to prepare the drug, administer the infusion, and monitor the Member. The type of Professional Provider who can administer the infusion depends on whether the drug is considered to be a Specialty Drug infusion or a Standard Injectable Drug infusion, as determined by the Claims Administrator.
- Occupational Therapy
Includes treatment of a physically disabled person by means of constructive activities designed and adapted to promote the restoration of the person's ability to satisfactorily accomplish the ordinary tasks of daily living. Coverage will also include services rendered by a registered, licensed occupational therapist.
- Physical Therapy
Includes treatment by physical means, heat, hydrotherapy or similar modalities, physical agents, bio-mechanical and neuro-physiological principles, and devices to relieve pain, restore maximum function, and prevent disability following disease, injury, or loss of body part, including the treatment of functional loss following hand and/or foot Surgery.

- Pulmonary Rehabilitation Therapy
Includes treatment through a multidisciplinary program which combines Physical Therapy with an educational process directed towards the stabilization of pulmonary diseases and the improvement of functional status for Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD). COPD may include, but is not limited to, diagnosis such as emphysema, chronic bronchitis, asthmatic bronchitis, pre-lung transplant and cystic fibrosis.
- Radiation Therapy
The treatment of disease by x-ray, radium, radioactive isotopes, or other radioactive substances regardless of the method of delivery, including the cost of radioactive materials supplied and billed by the Provider.
- Respiratory Therapy
Includes the introduction of dry or moist gases into the lungs for treatment purposes. Coverage will also include services by a respiratory therapist.
- Speech Therapy
Includes treatment for the correction of a speech impairment resulting from disease, Surgery, injury, congenital anomalies, or previous therapeutic processes. Coverage will also include services by a speech therapist.

Urgent Care Centers

The Claims Administrator will provide coverage for Urgent Care Centers, when Medically Necessary as determined by the Claims Administrator.

- Urgent Care Centers are designed to offer immediate evaluation and treatment for health conditions that require medical attention:
 - In a non-Emergency situation;
 - That cannot wait to be addressed by the Member's Professional Provider or Retail Clinic.
- Cost-sharing requirements are specified in the ***Schedule of Covered Services***.

EXCLUSIONS – WHAT IS NOT COVERED

Except as specifically provided in this Benefit Booklet, no benefits will be provided for services, supplies or charges:

Alternative Therapies/Complementary Medicine

For Alternative Therapies/Complementary Medicine, including but not limited to:

- Acupuncture;
- Music therapy;
- Dance therapy;
- Equestrian/hippotherapy;
- Homeopathy;
- Primal therapy;
- Rolfing;
- Psychodrama;
- Vitamin or other dietary supplements and therapy;
- Naturopathy;
- Hypnotherapy;
- Bioenergetic therapy;
- Qi Gong;
- Ayurvedic therapy;
- Aromatherapy;
- Massage therapy;
- Therapeutic touch;
- Recreational, wilderness, educational and sleep therapies.

Ambulance Services

For ambulance services except as specifically provided under this Program.

Assisted Fertilization Techniques

For assisted fertilization techniques such as, but not limited to, artificial insemination, in-vitro fertilization, gamete intra-fallopian transfer (GIFT) and zygote intra-fallopian transfer (ZIFT).

Autism

- For Autism Spectrum Disorders services that exceed the Annual Benefit Maximum shown in the **Schedule of Covered Services**.
- For the diagnosis and treatment of Autism Spectrum Disorders that is provided through a school as part of an individualized education program.
- For the diagnosis and treatment of Autism Spectrum Disorders that is not included in the ASD Treatment Plan for Autism Spectrum Disorders.

Benefit Maximums

For charges Incurred for expenses in excess of Benefit Maximums as specified in the **Schedule of Covered Services**.

Chronic Conditions

For Maintenance of chronic conditions, injuries or illness.

Cognitive Rehabilitation Therapy

For Cognitive Rehabilitation Therapy, except when provided integral to other supportive therapies, such as, but not limited to physical, occupational and speech therapies in a multidisciplinary, goal-oriented and integrated treatment program designed to improve management and independence following neurological damage to the central nervous system caused by illness or trauma (For example: stroke, acute brain insult, encephalopathy).

Cosmetic Surgery

For services and operations for cosmetic purposes

- Which are done to improve the appearance of any portion of the body; and
- From which no improvement in physiologic function can be expected.

However, benefits are payable to correct:

- A condition resulting from an accident; and
- Functional impairment which results from a covered disease, injury or congenital birth defect.

This exclusion does not apply to mastectomy related charges as provided for and defined in the "Surgical Services" section in the ***Description of Covered Services***.

Cranial Protheses (Including Wigs)

For cranial protheses, including wigs intended to replace hair.

Dental Care

- For dental services related to:
 - The care, filling, removal or replacement of teeth, including dental implants to replace teeth or to treat congenital anodontia, ectodermal dysplasia or dentinogenesis imperfecta; and
 - The treatment of injuries to or diseases of the teeth, gums or structures directly supporting or attached to the teeth, except as otherwise specifically stated in this Benefit Booklet.
 - Specific services not covered include, but are not limited to (unless otherwise described in this Benefit Booklet):
 - Apicoectomy (dental root resection);
 - Prophylaxis of any kind;
 - Root canal treatments;
 - Soft tissue impactions;
 - Alveolectomy;
 - Bone grafts or other procedures provided to augment an atrophic mandible or maxilla in preparation of the mouth for dentures or dental implants; and
 - Treatment of periodontal disease;
- For dental implants for any reason.
- For dentures, unless for the initial treatment of an Accidental Injury/trauma.
- For Orthodontic treatment, except for appliances used for palatal expansion to treat congenital cleft palate.
- For injury as a result of chewing or biting (neither is considered an Accidental Injury).

Diagnostic Screening Examinations

For diagnostic screening examinations, except for mammograms and preventive care as provided in the "Primary and Preventive Care", and "Women's Preventive Care" sections of the ***Description of Covered Services***.

Durable Medical Equipment

For the following examples of equipment that do not meet the definition of Durable Medical Equipment include, but are not limited to:

- Comfort and convenience items, such as massage devices, portable whirlpool pumps, telephone alert systems, bed-wetting alarms, and ramps.
- Equipment used for environmental control, such as air cleaners, air conditioners, dehumidifiers, portable room heaters, and heating and cooling plants.

- Equipment inappropriate for home use. This is an item that generally requires professional supervision for proper operation, such as:
 - Diathermy machines;
 - Medcolator;
 - Data transmission devices used for telemedicine purposes;
 - Pulse tachometer;
 - Translift chairs; and
 - Traction units.
- Non-reusable supplies other than a supply that is an integral part of the Durable Medical Equipment item required for the Durable Medical Equipment function. This means the equipment is not durable or is not a component of the Durable Medical Equipment. Items not covered include, but are not limited to:
 - Incontinence pads;
 - Lamb's wool pads;
 - Ace bandage;
 - Catheters (non-urinary);
 - Face masks (surgical);
 - Disposable gloves;
 - Disposable sheets and bags; and
 - Irrigating kits.
- Equipment that is not primarily medical in nature. Equipment which is primarily and customarily used for a non-medical purpose may or may not be considered "medical" in nature. This is true even though the item may have some medically related use. Such items include, but are not limited to:
 - Ear plugs;
 - Equipment For Safety;
 - Exercise equipment;
 - Ice pack;
 - Speech teaching machines;
 - Strollers;
 - Feeding chairs;
 - Silverware/utensils;
 - Toileting systems;
 - Electronically-controlled heating and cooling units for pain relief;
 - Toilet seats;
 - Bathtub lifts;
 - Stair glides; and
 - Elevators.
- Equipment with features of a medical nature which are not required by the Member's condition, such as a gait trainer. The therapeutic benefits of the item cannot be clearly disproportionate to its cost, if there exists a Medical Necessity and realistically feasible alternative item that serves essentially the same purpose.
- Duplicate equipment for use when traveling or for an additional residence, whether or not prescribed by a Professional Provider.
- Services not primarily billed for by a Provider such as delivery, set-up and service activities and installation and labor of rented or purchased equipment.
- Modifications to vehicles, dwellings and other structures. This includes any modifications made to a vehicle, dwelling or other structure to accommodate a Member's disability or any modifications made to a vehicle, dwelling or other structure to accommodate a Durable Medical Equipment item, such as customization to a wheelchair.

Effective Date

Which were Incurred prior to the Member's Effective Date of coverage.

Experimental/Investigative

Which are Experimental/Investigative in nature, except, as approved by the Claims Administrator, Routine Patient Costs Associated With Qualifying Clinical Trials that meets the definition of a Qualifying Clinical Trial under this Benefit Booklet.

- Visiting teachers, friendly visitors, vocational guidance and other counselors, and services related to diversional Occupational Therapy and/or social services;
- Services provided to individuals (other than a Member released from an Inpatient maternity stay), who are not essentially Homebound for medical reasons; and
- Visits by any Provider personnel solely for the purpose of assessing a Member's condition and determining whether or not the Member requires and qualifies for Home Health Care services and will or will not be provided services by the Provider.

Hospice Care

For Hospice Care benefits for the following:

- Services and supplies for which there is no charge;
- Research studies directed to life lengthening methods of treatment;
- Services or expenses Incurred in regard to the Member's personal, legal and financial affairs (such as preparation and execution of a will or other disposition of personal and real property);
- Care provided by family members, relatives, and friends; and
- Private Duty Nursing.

Immediate Family

Rendered by a member of the Member's Immediate Family.

Immunizations for Employment or Travel

For Immunizations required for employment purposes or travel. This exclusion does not apply to immunizations required for travel which are required by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP).

Medical Foods And Nutritional Formulas

- For appetite suppressants;
- For oral non-elemental nutritional supplements (For example, Boost, Ensure, PediaSure), casein hydrolyzed formulas (For example, Nutramigen, Alimentun, Pregestimil), or other nutritional products including, but not limited to, banked breast milk, basic milk, milk-based, and soy-based products. This exclusion does not apply to Medical Foods and Nutritional Formulas as provided for and defined in the "Medical Foods and Nutritional Formulas" section in the **Description of Covered Services**;
- For elemental semi-solid foods (For example, Neocate Nutra);
- For products that replace fluids and electrolytes (For example, Electrolyte Gastro, Pedialyte);
- For additives (For example, Duocal, fiber, or vitamins) and food thickeners (For example, Thick-It, Resource ThickenUp); and
- For supplies associated with the oral administration of formula (For example, bottles, nipples).

Medical Supplies

For Medical Supplies such as but not limited to thermometers, ovulation kits, early pregnancy or home pregnancy testing kits.

Medical Necessity

Which are not Medically Necessary as determined by the Claims Administrator for the diagnosis or treatment of illness or injury.

Mental Health/Psychiatric Care

- For vocational or religious counseling;
- For activities that are primarily of an educational nature; and
- For treatment modalities that have not been incorporated into the commonly accepted therapeutic repertoire as determined by broad-based professional consensus, such as:
 - Primal therapy, rolfing or structural integration;
 - Bioenergetic therapy; and
 - Obesity control therapy.

Military Service

For any loss sustained or expenses incurred in the following ways:

- During military service while on active duty as a member of the armed forces of any nation; or
- As a result of enemy action or act of war, whether declared or undeclared.

Miscellaneous

- For care in a:
 - Nursing home;
 - Home for the aged;
 - Convalescent home;
 - School;
 - Camp;
 - Institution for intellectually disabled children; or
 - Custodial Care in a Skilled Nursing Facility.
- For broken appointments.
- For telephone consultations.
- For completion of a claim form.
- For marriage counseling.
- For research studies.
- For Custodial Care, domiciliary care or rest cures.
- Which are not billed and performed by a Provider as defined under this coverage as a "Professional Provider", "Facility Provider" or "Ancillary Service Provider" except as otherwise indicated under the subsections entitled:
 - "Therapy Services"; and
 - "Ambulance Services" in the **Description of Covered Services** section.
- Performed by a Professional Provider enrolled in an education or training program when such services are:
 - Related to the education or training program; and are
 - Provided through a Hospital or university.
- For weight reduction and premarital blood tests. This exclusion does not apply to nutrition visits as set forth in the **Description of Covered Services** section under the subsection entitled "Nutrition Counseling for Weight Management".

Motor Vehicle

For injuries resulting from the maintenance or use of a motor vehicle if such treatment or service is:

- Paid under a plan or policy of motor vehicle insurance, including a certified self-insured plan; or
- Payable in any manner under the Pennsylvania Motor Vehicle Financial Responsibility Law.

Non-Covered Services

Any services, supplies or treatments not specifically listed as covered benefits in this Program.

Obesity

For treatment of obesity, including, but not limited to:

- Weight management programs;
- Dietary aids, supplements, injections and medications;
- Weight training, fitness training, or lifestyle modification programs, including such programs provided under the supervision of a clinician; and
- Group nutrition counseling.

This exclusion does not apply to:

- Surgical procedures specifically intended to result in weight loss (including bariatric surgery) when the Claims Administrator:
 - Determines the Surgery is Medically Necessary; and
 - The Surgery is limited to one surgical procedure per lifetime regardless (or even) if:
 - A new or different diagnosis is the indication for the Surgery;
 - A new or different type of Surgery is intended or performed;
 - A revision, repeat, or reversal of any previous weight loss Surgery is intended or performed.

The exclusion of coverage for a repeat, reversal or revision of a previous Surgery does not apply when the intended procedure is performed to treat technical failure or complication of a prior surgical procedure, which if left untreated, would result in endangering the health of the Member. Failure to maintain weight loss or any condition resulting from or associated with obesity does not constitute technical failure.

- Nutritional counseling visits/sessions as described in the "Nutrition Counseling for Weight Management" provision in this Benefit Booklet.

Personal Hygiene and Convenience Items

For personal hygiene and convenience items such as, but not limited to the following, whether or not recommended by a Provider:

- Air conditioners;
- Humidifiers;
- Physical fitness or exercise equipment;
- Radio;
- Beauty/barber shop services;
- Guest trays;
- Wigs;
- Chairlifts;
- Stairglides;
- Elevators;
- Sauna;
- Television;
- Spa or health club memberships;
- Whirlpool;
- Telephone;
- Guest Service; or
- Hot tub or equivalent device.

Physical Examinations

For routine physical examinations for non-preventive purposes, such as:

- Pre-marital examinations;
- Physicals for college;
- Camp or travel; and
- Examinations for insurance, licensing and employment.

Prescription Drugs

- For prescription drugs, except as may be provided by a prescription drug rider attached to this Benefit Booklet. This exclusion does NOT apply to insulin, insulin analogs and pharmacological agents for controlling blood sugar levels, as provided for the treatment of diabetes and contraceptive methods, including contraceptive drugs and devices, injectable contraceptives, IUDs and implants; sterilization procedures, and patient education and counseling, not including abortifacient drugs, for generic products and for those methods that do not have a generic equivalent. Brand contraceptives are excluded.
- For drugs and medicines for which the Member has coverage under a free-standing prescription drug program provided through the Enrolled Group.

Private Duty Nursing

- For Private Duty Nursing services in connection with the following:
 - Nursing care which is primarily custodial in nature; such as care that primarily consists of bathing, feeding, exercising, homemaking, moving the patient and giving oral medication;
 - Services provided by a nurse who ordinarily resides in the Member's home or is a member of the Member's Immediate Family; and
 - Services provided by a home health aide or a nurse's aide.
- For Inpatient Private Duty Nursing services.

Relative Counseling or Consultations

For counseling or consultation with a Member's relatives, or Hospital charges for a Member's relatives or guests, except as may be specifically provided or allowed in the "Treatment for Alcohol Or Drug Abuse And Dependency" or "Transplant Services" sections of the **Description of Covered Services**.

Responsibility of Another Party

- For which a Member would have no legal obligation to pay, or another party has primary responsibility.
- Received from a dental or medical department maintained by or on behalf of an employer, a mutual benefit association, labor union, trust, or similar person or group.

Responsibility of Medicare

Claims paid or payable by Medicare when Medicare is primary. For purposes of this Program exclusion, coverage is not available for a service, supply or charge that is "payable under Medicare" when the Member is eligible to enroll for Medicare benefits, regardless of whether the Member actually enrolls for, pays applicable premium for, maintains, claims or receives Medicare benefits. The amount excluded for these claims will be either the amount "payable under Medicare" or the applicable plan fee schedule for the service, at the discretion of the Claims Administrator.

Routine Foot Care

As defined in the Claims Administrator's Medical Policy unless associated with Medically Necessary treatment of peripheral vascular disease and/or peripheral neuropathic disease, including but not limited to diabetes.

Self-Administered Prescription Drugs

For Self-Administered Prescription Drugs, regardless of whether the drugs are provided or administered by a Provider. Drugs are considered Self-Administered Prescription Drugs even when initial medical supervision and/or instruction is required prior to patient self-administration.

This exclusion does not apply to Self-Administered Prescription Drugs that are:

- Mandated to be covered by law, such as insulin or any drugs required for the treatment of diabetes, unless these drugs are covered by a Free-Standing Prescription Drug Contract issued to the Group by the Claims Administrator; or
- Required for treatment of an Emergency condition that requires a Self-Administered Prescription Drug.

Sexual Dysfunction

For sex therapy or other forms of counseling for treatment of sexual dysfunction.

Skilled Nursing Facility

For Skilled Nursing Facility services in connection with the following:

- When confinement in a Skilled Nursing Facility is intended solely to assist the Member with the activities of daily living or to provide an institutional environment for the convenience of a Member;
- For the treatment of Alcohol And Drug Abuse Or Dependency, and Mental Illness; or
- After the Member has reached the maximum level of recovery possible for their particular condition and no longer requires definitive treatment other than routine Custodial Care.

Temporomandibular Joint Syndrome (TMJ)

For treatment of temporomandibular joint syndrome (TMJ), also known as craniomandibular disorders (CMD), with intraoral devices or with any non-surgical method to alter vertical dimension.

Termination Date

Which were or are Incurred after the date of termination of the Member's coverage except as provided in the **General Information** section.

Traditional Medical Management

For any care that extends beyond traditional medical management for:

- Autistic disease of childhood;
- Pervasive Developmental Disorders;
- Attention Deficit Disorder;
- Learning disabilities;
- Behavioral problems;
- Intellectual disability;
- Treatment or care to effect environmental or social change; or
- Autism Spectrum Disorders.

Except as otherwise provided in this Program.

Transsexual Surgery

For any procedure or treatment leading to or in connection with transsexual Surgery except for sickness or injury resulting from such Surgery.

Travel

For travel, whether or not it has been recommended by a Professional Provider or if it is required to receive treatment at an out of area Provider.

Veteran's Administration or Department of Defense

To the extent a Member is legally entitled to receive when provided by the Veteran's Administration or by the Department of Defense in a government facility reasonably accessible by the Member.

Vision

- For correction of myopia or hyperopia by means of corneal microsurgery, such as:
 - Keratomileusis;
 - Keratophakia;
 - Radial keratotomy and all related services.
- For eyeglasses, lenses or contact lenses and the vision examination for prescribing or fitting eyeglasses or contact lenses except as otherwise described in this Benefit Booklet.

Worker's Compensation

For any occupational illness or bodily injury which occurs in the course of employment if benefits or compensation are available, in whole or in part, under the provisions of:

- Worker's Compensation Law; or
- Any similar Occupational Disease Law or Act.

This exclusion applies whether or not the Member claims the benefits or compensation.

GENERAL INFORMATION

ELIGIBILITY, CHANGE AND TERMINATION RULES UNDER THE PROGRAM

Effective Date: The date the Group agrees that all eligible persons may apply and become covered for the benefits as set forth in this Program and described in this Benefit Booklet. If a person becomes an eligible person after the Group's Effective Date, that date becomes the eligible person's effective date under this Program.

Eligible Person

The Employee is eligible to be covered under this Program if the Employee is determined by the Group as eligible to apply for coverage and sign the Application.

Eligibility shall not be affected by the Employee's physical condition and determination of eligibility for the coverage by the employer shall be final and binding.

Eligible Dependent

The Employee's family is eligible for coverage (Dependent coverage) under this Program when the Employee is eligible for Employee coverage. An eligible Dependent is defined as the Employee's spouse under a legally valid existing marriage, the Employee's child(ren), including any stepchild, legally adopted child, a child placed for adoption or any child whose coverage is the Employee's responsibility under the terms of a qualified release or court order. The limiting age for covered children is the first of the month following the month in which they reach age 26.

A full-time student who is eligible for coverage under this Program who is:

- A member of the Pennsylvania National Guard or any reserve component of the U.S. armed forces and who is called or ordered to active duty, other than active duty for training for a period of 30 or more consecutive days; or
- A member of the Pennsylvania National Guard who is ordered to active state duty, including duty under Pa. C.S. Ch. 76 (relates to Emergency Management Assistance Compact), for a period of 30 or more consecutive days.

Eligibility for these Dependents will be extended for a period equal to the duration of the Dependent's service on duty or active state duty or until the individual is no longer a full-time student regardless of the age of the Dependent when the educational program at the Accredited Educational Institution was interrupted due to military duty.

As proof of eligibility, the Employee must submit a form to the Claims Administrator approved by the Department of Military & Veterans Affairs (DMVA):

- Notifying the Claims Administrator that the Dependent has been placed on active duty;
- Notifying the Claims Administrator that the Dependent is no longer on active duty; or
- Showing that the Dependent has re-enrolled as a full-time student in an Accredited Educational Institution for the first term or semester starting 60 or more days after his release from active duty.

Eligibility will be continued past the limiting age for unmarried children, regardless of age, who are incapable of self-support because of mental or physical incapacitation and who are dependent on the Employee for over half of their support. The Claims Administrator may require

proof of eligibility under the prior Claims Administrator's plan and also from time to time under this Program.

The newborn child(ren) of the Employee or the Employee's Dependent shall be entitled to the benefits provided by this Program from the date of birth for a period of 31 days. Coverage of newborn children within such 31 days shall include care which is necessary for the treatment of medically diagnosed congenital defects, birth abnormalities, prematurity and routine nursery care. To be eligible for Dependent coverage beyond the 31 day period, the Employee must enroll the newborn child within such 31 days. To continue coverage beyond 31 days for a newborn child, who does not otherwise qualify for coverage as a Dependent, the Employee must apply within 31 days after the birth of the newborn and the appropriate rate must be paid when billed.

A newly acquired Dependent shall be eligible for coverage under this Program on the date the Dependent is acquired provided that the Employee applies to the Claims Administrator for addition of the Dependent within 31 days after the Dependent is acquired and the Employee makes timely payment of the appropriate rate. If Application is made later than 31 days after the Dependent is acquired, coverage shall become effective on the first billing date following 30 days after the Employee's Application is accepted by the Claims Administrator.

A Dependent child of a custodial parent covered under this Program may be enrolled under the terms of a qualified medical release or court order, as required by law.

No Dependent may be eligible for coverage as a Dependent of more than one Member of the Enrolled Group. No individual may be eligible for coverage hereunder as a Member and as a Dependent of a Member at the same time.

Benefits to Which the Member Is Entitled

The liability of the Claims Administrator is limited to the benefits specified in this Benefit Booklet. The Claims Administrator's determination of the benefit provisions applicable for the services rendered to the Member shall be conclusive.

Termination of Coverage at Termination Of Employment Or Membership In The Group

When a Member ceases to be an eligible Employee or eligible Dependent, or the required contribution is not paid, the Member's coverage will terminate at the end of the last month for which payment was made. However, if benefits under this Program are provided by and/or approved by the Claims Administrator before the Claims Administrator receives notice of the Member's termination under this Program, the cost of such benefits will be the sole responsibility of the Member. In that circumstance, the Claims Administrator will consider the effective date of termination of a Member under this Program to be not more than 60 days before the first day of the month in which the Group notified the Claims Administrator of such termination.

Consumer Rights

Each Member has the right to access, review and copy their own health and membership records and request amendments to their records. This includes information pertaining to claim payments, payment methodology, reduction or denial, medical information secured from other agents, plans or providers.

For more information about accessing, reviewing or copying records, call Member Services at the toll-free number referenced on the Identification Card.

Member/Provider Relationship

- The choice of a Provider or choice of treatment by a Provider is solely the Member's choice.
- The Claims Administrator does not furnish Covered Services but only makes payment for Covered Services received by persons covered under this Program. The Claims Administrator is not liable for any act or omission of any Provider. The Claims Administrator has no responsibility for a Provider's failure or refusal to render Covered Services to a Member.

COVERAGE CONTINUATION

Termination of the Member's Coverage and Conversion Privilege Under This Program

- Termination of this Program – Termination of the Group coverage (this Program) automatically terminates all coverage for the Member (an Enrolled Employee) and the Member's eligible Dependents. The privilege of conversion to a conversion contract shall be available to any Member who has been continuously covered under the Program Document for at least three months (or covered for similar benefits under any group plan that this Program replaced).

It is the responsibility of the Group or the Group's Applicant Agent to notify the Member and the Member's eligible Dependents of the termination of coverage. However, coverage will be terminated regardless of whether the notice is given.

Rescission: If it is proven that the Member or the Member's eligible Dependent obtained or attempted to obtain benefits or payment for benefits, through fraud or intentional misrepresentation of material fact, the Claims Administrator, may, upon notice to the Member, terminate the coverage. The Member will receive written notice at least 30 days prior to termination but will have the right to utilize the **Complaint and Appeal Process** to appeal cancellation.

The privilege of conversion is available for the Member and the Member's eligible Dependents except in the following circumstances:

- The Group terminates this Program in favor of group coverage by another organization;
or
 - The Group terminates the Member in anticipation of terminating this Program in favor of group coverage by another organization.
- Notice of Conversion – Written notice of termination and the privilege of conversion to a conversion contract shall be given within 60 days after the date of termination of this Program. Once the Member receives notice and the Member elects a conversion plan, payment for coverage under the conversion contract must be made within 31 days. Evidence of insurability is not required. Upon receipt of this payment, the conversion contract will be effective on the date of the Member's termination under this Program.

Conversion coverage shall not be available if the Member is eligible for another health care program which is available in the Group where the Member is employed or with which the Member is affiliated to the extent that the conversion coverage would result in over-insurance.

If the Member's coverage or the coverage of the Member's eligible dependent terminates because of the Member's death, the Member's change in employment status, divorce of

dependent spouse, or change in a dependent's eligibility status, the terminated Member will be eligible to apply within 31 days of termination (or termination of the continuation privileges under COBRA) to conversion coverage, of the type for which that Member is then qualified at the rate then in effect. This conversion coverage may be different from the coverage provided under this Program. Evidence of insurability is not required.

Continuation Of Coverage At Termination Of Employment Or Membership Due To Total Disability

The Member's protection under this Program may be extended after the date the Member ceases to be a Member under this Program because of termination of employment or membership in the Group. It will be extended if, on that date, the Member is Totally Disabled from an illness or injury. The extension is only for that illness or injury and any related illness or injury. It will be for the time the Member remains Totally Disabled from any such illness or injury, but not beyond 12 months if the Member ceases to be a Member because the Member's coverage under this Program ends.

Coverage under this Program will apply during an extension as if the Member was still a Member. In addition, coverage will apply only to the extent that other coverage for the Covered Services is not provided for the Member through the Claims Administrator by the Group. Continuation of coverage is subject to payment of the applicable premium.

Continuation Of Incapacitated Child

If an unmarried child is incapable of self-support because of mental or physical incapacity and is dependent on the Member (an enrolled Employee) for over half of the child's support, the Member may apply to the Claims Administrator to continue coverage of such child under this Program upon such terms and conditions as the Claims Administrator may determine. Coverage of such Dependent child shall terminate upon the child's marriage. Continuation of benefits under this provision will only apply if the child was eligible as a Dependent and mental or physical incapacity commenced prior to age 26.

The child must be unmarried, incapable of self-support and the disability must have commenced prior to attaining 26 years of age. The disability must be certified by the attending Physician; furthermore, the disability is subject to annual medical review. In a case where a handicapped child is over 26 years of age and joining the Claims Administrator for the first time, the handicapped child must have been covered under the prior Claims Administrator and submit proof from the prior Claims Administrator that the child was covered as a handicapped person.

When The Employee Terminates Employment - Continuation Of Coverage Provisions Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act Of 1985, As Amended (COBRA)

The Employee should contact their Employer for more information about COBRA and the events that may allow the Employee or the Employee's eligible Dependents to temporarily extend health care coverage.

INFORMATION ABOUT PROVIDER REIMBURSEMENT

The Member's Personal Choice Network Plan (this Program) is a program, which allows the Member to maximize the Member's health care benefits by utilizing the Personal Choice Network, which is comprised of Providers that have a contractual arrangement with the Claims Administrator. These Providers are called "In-Network Providers". In-Network Providers are doctors, Hospitals and other health care professionals and institutions that are part of the Personal Choice Network, which is designed to provide access to care through a selected

managed network of Providers. Services by In-Network Providers are delivered through a selected, managed network of Providers designed to provide quality care. The Personal Choice Network includes Hospitals, Primary Care Physicians and specialists, and a wide range of Ancillary Service Providers, including suppliers of Durable Medical Equipment, Hospice care and Home Health Care Agencies, Skilled Nursing Facilities, Free Standing Dialysis Facilities and Ambulatory Surgical Facilities.

When the Member receives health care through a Provider that is a member of the Personal Choice Network, the Member incurs limited out-of-pocket expenses, and there are no claim forms to fill out. Benefits are also provided if the Member chooses to receive health care through a Provider that is not an In-Network Provider. However, the level of benefits will be reduced, and the Member will be responsible for a greater share of out-of-pocket expenses, and the amount of the Member's expenses could be substantial. The Member may have to reach a Deductible before receiving benefits, and the Member may be required to file a claim form.

A directory of the In-Network Providers who belong to the Personal Choice Network is available to the Member upon request. It will identify the Professional Providers who have agreed to become In-Network Professional Providers and will also identify the Hospitals in the Network with which the In-Network Professional Providers are affiliated. Also included in the directory is a listing of the Ancillary Service Providers affiliated with the Personal Choice Network. The directory is updated periodically throughout the year, and the Claims Administrator reserves the right to add or delete Physicians and/or Hospitals at any given time. It is important to know that continued participation of any one doctor, Hospital or other Provider cannot be guaranteed. For information regarding Providers that participate in the Personal Choice Network, call 1-800-ASK BLUE (TTY: 711).

The Claims Administrator covers only care that is "Medically Necessary". Medically Necessary care is care that is needed for the Member's particular condition and that the Member receives at the most appropriate level of service. Examples of different levels of service are Hospital Inpatient care, treatment in Short Procedure Units and Hospital Outpatient Care.

Some of the services the Member receives through this Program must be Precertified before the Member receives them, to determine whether they are Medically Necessary. Failure to Precertify services to be provided by an Out-of-Network Provider, when required, may result in a reduction of benefits. There is a \$1,000 Penalty for failure to preauthorize Inpatient services or treatment, and a 20% reduction in benefits for failure to preauthorize Outpatient services or treatment. Additionally, a 50% reduction in benefits will apply for failure to preauthorize Speech Therapy. Precertification of services is a vital program feature that reviews the Medically Necessary of certain procedures/admissions. In certain cases, Precertification helps determine whether a different treatment may be available that is equally effective. Precertification also helps determine the most appropriate setting for certain services. Innovations in health care enable doctors to provide services, once provided exclusively in an Inpatient setting, in many different settings - such as an Outpatient department of a Hospital or a doctor's office.

When the Member seeks medical treatment that requires Precertification, the Member is not responsible for obtaining the Precertification if treatment is provided by an In-Network Provider (That is, a Provider in the Personal Choice Network). In addition, if the In-Network Provider fails to obtain a required Precertification of services, the Member will be held harmless from any associated financial Penalties assessed by the Program as a result. If the request for Precertification is denied, the Member will be notified in writing that the admission/service will not be paid because it is considered to be medically inappropriate. If the Member decides to

continue treatment or care that has not been approved, the Member will be asked to do the following:

- Acknowledge this in writing.
- Request to have services provided.
- State the Member's willingness to assume financial liability.

When the Member seeks treatment from an Out-of-Network Provider or a BlueCard Provider (excluding Inpatient Admissions), the Member is responsible for initiating the Precertification process. The Member or the Member's Provider should call the Precertification number listed on the Member's Identification Card, and give their name, facility's name, diagnosis, and procedure or reason for admission. Failure to Precertify required services will result in a reduction of benefits payable to the Member.

Payment Of Providers

▪ In-Network Provider Reimbursement

Personal Choice reimbursement programs for health care Providers are intended to encourage the provision of quality, cost-effective care for Personal Choice members. Set forth below is a general description of Personal Choice reimbursement programs, by type of Personal Choice Network health care Provider.

Please note that these programs may change from time to time, and the arrangements with particular Providers may be modified as new contracts are negotiated. If the Member has any questions about how the Member's health care Provider is compensated, the Member should speak to their healthcare Provider directly or contact Customer Services.

– Physicians

Personal Choice Network Physicians, including Primary Care Provider (PCPs) and specialists, are paid on a fee-for-service basis, meaning that payment is made according to the Claims Administrator's Personal Choice fee schedule for the specific medical services that the Physician performs.

– Institutional Providers

Hospitals: For most Inpatient medical and surgical services, Hospitals are paid per diem rates, which are specific amounts paid for each day a Member is in the Hospital. These rates usually vary according to the intensity of the Covered Services provided. Some Hospitals are also paid case rates, which are set dollar amounts paid for a complete Hospital stay related to a specific procedure or diagnosis, (For example, transplants). For most Outpatient and Emergency Services and procedures, most Hospitals are paid specific rates based on the type of Covered Service performed. For a few Covered Services, Hospitals are paid based on a percentage of billed charges. Most Hospitals are paid through a combination of the above payment mechanisms for various services.

The Claims Administrator implemented a quality incentive program with a few Hospitals. This program provides increased reimbursement to these Hospitals based on them meeting specific quality criteria, including "Patient Safety Measures". Such patient safety measures are consistent with recommendations by the President's Advisory Commission on Consumer Protection and Quality in the Health Care Industry and are designed to help reduce medical and medication errors. Other criteria are directed at improved patient outcomes, higher nursing staff ratios, and electronic submissions. This is a new incentive program that is expected to evolve over time.

Skilled Nursing Facilities, Rehabilitation Hospitals, and other care facilities: Most Skilled Nursing Facilities and other special care facilities are paid per diem rates, which are specific amounts paid for each day a Member is in the facility. These amounts may vary according to the intensity of the Covered Services provided.

Ambulatory Surgical Facilities (ASFs): Most ASFs are paid specific rates based on the type of Covered Service performed. For a few services, some ASFs are paid based on a percentage of billed charges.

- Physician Group Practices, Physician Associations and Integrated Delivery Systems Certain Physician group practices, independent physician associations (IPAs) and integrated hospital/physician organizations called Integrated Delivery Systems (IDS) employ or contract with individual Physicians to provide medical services. These groups are paid as described in the Physician's reimbursement section outlined above. These groups may pay their affiliated Physicians a salary and/or provide incentives based on production, quality, service, or other performance standards.
- Ancillary Service Providers, certain Facility Providers and Mental Health/Psychiatric Care and Alcohol Or Drug Abuse And Dependency Providers, Ancillary Service Providers, such as Durable Medical Equipment Providers, laboratory Providers, Home Health Care Agencies, and mental health/psychiatric care and Alcohol and Drug Abuse Providers are paid on the basis of fee-for-service payments according to the Claims Administrator's Personal Choice fee schedule for the specific Covered Services performed. In some cases, such as for mental health/psychiatric care and Alcohol and Drug Abuse benefits, one vendor arranges for all such services through a contracted set of providers. The Claims Administrator reimburses the contracted Providers of these vendors on a fee-for-service basis. An affiliate of Independence Blue Cross has less than a 3% ownership interest in this mental health/psychiatric care and Alcohol and Drug Abuse vendor.

- Payment Methods

A Member or the Provider may submit bills directly to the Claims Administrator, and, to the extent that benefits are payable within the terms and conditions of this Benefit Booklet, reimbursement will be furnished as detailed below. The Member's benefits for Covered Services are based on the rate of reimbursement as set forth under "Covered Expense" in the **Important Definitions** section of this Benefit Booklet.

- Facility Providers
 - In-Network Facility Providers
In-Network Facility Providers are members of the Personal Choice Network and have a contractual arrangement with the Claims Administrator for the provision of services to Members. Benefits will be provided as specified in the **Schedule of Covered Services** for Covered Services which have been performed by an In-Network Facility Provider. The Claims Administrator will compensate In-Network Facility Providers in accordance with the contracts entered into between such Providers and the Claims Administrator. BlueCard Providers will be compensated by the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Plans with which they contract. No payment will be made directly to the Member for Covered Services rendered by any In-Network Facility Provider.

- **Out-of-Network Facility Providers**
Out-of-Network Facility Providers include facilities that are not part of the Personal Choice Network. The Claims Administrator may have a contractual arrangement with a facility even if it is not part of the Personal Choice Network.

The Claims Administrator will provide benefits for Covered Services provided by an Out-of-Network Facility Provider at the Out-of-Network Coinsurance level specified in the **Schedule of Covered Services**. The reimbursement rate is specified under "Covered Expense" in the **Important Definitions** section of this Benefit Booklet.

If the Claims Administrator determines that Covered Services were for Emergency Care as defined herein, the Member normally will not be subject to the cost-sharing Penalties that would ordinarily be applicable to Out-of-Network services. Emergency admissions must be certified within two business days of admission, or as soon as reasonably possible, as determined by the Claims Administrator. Payment for Emergency Services provided by Out-of-Network Providers will be the greater of:

- ❖ The median of the amounts paid to In-Network Providers for Emergency Services;
- ❖ The amount paid to Out-of-Network Facility Providers; or
- ❖ The amount paid by Medicare.

Once Covered Services are rendered by a Facility Provider, the Claims Administrator will not honor a Member's request not to pay for claims submitted by the Facility Provider. The Member will have no liability to any person because of its rejection of the request.

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- **Professional Providers**
 - **In-Network Providers**

The Claims Administrator is authorized by the Member to make payment directly to the In-Network Professional Providers furnishing Covered Services for which benefits are provided under this Program. In-Network Professional Providers have agreed to accept the rate of reimbursement determined by a contract as payment in full for Covered Services. BlueCard Providers will be compensated by the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Plans with which they contract. In-Network Professional Providers will make no additional charge to Members for Covered Services except in the case of certain Copayments, Coinsurance or other cost-sharing features as specified under this Program. The Member is responsible within 60 days of the date in which the Claims Administrator finalizes such services to pay, or make arrangements to pay, such amounts to the In-Network Professional Provider.

Benefit amounts, as specified in the **Schedule of Covered Services** of this Program, refer to Covered Services rendered by a Professional Provider which are regularly included in such Provider's charges and are billed by and payable to such Provider. Any dispute between the In-Network Professional Provider and a Member with respect to balance billing shall be submitted to the Claims Administrator for determination. The decision of the Claims Administrator shall be final.

Once Covered Services are rendered by a Professional Provider, the Claims Administrator will not honor a Member's request not to pay for claims submitted by the Professional Provider. The Claims Administrator will have no liability to any person because of its rejection of the request.

- **Emergency Care by Out-of-Network Providers**
 If the Claims Administrator determines that Covered Services provided by an Out-of-Network Provider were for Emergency Care, the Member will be subject to the In-Network cost-sharing levels. Penalties that ordinarily would be applicable to Out-of-Network Covered Services will not be applied. For Emergency Care, the Claims Administrator will reimburse the Member for Covered Services at the Out-of-Network Provider reimbursement rate. However, if Emergency Care is provided by certain Out-of-Network Providers (For example, ambulance services), in accordance with applicable law, the Claims Administrator will reimburse the Out-of-Network Provider at an In-Network rate directly. In this instance the specified Out-of-Network Provider will not bill the Member for amounts in excess of the Claims Administrator's payment for the Emergency Care. For payment of Covered Services provided by an Out-of-Network Provider, please refer to the definition of "Covered Expense" in the **Important Definitions** section of this Benefit Booklet. Inpatient admissions for Emergency Care must be certified within two business days of admission, or as soon as reasonably possible, as determined by the Claims Administrator. Payment for Emergency Services provided by Out-of-Network Providers will be the greater of:
 - ❖ The median of the amounts paid to In-Network Providers for Emergency Services;
 - ❖ The amount paid to Out-of-Network Professional Providers; or
 - ❖ The amount paid by Medicare.

An Out-of-Network Provider who provided Emergency Care can bill the Member directly for their services, for either the Provider's charges or amounts in excess of the Claims Administrator's payment for the Emergency Care, (That is, balance billing). In such situations, the Member will need to contact the Claims Administrator at the Customer Service telephone number listed on the Member's I.D. card. Upon such notification, the Claims Administrator will resolve the balance-billing.

- **Out-of-Network Hospital-Based Provider Reimbursement**
 When the Member receives Covered Services from an Out-of-Network Hospital-Based Provider while the Member is an Inpatient at an In-Network Hospital or other In-Network Facility Provider and are being treated by an In-Network Professional Provider, the Member will receive the In-Network cost-sharing level of benefits for the Covered Services provided by the Out-of-Network Hospital-Based Provider. For such Covered Services, payment will be made to the Member, who will be responsible for reimbursing the Out-of-Network Hospital-Based Provider. For payment of Covered Services provided by an Out-of-Network Professional Provider, please refer to the definition of "Covered Expense" in the **Important Definitions** section of this Benefit Booklet.

An Out-of-Network Hospital-Based Provider can bill the Member directly for their services, for either the Provider's charges or amounts in excess of the Claims Administrator's payment to the Out-of-Network Hospital-Based Providers, (That is, balance billing). In such situations, the Member will need to contact the Claims Administrator at the Customer Service telephone number listed on the Member's I.D. card. Upon such notification, the Claims Administrator will resolve the balance billing.

Note that when the Member elects to see an Out-of-Network Hospital-Based Provider for follow-up care or any other service where the Member has the ability to

select an In-Network Provider, the Covered Services will be covered at an Out-of-Network benefit level. Except for Emergency Care, if an Out-of-Network Provider admits the Member to a Hospital or other Facility Provider, Covered Services provided by an Out-of-Network Hospital-Based Provider will be reimbursed at the Out-of-Network benefit level. For such Covered Services, payment will be made to the Member and the Member will be responsible for reimbursing the Out-of-Network Hospital-Based Provider. For payment of Covered Services provided by an Out-of-Network Professional Provider, please refer to the definition of "Covered Expense" in the **Important Definitions** section of this Benefit Booklet.

- **Inpatient Hospital Consultations by an Out-of-Network Professional Provider**
When the Member receives Covered Services for an Inpatient hospital consultation from an Out-of-Network Professional Provider while the Member is Inpatient at an In-Network Facility Provider, and the Covered Services are referred by an In-Network Professional Provider, the Member will receive the In-Network cost-sharing level of benefits for the Inpatient hospital consultation.

For such Covered Services, payment will be made to the Member and the Member will be responsible for reimbursing the Out-of-Network Professional Provider. For payment of Covered Services provided by an Out-of-Network Professional Provider, please refer to the definition of "Covered Expense" in the **Important Definitions** section of this Benefit Booklet.

An Out-of-Network Professional Provider can bill the Member directly for their services, for either the Provider's charges or amounts in excess of the Claims Administrator's payment to the Out-of-Network Professional Providers, (That is, balance billing). In such situations, the Member will need to contact the Claims Administrator at the Customer Service telephone number listed on the Member's I.D. card. Upon such notification, the Claims Administrator will resolve the balance billing.

Note that when the Member elects to see an Out-of-Network Professional Provider for follow-up care or any other service when the Member has the ability to select an In-Network Provider, the Covered Services will be covered at an Out-of-Network benefit level. Except for Emergency Care, if an Out-of-Network Professional Provider admits the Member to a Hospital or other Facility Provider, services provided by Out-of-Network Professional Provider will be reimbursed at the Out-of-Network benefit level. For such Covered Services, payment will be made to the Member and the Member will be responsible for reimbursing the Out-of-Network Professional Provider. For payment of Covered Services provided by an Out-of-Network Professional Provider, please refer to the definition of "Covered Expense" in the **Important Definitions** section of this Benefit Booklet.

- **Out-of-Network Professional Provider Reimbursement**
Except as set forth above, when a Member seeks care from an Out-of-Network Professional Provider, benefits will be provided to the Member at the Out-of-Network Coinsurance level specified in the **Schedule of Covered Services**. For payment of Covered Services provided by an Out-of-Network Professional Provider, please refer to the definition of "Covered Expense" in the **Important Definitions** section of this Benefit Booklet. When a Member seeks care and receives Covered Services from an Out-of-Network Professional Provider, the Member will be responsible to reimburse

the Out-of-Network Professional Provider for the difference between the Claims Administrator's payment and the Out-of-Network Professional Provider's charge.

- Ancillary Service Providers
 - In-Network Ancillary Service Providers

In-Network Ancillary Service Providers include members of the Personal Choice Network that have a contractual relationship with the Claims Administrator for the provision of services or supplies to Members. Benefits will be provided as specified in the **Schedule of Covered Services** for the provision of services or supplies provided to Members by In-Network Ancillary Service Providers. The Claims Administrator will compensate In-Network Ancillary Service Providers in the Personal Choice Network in accordance with the contracts entered into between such Providers and the Claims Administrator. No payment will be made directly to the Member for Covered Services rendered by any In-Network Ancillary Service Provider.
 - Out-of-Network Ancillary Service Providers

Out-of-Network Ancillary Service Providers are not members of the Personal Choice Network. Benefits will be provided to the Member at the Out-of-Network Coinsurance level specified in the **Schedule of Covered Services**. The Member will be penalized by the application of higher cost-sharing as detailed in the **Schedule of Covered Services**. For payment of Covered Services provided by an Out-of-Network Ancillary Service Provider, please refer to the definition of "Covered Expense" in the **Important Definitions** section of this Benefit Booklet. When a Member seeks care and receives Covered Services from an Out-of-Network Ancillary Service Provider, the Member will be responsible to reimburse the Out-of-Network Ancillary Service Provider for the difference between the Claims Administrator's payment and the Out-of-Network Ancillary Service Provider's charge.
- Assignment of Benefits to Providers

The right of a Member to receive benefit payments under this Program is personal to the Member and is not assignable in whole or in part to any person, Hospital, or other entity nor may benefits of this Program be transferred, either before or after Covered Services are rendered. However, a Member can assign benefit payments to the custodial parent of a Dependent covered under this Program, as required by law.

BlueCard Program

- Out-of-Area Services

Overview

The Claims Administrator has a variety of relationships with other Blue Cross and/or Blue Shield Licensees. Generally, these relationships are called "Inter-Plan Arrangements." These Inter-Plan Arrangements work based on rules and procedures issued by the Blue Cross Blue Shield Association ("Association"). Whenever the Member accesses healthcare services outside of the geographic area the Claims Administrator serves, the claims for these services may be processed through one of these Inter-Plan Arrangements. The Inter-Plan Arrangements are described below.

When the Member receives care outside of the Claims Administrator's service area, the Member will receive it from one of two kinds of providers. Most providers ("participating

providers") contract with the local Blue Cross and/or Blue Shield Licensee in that other geographic area ("Host Blue"). Some providers ("nonparticipating providers") don't contract with the Host Blue. The Claims Administrator explains below how the Claims Administrator pays both kinds of providers.

Inter-Plan Arrangements Eligibility - Claim Types

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

- BlueCard® Program

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

When the Member receives Covered Services outside the Claims Administrator's service area and the claim is processed through the BlueCard Program, the amount the Member pays for Covered Services is calculated based on the lower of:

- The billed charges for Covered Services; or
- The negotiated price that the Host Blue makes available to the Claims Administrator.

Often this "negotiated price" will be a simple discount that reflects an actual price that the Host Blue pays to the Member's healthcare provider. Sometimes, it is an estimated price that takes into account special arrangements with the Member's healthcare provider or provider group that may include types of settlements, incentive payments and/or other credits or charges. Occasionally, it may be an average price, based on a discount that results in expected average savings for similar types of healthcare providers after taking into account the same types of transactions as with an estimated price.

Estimated pricing and average pricing also take into account adjustments to correct for over- or underestimation of past pricing of claims, as noted above. However, such adjustments will not affect the price the Claims Administrator has used for the Member's claim because they will not be applied after a claim has already been paid.

- Special Cases: Value-Based Programs

BlueCard® Program

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

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

If the Claims Administrator has entered into a Negotiated Arrangement with a Host Blue to provide Value-Based Programs to the Group on the Member's behalf, the Claims Administrator will follow the same procedures for Value-Based Programs administration and Care Coordinator Fees as noted above for the BlueCard Program.

– Nonparticipating Providers Outside the Claims Administrator's Service Area

➤ Member Liability Calculation

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

➤ Exceptions

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

– Blue Cross Blue Shield Global Core

If the Member is outside the United States, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands (hereinafter "BlueCard service area"), the Member may be able to take advantage of the Blue Cross Blue Shield Global Core when accessing Covered Services. The Blue Cross Blue Shield Global Core is unlike the BlueCard Program available in the BlueCard service area in certain ways. For instance, although the Blue Cross Blue Shield Global Core assists the Member with accessing a network of inpatient, outpatient and professional providers, the network is not served by a Host Blue. As such, when the Member receives care from providers outside the BlueCard service area, the Member will typically have to pay the providers and submit the claims themselves to obtain reimbursement for these services.

If the Member needs medical assistance services (including locating a doctor or hospital) outside the BlueCard service area, the Member should call the Blue Cross Blue Shield Global Core Service Center at 1.800.810.BLUE (TTY: 711) or call collect at 1.804.673.1177 (TTY: 711), 24 hours a day, seven days a week. An assistance coordinator, working with a medical professional, can arrange a physician appointment or hospitalization, if necessary.

➤ Inpatient Services

In most cases, if the Member contacts the service center for assistance, hospitals will not require the Member to pay for covered inpatient services, except for the Member's deductibles, coinsurance, etc. In such cases, the hospital will submit the

Member's claims to the service center to begin claims processing. However, if the Member paid in full at the time of service, the Member must submit a claim to receive reimbursement for Covered Services. **The Member must contact the Claims Administrator to obtain precertification for non-emergency inpatient services.**

- **Outpatient Services**
Physicians, urgent care centers and other outpatient providers located outside the BlueCard service area will typically require the Member to pay in full at the time of service. The Member must submit a claim to obtain reimbursement for Covered Services.

SERVICES AND SUPPLIES REQUIRING PRECERTIFICATION

Precertification Review

When required, Precertification review evaluates the Medical Necessity, including the appropriateness of the setting, of proposed services for coverage under the Member's benefit plan. Examples of these services include planned or elective Inpatient Admissions and selected Outpatient procedures. For groups located in the Personal Choice Network service area, Precertification review may be initiated by the Provider or the Member depending on whether the Provider is a Personal Choice Network Provider. For Member's located outside the Claims Administrator's Personal Choice Network who are accessing BlueCard Providers, the Member is responsible for initiating or requesting the Provider to initiate the Precertification review excluding Inpatient Admissions. Where Precertification review is required, the Claims Administrator's coverage of the proposed procedure is contingent upon the review being completed and receipt of the approval certification. Coverage penalties may be applied where Precertification review is required for a procedure but is not obtained.

While the majority of services requiring Precertification review are reviewed for Medical Necessity of the requested procedure setting (For example, Inpatient, Short Procedure Unit, or Outpatient setting), other elements of the Medical Necessity of the procedure may not always be evaluated and may be automatically approved based on the procedure or diagnosis for which the procedure is requested or an agreement with the performing provider. Precertification review is not required for Emergency services and is not performed where an agreement with the Claims Administrator's local In-Network Provider does not require such review.

The following information provides more specific information of this Program's Precertification requirements.

- **Inpatient Pre-Admission Review**
 - **In-Network Inpatient Admissions**
In accordance with the criteria and procedures described above, Inpatient Admissions, other than an Emergency or maternity admission, must be Precertified in accordance with the standards of the Claims Administrator as to the Medical Necessity of the admission. The Precertification requirements for Emergency admissions are set forth in the "Emergency Admission Review" subsection of this **General Information** section. An In-Network Hospital, Skilled Nursing Facility, or other Facility Provider in the Personal Choice Network will verify the Precertification at or before the time of admission. The Hospital, Skilled Nursing Facility or other Facility Provider, is responsible to Precertify an Inpatient Admission under the BlueCard Program. The Claims Administrator will not authorize the Hospital, Skilled Nursing Facility or other Facility Provider admission if

Precertification is required and is not obtained in advance. For Member's who reside in the Claims Administrator's local Personal Choice Network service area, the Claims Administrator will hold the Member harmless and the Member will not be financially responsible for admissions to Hospitals, Skilled Nursing Facilities or other Facility Providers in the Personal Choice Network which fail to conform to the pre-admission certification requirements unless:

- The Provider provides prior written notice that the admission will not be paid by the Claims Administrator; and
- The Member acknowledges this fact in writing together with a request to be admitted which states that the Member will assume financial liability for such Facility Provider admission.

– Out-of-Network Inpatient Admissions

For an Out-of-Network Inpatient Admission, the Member is responsible to have the admission (other than for an Emergency or maternity admission) certified in advance as an approved admission.

- To obtain Precertification, the Member is responsible to contact or have the admitting Physician or other Facility Provider contact the Claims Administrator prior to admission to the Hospital, Skilled Nursing Facility, or other Facility Provider. The Claims Administrator will notify the Member, admitting Physician and the Facility Provider of the determination. The Member is eligible for Inpatient benefits at the Out-of-Network level shown in the **Schedule of Covered Services** if, and only if, prior approval of such benefits has been certified in accordance with the provisions of this Benefit Booklet.
- If such prior approval for a Medically Necessary Inpatient Admission has not been certified as required, there will be a Penalty for non-compliance and the amount, as shown below, will be deemed not to be Covered Services under this Program. Such Penalty, and any difference in what is covered by the Claims Administrator and the Member's obligation to the Provider, will be the sole responsibility of, and payable by, the Member.

If a Member elects to be admitted to the Facility Provider after review and notification that the reason for admission is not approved for an Inpatient level of care, Inpatient benefits will not be provided and the Member will be financially liable for non-covered Inpatient charges.

- If Precertification is denied, the Member, the Physician or the Facility Provider may Appeal the determination and submit information in support of the claim for Inpatient benefits. A final determination concerning eligibility for Inpatient benefits will be made and the Member, Physician, or Facility Provider will be so notified.

▪ Emergency Admission Review

– In-Network Admissions

It is the responsibility of the In-Network Provider to notify the Claims Administrator of the In-Network Emergency admission.

– Out-of-Network Provider Admissions

- Members are responsible for notifying the Claims Administrator of an Out-of-Network Provider Emergency admission within two business days of the admission, or as soon as reasonably possible, as determined by the Claims Administrator.

- Failure to initiate Emergency admission review will result in a reduction in Covered Expense for Out-of-Network services. Such Penalty, as shown below, will be the sole responsibility of, and payable by, the Member.
 - If the Member elects to remain hospitalized after the Claims Administrator and the attending Physician have determined that an Inpatient level of care is not Medically Necessary, the Member will be financially liable for non-covered Inpatient charges from the date of notification.
- Concurrent and Retrospective Review
 Concurrent review may be performed while services are being performed. This may occur during an Inpatient stay and typically evaluates the expected and current length of stay to determine if continued hospitalization is Medically Necessary. When performed, the review assesses the level of care provided to the Member and coordinates discharge planning. Concurrent review continues until the patient is discharged. Not all Inpatient stays are reviewed concurrently. Concurrent Review is generally not performed where an Inpatient Facility is paid based on a per case or diagnosis-related basis, or where an agreement with the Facility does not require such review.

Retrospective/Post Service review:

Retrospective review occurs after services have been provided. This may be for a variety of reasons, including the Claims Administrator not being notified of a Member's admission until after discharge or where medical charts are unavailable at the time of concurrent review. Certain services are only reviewed on a retrospective/post-service basis.

In addition to these standard utilization reviews, the Claims Administrator also may determine coverage of certain procedures and other benefits available to Members through Prenotification as required by the Member's benefit plan, and discharge planning.

Pre-notification. Pre-notification is advance notification to the Claims Administrator of an Inpatient Admission or Outpatient service where no Medical Necessity review is required, such as maternity admissions/deliveries. Pre-notification is primarily used to identify Members for Concurrent review needs, to ascertain discharge planning needs proactively, and to identify Members who may benefit from Case Management programs.

Discharge Planning. Discharge Planning is performed during an Inpatient Admission and is used to identify and coordinate a Member's needs and benefits coverage following the Inpatient stay, such as covered home care, ambulance transport, acute rehabilitation, or Skilled Nursing Facility placement. Discharge Planning involves the Claims Administrator's authorization of covered post-Hospital services and identifying and referring Members to Disease Management or Case Management benefits.

Selective Medical Review. In addition to the foregoing requirements, the Claims Administrator reserves the right, under its utilization and quality management programs, to perform a medical review prior to, during or following the performance of certain Covered Services ("Selective Medical Review") that are otherwise not subject to review as described above. In addition, the Claims Administrator reserves the right to waive medical review for certain Covered Services for certain Providers, if the Claims Administrator determines that those Providers have an established record of meeting the utilization and/or quality management standards for these Covered Services. Coverage penalties are not applied to Members where required Selective Medical Review is not obtained by the Provider.

Other Precertification Requirements

Precertification is required by the Claims Administrator in advance for certain services. **To obtain a list of services that require Precertification, please log on to www.ibxpress.com or call the Customer Service telephone number that is listed on the Member's Identification Card.** When a Member plans to receive any of these listed procedures, the Claims Administrator will review the Medical Necessity for the procedure or treatment in accordance with the criteria and procedures described above and grant prior approval of benefits accordingly.

Surgical, diagnostic and other procedures, listed on the Precertification requirements list, that are performed during an Emergency, as determined by the Claims Administrator, do not require Precertification. However, the Claims Administrator should be notified within two business days of Emergency services for such procedures, or as soon as reasonably possible, as determined by the Claims Administrator.

- In-Network Care

In-Network Providers in the Personal Choice Network must contact the Claims Administrator to initiate Precertification. The Claims Administrator will verify the results of the Precertification with the Member and with the In-Network Provider. If the In-Network Provider is a BlueCard Provider, however, the Member must initiate Precertification excluding Inpatient Admissions.

If such prior approval is not obtained and the Member undergoes the surgical, diagnostic or other procedure or treatment that requires Precertification, then benefits will be provided for Medically Necessary treatment, subject to a Penalty.

For In-Network Providers in the Personal Choice Network, the Claims Administrator will hold the Member harmless and the Member will not be financially responsible for this financial Penalty for the In-Network Provider's failure to comply with the Precertification requirements or determination, unless a Member elects to receive the treatment after review and written notification that the procedure is not covered as Medically Necessary. In which case benefits will not be provided and the Member will be financially liable for non-covered charges.

- Out-of-Network Care

For Out-of-Network Care and care provided by BlueCard Providers (excluding Inpatient Admissions), the Member is responsible to have the Provider performing the service contact the Claims Administrator to initiate Precertification. The Claims Administrator will verify the results of the Precertification with the Member and the Provider.

If such prior approval is not obtained and the Member undergoes the surgical, diagnostic or other procedure or treatment that requires Precertification, then benefits will be provided for Medically Necessary treatment, but the Provider's charge less any applicable Coinsurance, Copayments, Deductibles shall be subject to a Penalty, as reflected below. Such Penalty, and any difference in what is covered by the Claims Administrator and the Member's obligation to the Provider, will be the sole responsibility of, and payable by, the Member.

Precertification Penalty:

The Member may be responsible for financial penalties if the Member does not preauthorize services when the Member uses a BlueCard® PPO Provider excluding Inpatient Admissions, or an Out-of-Network Provider. There is a \$1,000 Penalty for failure to preauthorize Inpatient services or treatment, and a 20% reduction in benefits for failure to preauthorize Outpatient services or treatment. Additionally, a 50% reduction in benefits will apply for failure to preauthorize Speech Therapy.

Disease Management and Decision Support Programs

Disease Management and Decision Support programs help Members to be effective partners in their health care by providing information and support to Members with certain chronic conditions as well as those with everyday health concerns. Disease Management is a systematic, population-based approach that involves identifying Members with certain chronic diseases, intervening with specific information or support to follow Provider's treatment plan, and measuring clinical and other outcomes. Decision Support involves identifying Members who may be facing certain treatment option decisions and offering them information to assist in informed, collaborative decisions with their Physicians. Decision Support also includes the availability of general health information, personal health coaching, Provider information, or other programs to assist in health care decisions.

Disease Management interventions are designed to help Members manage their chronic condition in partnership with their Physician(s). Disease Management programs, when successful, can help such Members avoid long term complications, as well as relapses that would otherwise result in Hospital or Emergency room care. Disease Management programs also include outreach to Members to obtain needed preventive services, or other services recommended for chronic conditions. Information and support may occur in the form of telephonic health coaching, print, audio library or videotape, or Internet formats.

The Claims Administrator will utilize medical information such as claims data to operate the Disease Management or Decision Support program, (For example, to identify Members with chronic disease, to predict which Members would most likely benefit from these services, and to communicate results to the Member's treating Physician(s)). The Claims Administrator will decide what chronic conditions are included in the Disease Management or Decision Support program.

Participation by a Member in Disease Management or Decision Support programs is voluntary. A Member may continue in the Disease Management or Decision Support program until any of the following occurs:

- The Member notifies the Claims Administrator that they have declined participation;
- The Claims Administrator determines that the program, or aspects of the program, will not continue; or
- The Member's Employer decides not to offer the programs.

Out-Of-Area Care for Dependent Students

If an unmarried Dependent child is a full-time student in an Accredited Educational Institution located outside the area served by the Personal Choice Network, the student may be eligible to receive Out-of-Network care at the In-Network level of benefits. Charges for treatment will be paid at the In-Network level of benefits when the Dependent student receives care from Providers as described in the "BlueCard Program" subsection of the **General Information**

section. However, treatment provided by an educational facility's infirmary for Urgent Care, (For example, may also be paid at the In-Network level of benefits, but the Claims Administrator should be notified within 48 hours of treatment to insure Covered Services are treated as In-Network Covered Services). Nothing in this provision will act to continue coverage of a Dependent child past the date when such child's coverage would otherwise be terminated under this Program.

UTILIZATION REVIEW PROCESS AND CRITERIA

Utilization Review Process

A basic condition of IBC's, and its subsidiary QCC Insurance Company's ("the Claims Administrator") benefit plan coverage is that in order for a health care service to be covered or payable, the services must be Medically Necessary. To assist the Claims Administrator in making coverage determinations for requested health care services, the Claims Administrator uses established IBC Medical Policies and medical guidelines based on clinically credible evidence to determine the Medical Necessity of the requested services. The appropriateness of the requested setting in which the services are to be performed is part of this assessment. The process of determining the Medical Necessity of requested health care services for coverage determinations based on the benefits available under a Member's benefit plan is called utilization review.

It is not practical to verify Medical Necessity on all procedures on all occasions; therefore, certain procedures may be determined by the Claims Administrator to be Medically Necessary and automatically approved based on the accepted Medical Necessity of the procedure itself, the diagnosis reported or an agreement with the performing Provider. An example of such automatically approved services is an established list of services received in an Emergency room which has been approved by the Claims Administrator based on the procedure meeting Emergency criteria and the severity of diagnosis reported (For example, rule out myocardial infarction, or major trauma). Other requested services, such as certain elective Inpatient or Outpatient procedures may be reviewed on a procedure specific or setting basis.

Utilization review generally includes several components which are based on when the review is performed. When the review is required before a service is performed it is called a Precertification review. Reviews occurring during a hospital stay are called a concurrent review, and those reviews occurring after services have been performed are called either retrospective or post-service reviews. The Claims Administrator follows applicable state and federally required standards for the timeframes in which such reviews are to be performed.

Generally, where a requested service is not automatically approved and must undergo Medical Necessity review, nurses perform the initial case review and evaluation for coverage approval using the Claims Administrator's Medical Policies, established guidelines and evidence-based clinical criteria and protocols; however only a Medical Director employed by the Claims Administrator may deny coverage for a procedure based on Medical Necessity. The evidence-based clinical protocols evaluate the Medical Necessity of specific procedures and the majority are computer-based. Information provided in support of the request is entered into the computer-based system and evaluated against the clinical protocols. Nurses apply applicable benefit plan policies and procedures, taking into consideration the individual Member's condition and applying sound professional judgment. When the clinical criteria are not met, the given service request is referred to a Medical Director for further review for approval or denial. Independent medical consultants may also be engaged to provide clinical review of specific cases or for specific conditions. Should a procedure be denied for coverage based on lack of

Medical Necessity, a letter is sent to the requesting Provider and Member in accordance with applicable law.

The Claims Administrator's utilization review program encourages peer dialogue regarding coverage decisions based on Medical Necessity by providing Physicians with direct access to the Claims Administrator's Medical Directors to discuss coverage of a case. Medical Directors and nurses are salaried, and contracted external Physician and other professional consultants are compensated on a per case reviewed basis, regardless of the coverage determination. The Claims Administrator does not specifically reward or provide financial incentives to individuals performing utilization review services for issuing denials of coverage. There are no financial incentives for such individuals which would encourage utilization review decisions that result in underutilization.

Clinical Criteria, Guidelines and Resources

The following guidelines, clinical criteria and other resources are used to help make Medical Necessity coverage decisions:

Clinical Decision Support Criteria: Clinical Decision Support Criteria is an externally validated and computer-based system used to assist the Claims Administrator in determining Medical Necessity. This evidence-based, Clinical Decision Support Criteria is nationally recognized and validated. Using a model based on evaluating intensity of service and severity of illness, these criteria assist our clinical staff evaluating the Medical Necessity of coverage based on a Member's specific clinical needs. Clinical Decision Support Criteria helps promote consistency in the Claims Administrator's plan determinations for similar medical issues and requests, and reduces practice variation among the Claims Administrator's clinical staff to minimize subjective decision-making.

Clinical Decision Support Criteria may be applied for Covered Services including but not limited to the following:

- Some elective surgeries-settings for Inpatient and Outpatient procedures (For example, hysterectomy and sinus Surgery);
- Inpatient hospitalizations;
- Inpatient Rehabilitation;
- Home Health;
- Durable Medical Equipment;
- Skilled Nursing Facility.

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) Guidelines: A set of guidelines adopted and published by CMS for coverage of services by Medicare for Medicare Members.

IBC Medical Policies: IBC maintains an internally developed set of policies that document the coverage and conditions for certain medical/surgical procedures and ancillary services.

Covered Services for which IBC's Medical Policies are applied include, but are not limited to:

- Ambulance;
- Infusion;
- Speech Therapy;
- Occupational Therapy;
- Durable Medical Equipment;
- Review of potential cosmetic procedures.

IBC (and QCC) Internally Developed Guidelines: A set of guidelines developed specifically by IBC (and QCC), as needed, with input by clinical experts based on accepted practice guidelines within the specific fields and reflecting IBC Medical Policies for coverage.

Delegation of Utilization Review Activities And Criteria

In certain instances, the Claims Administrator has delegated certain utilization review activities, including Precertification review, concurrent review, and Case Management, to integrated delivery systems and/or entities with an expertise in medical management of a certain membership population (such as, Neonates/premature infants) or type of benefit or service (such as mental health/psychiatric care and Alcohol and Drug Abuse or radiology). In such instances, a formal delegation and oversight process is established in accordance with applicable law and nationally-recognized accreditation standards. In such cases, the delegate's utilization review criteria are generally used, with the Claims Administrator's approval.

Utilization Review and Criteria for Mental Health/Psychiatric Care and Alcohol and Drug Abuse Services

Utilization Review activities for mental health/psychiatric care and Alcohol and Drug Abuse services have been delegated by IBC (and QCC) to a behavioral health management company, which administers the mental health/psychiatric care and Alcohol and Drug Abuse benefits for the majority of the Claims Administrator's Members.

COORDINATION OF BENEFITS

Coordination of Benefits

This Program's Coordination of Benefits (COB) provision is designed to conserve funds associated with health care.

▪ Definitions

In addition to the Definitions of this Program for purposes of this provision only:

"Plan" shall mean any group arrangement providing health care benefits or Covered Services through:

- Individual, group, (except hospital indemnity plans of less than \$200), blanket (except student accident) or franchise insurance coverage;
- The Plan, health maintenance organization and other prepayment coverage;
- Coverage under labor management trusted plans, union welfare plans, Employer organization plans, or Employee benefit organization plans; and
- Coverage under any tax supported or government program to the extent permitted by law.

▪ Determination of Benefits

COB applies when an Employee has health care coverage under any other group health care plan (Plan) for services covered under this Program, or when the Employee has coverage under any tax-supported or governmental program unless such program's benefits are, to the extent permitted by law, excess to those of any private insurance coverage.

When COB applies, payments may be coordinated between the Claims Administrator and the other Plan in order to avoid duplication of benefits.

Benefits under this Program will be provided in full when the Claims Administrator is primary, that is, when the Claims Administrator determines benefits first. If another Plan is primary, the Claims Administrator will provide benefits as described below.

When an Employee has group health care coverage under this Program and another Plan, the following will apply to determine which coverage is primary:

- If the other Plan does not include rules for coordinating benefits, such other Plan will be primary.

- If the other Plan includes rules for coordinating benefits:
 - The Plan covering the patient other than as a Dependent shall be primary.
 - The Plan covering the patient as a Dependent of the parent whose date of birth, excluding year of birth, occurs earlier in the calendar year shall be primary, unless the child's parents are separated or divorced and there is no joint custody agreement. If both parents have the same birthday, the Plan which covered the parent longer shall be primary. However, if the other Plan does not have the birthday rule as described herein, but instead has a rule based on the gender of the parent, and if as a result, the Plans do not agree on the order of benefits, the rule in the other Plan shall control unless the child's parents are separated or divorced.
 - Except as provided in the following paragraph, if the child's parents are separated or divorced and there is no joint custody agreement, benefits for the child are determined as follows.
 - ❖ First, the Plan covering the child as a Dependent of the parent with custody;
 - ❖ Then, the Plan of the spouse of the parent with custody of the child;
 - ❖ Finally, the Plan of the parent not having custody of the child.
 - When there is a court decree which establishes financial responsibility for the health care expenses of the Dependent child and the Plan covering the parent with such financial responsibility has actual knowledge of the court decree, benefits of that Plan are determined first.
 - If the specific terms of the court decree state that the parents shall share joint custody, without stating that one of the parents is responsible for the health care expenses of the child, the Plans covering the child shall follow the order of benefit determination rules outlined above in the paragraph that begins "The Plan covering the patient as a Dependent..."
- The Plan covering the patient as an Employee who is neither laid off nor retired (or as that Employee's Dependent) is primary to a Plan which covers that patient as a laid off or retired Employee (or as that Employee's Dependent). However, if the other Plan does not have the rule described immediately above and if, as a result, the Plans do not agree on the order of benefits, this rule does not apply.
- If none of the above rules apply, the Plan which covered the Employee longer shall be primary.

▪ Effect on Benefits

When the Claims Administrator's Plan is secondary, the benefits under this Program will be reduced so that the Claims Administrator will pay no more than the difference, if any, between the benefits provided under the other Plan for services covered under this Program and the total Covered Services provided to the Employee. Benefits payable under another Plan include benefits that would have been payable had the claim been duly made therefore. In no event will the Claims Administrator payment exceed the amount that would have been payable under this Program if the Claims Administrator were primary.

When the benefits are reduced under the primary Plan because an Employee does not comply with the Plan provision, or does not maximize benefits available under the primary Plan, the amount of such reduction will not be considered an allowable benefit. Examples of such provisions are Penalties and increased Coinsurance related to Precertification of admissions and services, In-Network Provider arrangements and other cost-sharing features.

Certain facts are needed to apply COB. The Claims Administrator has the right to decide which facts are needed. The Claims Administrator may, without consent of or notice to any

person, release to or obtain from any other organization or person any information, with respect to any person, which the Claims Administrator deems necessary for such purposes. Any person claiming benefits under this Program shall furnish to the Claims Administrator such information as may be necessary to implement this provision. The Claims Administrator, however, shall not be required to determine the existence of any other Plan or the amount of benefits payable under any such Plan, and the payment of benefits under this Program shall be affected by the benefits that would be payable under any and all other Plans only to the extent that the Claims Administrator is furnished with information relative to such other Plans.

- **Right of Recovery**

Whenever paymentst which should have been made under this Program in accordance with this provision have been made under any other Plan, the Claims Administrator shall have the right, exercisable alone and in its sole discretion, to pay over to any organization making such other payments any amounts it shall determine to be warranted in order to satisfy the intent of this provision. Amounts so paid shall be deemed to be benefits provided under this Program and, to the extent of such payments, the Claims Administrator shall be fully discharged from liability under this Program.

Whenever payments have been made by the Claims Administrator in a total amount, at any time, in excess of the maximum amount of payment necessary at that time to satisfy the intent of this provision, irrespective of to whom paid, the Claims Administrator shall have the right to recover such payments to the extent of such excess from among one or more of the following, as the Claims Administrator shall determine:

- The person the Claims Administrator has paid or for whom they have paid;
- Insurance companies; or
- Any other organizations.

The Member, on the Member's own behalf and on behalf of the Member's Dependents shall, upon request, execute and deliver such instruments and papers as may be required and do whatever else is reasonably necessary to secure such rights to the Claims Administrator.

SUBROGATION AND REIMBURSEMENT RIGHTS

By accepting benefits for Covered Services, the Member agrees that the Claims Administrator has the right to enforce subrogation and reimbursement rights. This section explains these rights and the responsibilities of each Member pertaining to subrogation and reimbursement. The term Member includes Eligible Dependents. The term Responsible Third Party refers to any person or entity, including any insurance company, health benefits plan or other third party, that has an obligation (whether by contract, common law or otherwise) to pay damages, pay compensation, provide benefits or make any type of payment to the Member for an injury or illness.

The Claims Administrator or the Plan Administrator, as applicable, retains full discretionary authority to interpret and apply these subrogation and reimbursement rights based on the facts presented.

Subrogation Rights

Subrogation rights arise when the Claims Administrator pays benefits on behalf of a Member and the Member has a right to receive damages, compensation, benefits or payments of any kind (whether by a court judgment, settlement or otherwise) from a Responsible Third Party.

The Claims Administrator is subrogated to the Member's right to recover from the Responsible Third Party. This means that the Claims Administrator "stands in your shoes" - and assumes the Member's right to pursue and receive the damages, compensation, benefits or payments from the Responsible Third Party to the full extent that the Claims Administrator has reimbursed the Member for medical expenses or paid medical expenses on the Member's behalf, plus the costs and fees that are incurred by the Claims Administrator to enforce these rights. The right to pursue a subrogation claim is not contingent upon whether or not the Member pursues the Responsible Third Party for any recovery.

Reimbursement Rights

If a Member obtains any recovery - regardless of how it's described or structured - from a Responsible Third Party, the Member must fully reimburse the Claims Administrator for all medical expenses that were paid to the Member or on the Member's behalf, plus the costs and fees that are incurred by the Claims Administrator to enforce these rights. The Claims Administrator has a right to full reimbursement.

Lien

By accepting benefits for Covered Services from the Claims Administrator, the Member agrees to a first priority equitable lien by agreement on any payment, reimbursement, settlement or judgment received by the Member, or anyone acting on the Member's behalf, from any Responsible Third Party. As a result, the Member must repay to the Claims Administrator the full amount of the medical expenses that were paid to the Member or on the Member's behalf out of the amounts recovered from the Responsible Third Party (plus the costs and fees that are incurred by the Claims Administrator to enforce these rights) first, before funds are allotted toward any other form of damages, whether or not there is an admission of fault or liability by the Responsible Third Party. The Claims Administrator has a lien on any amounts recovered by the Member from a Responsible Third Party, regardless of whether or not the amount is designated as payment for medical expenses. This lien will remain in effect until the Claims Administrator is reimbursed in full.

Constructive Trust

If the Member (or anyone acting on the Member's behalf) receive damages, compensation, benefits or payments of any type from a Responsible Third Party (whether by a court judgment, settlement or otherwise), the Member agrees to maintain the funds in a separate, identifiable account and that the Claims Administrator has a lien on the monies. In addition the Member agrees to serve as the trustee over the monies for the benefit of Claims Administrator to the full extent that the Claims Administrator has reimbursed the Member for medical expenses or paid medical expenses on the member's behalf, plus the attorney's fees and the costs of collection incurred by the Claims Administrator.

- These subrogation and reimbursement rights apply regardless of whether money is received through a court decision, settlement, or any other type of resolution.
- These subrogation and reimbursement rights apply even if the recovery is designated or described as covering damages other than medical expenses (such as property damage or pain and suffering).
- These subrogation and reimbursement rights apply with respect to any recoveries made by the Member, including amounts recovered under an uninsured or underinsured motorist policy.
- The Claims Administrator is entitled to recover the full amount of the benefits paid to the Member or on the Member's behalf plus the costs and fees that are incurred by the Claims Administrator to enforce these rights without regard to whether the Member has been made whole or received full compensation for other damages (including property damage or pain

and suffering). The recovery rights of the Claims Administrator will not be reduced by the "made whole" doctrine or "double recovery" doctrine.

- The Claims Administrator will not pay, offset any recovery, or in any way be responsible for attorneys' fees or costs associated with pursuing a claim against a Responsible Third Party unless the Claims Administrator agrees to do so in writing. The recovery rights of the Claims Administrator will not be reduced by the "common fund" doctrine.
- In addition to any Coordination of Benefits rules described in this Benefit Booklet, the benefits paid by the Claims Administrator will be secondary to any no-fault auto insurance benefits and to any worker's compensation benefits (no matter how any settlement or award is characterized) to the fullest extent permitted by law.
- These subrogation and reimbursement rights apply and will not be decreased, restricted, or eliminated in any way if the Member receives or has the right to recover no-fault insurance benefits. All rights under this section are enforceable against the heirs, estate, legal guardians or legal representatives of the Member.
- The Claims Administrator is entitled to recover the full amount of the medical benefits paid without regard to any claim of fault on the Member's part.

Obligations of Member

- Immediately notify the Claims Administrator or its designee in writing if the Member asserts a claim against a Responsible Third Party, whether informally or through judicial or administrative proceedings.
- Immediately notify the Claims Administrator or its designee in writing whenever a Responsible Third Party contacts the Member or the Member's representative – or the Member or the Member's representative contact a Responsible Third Party - to discuss a potential settlement or resolution.
- Refuse any offer to settle, adjust or resolve a claim for damages, benefits or compensation that involves an injury, illness or medical expenses in any way, unless and until the Member receives written authorization from the Claims Administrator or its delegated representative.
- Fully cooperate with the Claims Administrator and its designated representative, as needed, to allow for the enforcement of these subrogation and reimbursement rights and promptly supply information/documentation when requested and promptly execute any and all forms/documents that may be needed.
- Avoid taking any action that may prejudice or harm the Claims Administrator ability to enforce these subrogation and reimbursement rights to the fullest extent possible.
- Fully reimburse the Claims Administrator or its designated representative immediately upon receiving compensation of any kind (whether by court judgment, settlement or otherwise) from a Responsible Third Party.
- Serve as trustee for any and all monies paid to (or payable to) the Member or for the Member's benefit by any Responsible Third Party to the full extent the Claims Administrator paid benefits for an injury or illness.
- All of these Obligations apply to the heirs, estate, legal guardians or legal representatives of the Member.

IMPORTANT: Failure to Cooperate

If the Member fails or refuses to sign forms or documents as requested or otherwise fail or refuse to cooperate or abide by any of the obligations described above, the Claims Administrator or Plan Administrator, as applicable, has full discretion and authority to reduce or withhold benefit payments to recover subrogation/reimbursement amounts that are owed and/or to terminate the Member's participation in the Program.

CLAIM PROCEDURES

How To File A Claim

The Member is never required to file a claim when Covered Services are provided by In-Network Providers. When the Member receives care from an Out-of-Network Provider, the Member will need to file a claim to receive benefits. If the Member does not have a claim form, the Member should call the Claims Administrator's Member Services Department at the number listed on the Member's Identification Card, and a claim form will be sent to the Member. The Member should fill out the claim form and return it with their itemized bills to the Claims Administrator at the address listed on the claim form no later than 20 days after completion of the Covered Services. The claim should include the date and information required by the Claims Administrator to determine benefits. An expense will be considered Incurred on the date the service or supply was rendered.

If it was not possible to file the claim within the 20-day period, the Member's benefits will not be reduced, but in no event will the Claims Administrator be required to accept the claim more than 12 months after the end of the Benefit Period in which the Covered Services are rendered.

Release Of Information

Each Member agrees that any person or entity having information relating to an illness or injury for which benefits are claimed under this Program may furnish to the Claims Administrator, upon its request, any information (including copies of records relating to the illness or injury). In addition, the Claims Administrator may furnish similar information to other entities providing similar benefits at their request.

The Claims Administrator may furnish other plans or plan sponsored entities with membership and/or coverage information for the purpose of claims processing or facilitating patient care.

When the Claims Administrator needs to obtain consent for the release of personal health information, authorization of care and treatment, or to have access to information from a Member who is unable to provide it, the Claims Administrator will obtain consent from the parent, legal guardian, next of kin, or other individual with appropriate legal authority to make decisions on behalf of the Member.

Limitation Of Actions

No legal action may be taken to recover benefits prior to 60 days after notice of claim has been given as specified above, and no such action may be taken later than two years after the date Covered Services are rendered.

Claim Forms

The Claims Administrator will furnish to the Member or to the Group, for delivery to the Member, such claim forms as are required for filing proof of loss for Covered Services provided by Out-of-Network Providers.

Timely Filing

The Claims Administrator will not be liable under this Program unless proper notice is furnished to the Claims Administrator that Covered Services have been rendered to a Member. Written notice must be given within 20 days after completion of the Covered Services. The notice must include the date and information required by the Claims Administrator to determine benefits. An expense will be considered Incurred on the date the service or supply was rendered.

Failure to give notice to the Claims Administrator within the time specified will not reduce any benefit if it is shown that the notice was given as soon as reasonably possible, but in no event will the Claims Administrator be required to accept notice more than 12 months after the end of the Benefit Period in which the Covered Services are rendered.

The above is not applicable to claims administered by In-Network Providers.

Special Circumstances

In the event that Special Circumstances result in a severe impact to the availability of providers and services, to the procedures required for obtaining benefits for Covered Services under this Program (For example, obtaining Precertification, use of In-Network Providers), or to the administration of this Program by the Claims Administrator, the Claims Administrator may on a selective basis, waive certain procedural requirements of this Program. Such waiver shall be specific as to the requirements that are waived and shall last for such period as required by the Special Circumstances as defined below.

The Claims Administrator shall make a good faith effort to provide access to Covered Services in so far as practical and according to its best judgment. Neither the Claims Administrator nor the Providers in the Claims Administrator's PPO network shall incur liability or obligation for delay or failure to provide or arrange for Covered Services if such failure or delay is caused by Special Circumstances.

Special Circumstances as recognized in the community, and by the Claims Administrator and appropriate regulatory authority, are extraordinary circumstances not within the control of the Claims Administrator, including but not limited to:

- Major disaster;
- Epidemic;
- Pandemic;
- The complete or partial destruction of facilities;
- Riot; or
- Civil insurrection.

COMPLAINT AND APPEAL PROCESS

Member Complaint Process

The Claims Administrator has a process for Members to express complaints. To register a Complaint, Members should call the Member Services Department at the telephone number on their Identification Card or write to the Claims Administrator at the following address:

General Correspondence
1901 Market Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103

Most Member concerns are resolved informally at this level. However, if the Claims Administrator is unable to immediately resolve the Member Complaint, it will be investigated, and the Member will receive a response in writing within 30 days.

Member Appeal Process

Filing an Appeal. The Claims Administrator maintains procedures for the resolution of Member Appeals. Member Appeals may be filed within 180 days of the receipt of a decision from the Claims Administrator stating an adverse benefit determination. An Appeal occurs when the Member or, after obtaining the Member's authorization, either the Provider or another authorized representative requests a change of a previous decision made by the Claims Administrator by following the procedures described here. (In order to authorize someone else

to be the Member's representative for the Appeal, the Member must complete a valid authorization form. The Member must contact the Claims Administrator as directed below to obtain a 'Member/Enrollee Authorization to Appeal by Provider or Other Representative' form or for questions regarding the requirements for an authorized representative.)

The Member or other authorized person on behalf of the Member, may request an Appeal by calling or writing to the Claims Administrator, as defined in the letter notifying the Member of the decision or as follows:

Member Appeals Department
P.O. Box 41820
Philadelphia, PA, 19101-1820

Toll Free Phone: 1-888-671-5276 (TTY: 711)
Toll Free Fax: 1-888-671-5274 or
Phila. Fax: 215-988-6558

Changes in Member Appeals Process. Please note that the Member Appeals process may change at any time due to changes in the applicable state and federal laws and regulations and/or accreditation standards, to improve or facilitate the Member Appeals process, or to reflect other decisions regarding the administration of Member Appeals process for this Program.

Copies of the Member Appeals Process Descriptions. Descriptions of the timeframes and procedures for the Member Appeals process maintained by the Claims Administrator are available from the following sources:

On the Internet at the Website for the Member's Health Plan. Copies are available there at any time. To see samples of the Member Appeals process, search for 'member appeals' in the general search engine. To review a description of the Member Appeals process for the Member's health plan, the Member must log in with the Member's personalized password.

Customer Service. To obtain a description of the Member Appeals process for the Member's health plan, call Customer Service at the telephone number listed on the Member's Identification Card. Customer Service will mail the Member a copy of the description.

When an Appeal is Filed. As part of the Member Appeal process, a description is provided for the type of Member Appeal that has been filed. The description is sent with the acknowledgment letter for the Member Appeal.

IMPORTANT DEFINITIONS

The terms below have the following meaning when describing the benefits in this Benefit Booklet. They will be helpful to you (the Member) in fully understanding your benefits.

Accidental Injury

Injury to the body that is solely caused by an accident, and not by any other causes.

Accredited Educational Institution

A publicly or privately operated academic institution of higher learning which:

- Provides recognized courses or a course of instruction.
- Confers any of the following, when a student completes the course of study:
 - A diploma;
 - A degree; or
 - Another recognized certification of completion.
- Is duly recognized, and declared as such, by the appropriate authority, as follows:
 - An authority of the state in which such institution must also be accredited by a nationally recognized accrediting association as recognized by the United States Secretary of Education.

The definition may include, but is not limited to Colleges and Universities; and Technical or specialized schools.

Alcohol Or Drug Abuse And Dependency

Any use of alcohol or other drugs which produces a pattern of pathological use that:

- Causes impairment in the way people relate to others; or
- Causes impairment in the way people function in their jobs or careers; or
- Produces a dependency that makes a person physically ill, when the alcohol or drug is taken away.

Alternative Therapies/Complementary Medicine

A group of diverse medical and health care systems, practices, and products which, at this time, are not considered to be part of conventional medicine.

This is based on the definition from *The National Institute of Health's National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine (NCCAM)*.

The NCCAM groups these therapies into the following five classifications:

- Alternative medical systems (For example, homeopathy, naturopathy, Ayurveda, traditional Chinese medicine).
- Mind-body interventions: A variety of techniques designed to enhance the mind's capacity to affect bodily function and symptoms (For example, meditation, prayer, mental healing, and therapies that use creative outlets such as art, music, or dance).
- Biologically based therapies: The use of natural substances such as herbs, foods, vitamins, or nutritional supplements to prevent and treat illness (For example, macrobiotics, megavitamin therapy).
- Manipulative and body-based methods (For example, massage, equestrian/hippotherapy).

- Energy therapies: Therapies involving the use of energy fields. They are of two types:
 - Biofield therapies: Therapies that are intended to affect energy fields that some claim surround and penetrate the human body. This includes forms of energy therapy that manipulate biofields by applying pressure and/or manipulating the body by placing the hands in, or through, these fields (For example, Qi Gong, Reiki, and therapeutic touch).
 - Bioelectromagnetic-based therapies: Therapies involving the unconventional use of electromagnetic fields (For example, pulsed fields, magnetic fields, or alternating-current or direct-current fields).

Ambulatory Surgical Facility

An approved Facility Provider where the Member goes to have Surgery on an Outpatient basis, instead of having to be admitted to a Hospital.

It is a Facility Provider which:

- Has an organized staff of Physicians;
- Is licensed as required; and
- Has been approved by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO); or
- Has been approved by the Accreditation Association for Ambulatory Health Care, Inc.; or
- Has been approved by the Claims Administrator.

It is also a Facility Provider which:

- Has permanent facilities and equipment for the primary purposes of performing surgical procedures on an Outpatient basis;
- Provides treatment, by or under the supervision of Physicians and nursing services, whenever the patient is in the facility;
- Does not provide Inpatient accommodations; and
- Is not, other than incidentally, a facility used as an office or clinic for the private practice of a Professional Provider.

Ancillary Service Provider

An individual or entity that provides Covered Services, supplies or equipment such as, but not limited to:

- Infusion Therapy Services;
- Durable Medical Equipment; and
- Ambulance services.

Anesthesia

The process of giving the Member an approved drug or agent, in order to:

- Cause the Member's muscles to relax;
- Cause the Member to lose feeling; or
- Cause the Member to lose consciousness.

Appeal

A request by a Member, or the Member's representative or Provider, acting on the Member's behalf upon written consent, to change a previous decision made by the Claims Administrator.

- Administrative Appeal: An Appeal by or on behalf of a Member that focuses on unresolved disputes or objections regarding coverage terms such as contract exclusions and non-covered benefits. Administrative Appeal may present issues related to Medical Necessity, but these are not the primary issues that affect the outcome of the Appeal.

- Medical Necessity Appeal: A request for the Claims Administrator to change its decision, based primarily on Medical Necessity, to deny or limit the provision of a Covered Service.
- Expedited Appeal: A faster review of a Medical Necessity Appeal, conducted when the Claims Administrator determines that a delay in decision making would seriously jeopardize the Member's life, health, or ability to regain maximum function.

Applicant And Employee/Member

You, the Employee who applies for coverage under the Program.

Application And Application Card

The request of the Applicant for coverage:

- Either written or via electronic transfer; and
- Set forth in a format approved by the Claims Administrator.

Attention Deficit Disorder

A disease that makes a person have a hard time paying attention; be too impulsive; and be overly active.

Autism Service Provider

A person, entity or group that provides treatment of Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), using an ASD Treatment Plan, and that is either:

- Licensed or certified in this Commonwealth; or
- Enrolled in the Commonwealth's medical assistance program on or before the effective date of the Pennsylvania Autism Spectrum Disorders law.

An Autism Service Provider shall include a Behavioral Specialist.

Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD)

Any of the Pervasive Developmental Disorders defined by the most recent edition of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM), or its successor.

Autism Spectrum Disorders Treatment Plan (ASD Treatment Plan)

A plan for the treatment of Autism Spectrum Disorders:

- Developed by: A licensed Physician or licensed Psychologist who is a Professional Provider; and
- Based on: A comprehensive evaluation or reevaluation, performed in a manner consistent with the most recent clinical report or recommendations of the American Academy of Pediatrics.

Behavioral Specialist

An individual with appropriate certification or licensure by the applicable state, who designs, implements or evaluates a behavior modification intervention component of an ASD (Autism Spectrum Disorder) Treatment Plan, through Applied Behavioral Analysis which includes:

- Skill acquisition and reduction of problematic behavior;
- Improve function and/or behavior significantly; or
- Prevent loss of attained skill or function.

Benefit Period

The specified period of time as shown in the **Schedule of Covered Services** within which the Member has to use Covered Services in order to be eligible for payment by their Claims Administrator. A charge shall be considered Incurred on the date the service or supply was provided to the Member.

Birth Center

A Facility Provider approved by the Claims Administrator which:

- Is primarily organized and staffed to provide maternity care;
- Is where a woman can go to receive maternity care and give birth;
- Is licensed as required in the state where it is situated; and
- Is under the supervision of a Physician or a licensed certified nurse midwife.

BlueCard Program

A program that allows a Member travelling or living outside of their plan's area to receive coverage for services at an "In-Network" benefit level if the Member receives services from Blue Cross Blue Shield providers that participate in the BlueCard Program.

BlueCard Provider

A Provider that participates in the BlueCard Program as an In-Network Provider.

Care Coordinator Fee

A fixed amount paid by a /Blue Cross and/or Blue Shield Licensee to providers periodically for Care Coordination under a Value-Based Program.

Case Management

Comprehensive Case Management programs serve Members who have been diagnosed with an illness or injury that is complex, catastrophic, or chronic.

The objectives of Case Management are to:

- Make it easier for Members to get the service and care they need in an efficient way;
- Link the Member with appropriate health care or support services;
- Assist Providers in coordinating prescribed services;
- Monitor the quality of services delivered; and
- Improve Members' health outcomes.

Case Management supports Members and Providers by:

- Locating services;
- Coordinating services; and/or
- Evaluating services.

These steps are taken, across various levels and sites of care, for a Member who has been diagnosed with a complex, catastrophic or chronic illness and/or injury.

Certified Registered Nurse

Any one of the following types of nurses who are certified by the state Board of Nursing or a national nursing organization recognized by the State Board of Nursing:

- A certified registered nurse anesthetist;
- A certified registered nurse practitioner;
- A certified entrestomal therapy nurse;
- A certified community health nurse;
- A certified psychiatric mental health nurse; or
- A certified clinical nurse specialist.

This excludes any registered professional nurses employed by:

- A health care facility; or
- An anesthesiology group.

Cognitive Rehabilitation Therapy

Cognitive rehabilitation is a medically prescribed, multidisciplinary approach that consists of tasks that:

- Establish new ways for a person to compensate for brain function that has been lost due to injury, trauma, stroke, or encephalopathy; or
- Reinforce or re-establish previously learned patterns of behavior.

It consists of a variety of therapy modalities which lessen and ease problems caused by deficits in:

- Attention;
- Visual processing;
- Language;
- Memory;
- Reasoning; and
- Problem solving.

Cognitive rehabilitation is performed by any of the following professionals, using a team approach:

- A Physician;
- A neuropsychologist;
- A Psychologist; as well as, a physical, occupational or speech therapist.

Coinsurance

A type of cost-sharing in which the Member assumes a percentage of the Covered Expense for Covered Services (such as 20%). The Coinsurance percentage is listed in the ***Schedule of Covered Services***.

It is the amount that the Member is obliged to pay for covered medical services, after the Member has satisfied any Copayment(s) or Deductible(s) required by this Program.

Compendia

Compendia are reference documents used by the Claims Administrator to determine if a prescription drug should be covered. Compendia provide:

- Summaries of how drugs work;
- Information about which drugs are recommended to treat specific diseases; and
- The appropriate dosing schedule for each drug.

Over the years, some Compendia have merged with other publications. The Claims Administrator only reviews current Compendia when making coverage decisions.

Complaint

Any expression of dissatisfaction, verbal or written, by a Member.

Conditions For Departments (for Qualifying Clinical Trials)

The conditions described in this paragraph, for a study or investigation conducted by the Department of Veteran Affairs, Defense or Energy, are that the study or investigation has been reviewed and approved through a system of peer review that the Government determines:

- To be comparable to the system of peer review of studies and investigations used by the National Institutes of Health (NIH); and

- Assures unbiased review of the highest scientific standards by Qualified Individuals who have no interest in the outcome of the review.

Copayment

A type of cost-sharing in which the Member pays a flat dollar amount each time a Covered Service is provided (such as a \$10 or \$15 Copayment per office visit). Copayments, if any, are identified in the ***Schedule of Covered Services***.

Covered Expense

Refers to the basis on which a Member's Deductibles, Coinsurance, benefit Maximums and benefits are calculated.

- For Covered Services provided by a Facility Provider, the term "Covered Expense" means the following:
 - For Covered Services provided by an In-Network Facility Provider, "Covered Expense" means the amount payable to the Provider under the contractual arrangement in effect with the Claims Administrator.
 - For Covered Services provided by an In-Network Facility or BlueCard Provider, "Covered Expense" for Inpatient services means the amount payable to the Provider under the contractual arrangement in effect with the Claims Administrator or the BlueCard Provider.
 - For Covered Services provided by an Out-of-Network Facility Provider, "Covered Expense" for Outpatient services means the lesser of the Medicare Allowable Payment for Facilities or the Facility Provider's charges. For Covered Services that are not recognized or reimbursed by the Medicare traditional program, the amount is determined by reimbursing the lesser of the Claims Administrator's applicable proprietary fee schedule or the Provider's charges. For Covered Services not recognized or reimbursed by the Medicare traditional program or the Claims Administrator's applicable proprietary fee schedule, the amount is determined by reimbursing 50% of the Facility Provider's charges for Covered Services.
 - For Covered Services provided by an Out-of-Network Facility Provider, "Covered Expense" for Inpatient services means the Medicare Allowable Payment for Facilities. For Covered Services not recognized or reimbursed by the Medicare traditional program, the amount is determined by reimbursing 50% of the Facility Provider's charges for Covered Services.
- For Covered Services provided by a Professional Provider, "Covered Expense" means the following:
 - For Covered Services by an In-Network Professional Provider or BlueCard Provider, "Covered Expense" means the rate of reimbursement for Covered Services that the Professional Provider has agreed to accept as set forth by contract with the Claims Administrator, or the BlueCard Provider;
 - For an Out-of-Network Professional Provider, "Covered Expense" means the lesser of the Medicare Professional Allowable Payment or of the Provider's charges for Covered Services. For Covered Services that are not recognized or reimbursed by the Medicare traditional program, the amount is determined by reimbursing the lesser of the Claims Administrator's applicable proprietary fee schedule or the Provider's charges. For Covered Services not recognized or reimbursed by the Medicare traditional program or the Claims Administrator's applicable proprietary fee schedule, the amount is determined by reimbursing 50% of the Professional Provider's charges for Covered Services.
- For Covered Services provided by an Ancillary Service Provider, "Covered Expense" means the following:

- For Covered Services provided by an In-Network Ancillary Service Provider or BlueCard Provider "Covered Expense" means the amount payable to the Provider under the contractual arrangement in effect with the Claims Administrator or BlueCard Provider.
- For Covered Services provided by an Out-of-Network Ancillary Service Provider, "Covered Expense" means the lesser of the Medicare Ancillary Allowable Payment or the Provider's charges. For Covered Services that are not recognized or reimbursed by the Medicare traditional program, the amount is determined by reimbursing the lesser of the Claims Administrator's applicable proprietary fee schedule or the Provider's charges. For Covered Services not recognized or reimbursed by the Medicare traditional program or the Claims Administrator's applicable proprietary fee schedule, the amount is determined by reimbursing 50% of the Out-of-Network Ancillary Service Provider's charges for Covered Services.
- Nothing in this section shall be construed to mean that the Claims Administrator would provide coverage for services other than Covered Services.

Covered Service

A service or supply specified in this Benefit Booklet for which benefits will be provided by the Claims Administrator.

Custodial Care (Domiciliary Care)

Care provided primarily for Maintenance of the patient or care which is designed essentially:

- To assist the patient in meeting his activities of daily living; and
- Which is not primarily provided for its therapeutic value in the treatment of an illness, disease, bodily injury, or condition.

Custodial Care includes help in tasks which do not require the technical skills or professional training of medical or nursing personnel in order to be performed safely and effectively.

Such tasks include, but are not limited to:

- Walking;
- Bathing;
- Dressing;
- Feeding;
- Preparation of special diets; and
- Supervision over self-administration of medications.

Day Rehabilitation Program

A level of Outpatient Care consisting of four to seven hours of daily rehabilitative therapies and other medical services five days per week.

The Member returns home:

- Each evening; and
- For the entire weekend.

Therapies provided may include a combination of therapies, such as:

- Physical Therapy;
- Occupational Therapy; and
- Speech Therapy.

Other medical services such as:

- Nursing services;
- Psychological therapy; and
- Case Management services.

Day Rehabilitation sessions also include a combination of:

- One-to-one therapy; and
- Group therapy.

Decision Support

Services that help Members make well-informed decisions about Health care and support their ability to follow their Provider's treatment plan. Some examples of support services are:

- Major treatment choices; and
- Every day health choices.

Deductible

A specified amount of Covered Expense for the Covered Services that is Incurred, by the Member, before the Claims Administrator will assume any liability.

- A specific dollar amount that the Member's Claims Administrator may require that the Member pay out-of-pocket each Benefit Period, before the Program begins to make payments for claims.

Detoxification

The process by which a person who is alcohol or drug intoxicated, or alcohol or drug dependent, is assisted under the following circumstances:

- In a state licensed Facility Provider; or
- In the case of opiates, by an appropriately licensed behavioral health provider, in an ambulatory (Outpatient) setting.

This treatment process will occur through the period of time necessary to eliminate, by metabolic or other means, any or each of the following problems:

- The intoxicating alcohol or drug;
- Alcohol or drug dependency factors; or
- Alcohol in combination with drugs, as determined by a licensed Physician, while keeping the physiological and psychological risk to the patient at a minimum.

Disease Management

An approved program designed to identify and help people, who have a particular chronic disease, to stay as healthy as possible.

- Disease Management programs use a population-based approach to:
 - Identify Members who have or are at risk for a particular chronic medical condition;
 - Intervene with specific programs of care; and
 - Measure and improve outcomes.
- Disease Management programs use evidence-based guidelines to:
 - Educate and support Members and Providers;
 - Matching interventions to Members with greatest opportunity for improved clinical or functional outcomes.

- To assist Members with chronic disease(s), Disease Management programs may employ:
 - Education;
 - Provider feedback and support statistics;
 - Compliance monitoring and reporting; and/or
 - Preventive medicine.
- Disease Management interventions are intended to both:
 - Improve delivery of services in various active stages of the disease process; as well as to reduce/prevent relapse or acute exacerbation of the condition.

Durable Medical Equipment (DME)

Equipment that meets the following criteria:

- It is durable. (That is, an item that can withstand repeated use.)
- It is medical equipment. (That is, equipment that is primarily and customarily used for medical purposes, and is not generally useful in the absence of illness or injury.)
- It is generally not useful to a person without an illness or injury.
- It is appropriate for use in the home.

Durable Medical Equipment includes, but is not limited to:

- | | |
|----------------------|---------------------------|
| ▪ Diabetic supplies; | ▪ Home oxygen equipment; |
| ▪ Canes; | ▪ Hospital beds; |
| ▪ Crutches; | ▪ Traction equipment; and |
| ▪ Walkers; | ▪ Wheelchairs. |
| ▪ Commode chairs; | |

Effective Date

The date on which coverage for a Member begins under the Program. All coverage begins at 12:01 a.m. on the date reflected on the records of the Claims Administrator.

Emergency

The sudden and unexpected onset of a medical or psychiatric condition manifesting itself in acute symptoms of sufficient severity or severe pain, such that a prudent layperson who possesses an average knowledge of health and medicine, could reasonably expect the absence of immediate medical attention to result in:

- Placing the Member's health, or in the case of a pregnant Member, the health of the unborn child, in jeopardy;
- Serious impairment to bodily functions; or
- Serious dysfunction of any bodily organ or part.

Emergency Care

Covered Services and supplies provided to a Member in, or for, an Emergency:

- By a Hospital or Facility Provider and/or Professional Provider; and
- On an Outpatient basis; and
- In a Hospital Emergency Room or Outpatient Emergency Facility.

Employee

An individual of the Group contracting with the Claims Administrator and:

- Who meets the eligibility requirements for enrollment; and
- Who, at enrollment, is specified as meeting the eligibility requirements; and
- In whose name the Identification Card is issued.

Equipment For Safety

Equipment used to keep people safe.

These are:

- Items that are not primarily used for the diagnosis, care or treatment of disease or injury.
- Items which are primarily used to prevent injury or provide a safe surrounding.

Examples include:

- Restraints;
- Safety straps;
- Safety enclosures; and
- Car seats.

Essential Health Benefits

A set of health care service categories that must be covered by certain plans in accordance with the Affordable Care Act. Essential health benefits must include items and services within at least the following 10 categories:

- Ambulatory patient services;
- Emergency services;
- Hospitalization;
- Maternity and newborn care;
- Mental health and substance use disorder services, including behavioral health treatment;
- Prescription Drugs;
- Rehabilitative and habilitative services and devices;
- Laboratory services;
- Preventive and wellness services and chronic disease management; and
- Pediatric services, including oral and vision care.

Experimental/Investigative Services

A drug, biological product, device, medical treatment or procedure which meets any of the following criteria:

- Is the subject of: Ongoing clinical trials;
- Is the research, experimental, study or investigational arm of an ongoing clinical trial(s) or is otherwise under a systematic, intensive investigation 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;
- Is not of proven benefit for the particular diagnosis or treatment of the Member's particular condition;
- Is not generally recognized by the medical community, as clearly demonstrated by Reliable Evidence, as effective and appropriate for the diagnosis or treatment of the Member's particular condition; or
- Is generally recognized, based on Reliable Evidence, by the medical community as a diagnostic or treatment intervention for which additional study regarding its safety and efficacy for the diagnosis or treatment of the Member's particular condition, is recommended.

A drug will not be considered Experimental/Investigative if it has received final approval by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to market with a specific indication for the particular diagnosis or condition present. Any other approval granted as an interim step in the FDA regulatory process, (For example, an Investigational New Drug Exemption (as defined by the FDA)), is not sufficient. Once FDA approval has been granted for a particular diagnosis or

condition, use of the drug for another diagnosis or condition shall require that one or more of the established referenced Compendia identified in the Claims Administrator's policies recognize the usage as appropriate medical treatment.

Any biological product, device, medical treatment or procedure is not considered Experimental/Investigative if it meets all of the criteria listed below:

- Reliable Evidence demonstrates that the biological product, device, medical treatment or procedure has a definite positive effect on health outcomes.
- Reliable Evidence demonstrates that the biological product, device, medical treatment or procedure leads to measurable improvement in health outcomes (That is, the beneficial effects outweigh any harmful effects).
- Reliable Evidence clearly demonstrates that the biological product, device, medical treatment or procedure is at least as effective in improving health outcomes as established technology, or is usable in appropriate clinical contexts in which established technology is not employable.
- Reliable Evidence clearly demonstrates that improvement in health outcomes, as defined in the previous bullet, is possible in standard conditions of medical practice, outside clinical investigatory settings.
- Reliable Evidence shows that the prevailing opinion among experts regarding the biological product, device, medical treatment or procedure is that studies or clinical trials have determined its maximum tolerated dose, its toxicity, its safety, its efficacy or its efficacy as compared with a standard means of treatment for a particular diagnosis.

Facility Provider

An institution or entity licensed, where required, to provide care.

Such facilities include:

- Ambulatory Surgical Facility;
- Birth Center;
- Free Standing Dialysis Facility;
- Free Standing Ambulatory Care Facility;
- Home Health Care Agency;
- Hospice;
- Hospital;
- Non-Hospital Facility;
- Psychiatric Hospital;
- Rehabilitation Hospital;
- Residential Treatment Facility;
- Short Procedure Unit;
- Skilled Nursing Facility.

Family Coverage

Coverage purchased for the Member and one or more of the Member's Dependents.

Free Standing Ambulatory Care Facility

A Facility Provider, other than a Hospital, that provides treatment or services on an Outpatient or partial basis.

In addition, the facility:

- Is not, other than incidentally, used as an office or clinic for the private practice of a Physician.
- Is licensed by the state in which it is located and be accredited by the appropriate regulatory body.

Free Standing Dialysis Facility

A Facility Provider that provides dialysis services for people who have serious kidney disease.

In addition, the facility:

- Is primarily engaged in providing dialysis treatment, Maintenance or training to patients on an Outpatient or home care basis.
- Is licensed or approved by the appropriate governmental agency; and
- Is approved by the Claims Administrator.

Group or (Enrolled Group)

A group of Employees which has been accepted by the Claims Administrator, consisting of all those Applicants whose charges are remitted by the Applicant's Agent together with all the Employees, listed on the Application Cards or amendments thereof, who have been accepted by the Claims Administrator.

Hearing Aid

A Prosthetic Device that amplifies sound through simple acoustic amplification or through transduction of sound waves into mechanical energy that is perceived as sound. A Hearing Aid is comprised of:

- A microphone to pick up sound;
- An amplifier to increase the sound;
- A receiver to transmit the sound to the ear; and
- A battery for power.

A Hearing Aid may also have a transducer that changes sound energy into a different form of energy. The separate parts of a Hearing Aid can be packaged together into a small self-contained unit, or may remain separate or even require surgical implantation into the ear or part of the ear. Generally, a Hearing Aid will be categorized into one of the following common styles:

- Behind-The-Ear;
- In-The-Ear;
- In-The-Canal;
- Completely-In-The-Canal; or
- Implantable (Can Be Partial or Complete).

A Hearing Aid is not a cochlear implant.

Home

For purposes of the Home Health Care and Homebound Covered Services only, this is the place where the Member lives.

This place may be:

- A private residence/domicile;
- An assisted living facility;
- A long-term care facility; or
- A Skilled Nursing Facility at a custodial level of care.

Homebound

Being unable to safely leave Home due to severe restrictions on the Member's mobility.

A person can be considered Homebound when: Leaving Home would do the following:

- Involve a considerable effort by the Member; and
- Leave the Member unable to use transportation, without another's assistance.

The following individuals will NOT automatically be considered Homebound: But must meet both requirements shown above:

- A child;
- An unlicensed driver; or
- An individual who cannot drive.

Home Health Care Provider

A Facility Provider, approved by the Claims Administrator, that is engaged in providing, either directly or through an arrangement, health care services to Members:

- On an intermittent basis in the Member's Home.
- In accordance with an approved home health care Plan Of Treatment.

Hospice

A Facility Provider that is engaged in providing palliative care rather than curative care to terminally ill individuals.

The Hospice must be:

- Certified by Medicare to provide Hospice services, or accredited as a Hospice by the appropriate regulatory agency; and
- Appropriately licensed in the state where it located.

Hospital

An approved facility that provides Inpatient, as well as Outpatient Care, and that meet the requirements listed below.

The term Hospital specifically refers to a short-term, acute care, general Hospital which has been approved by The Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations; and/or by the American Osteopathic Hospital Association or by the Claims Administrator, and which meets the following requirements:

- Is a duly licensed institution;
- Is primarily engaged in providing Inpatient diagnostic and therapeutic services for the diagnosis, treatment, and care of injured and sick persons by or under the supervision of Physicians;
- Has organized departments of medicine;
- Provides 24-hour nursing service by or under the supervision of Registered Nurses;

- Is not, other than incidentally, any of the following:
 - Skilled Nursing Facility;
 - Nursing home;
 - School;
 - Custodial Care home;
 - Health resort;
 - Spa or sanitarium;
 - Place for rest;
 - Place for aged;
 - Place for treatment of Mental Illness;
 - Place for treatment of Alcohol or Drug Abuse;
 - Place for provision of rehabilitation care;
 - Place for treatment of pulmonary tuberculosis;
 - Place for provision of Hospice care.

Hospital-Based Provider

A Physician who provides Medically Necessary services in a Hospital or other In-Network Facility Provider and meets the requirements listed below:

- The Medically Necessary services must be supplemental to the primary care being provided in the Hospital or In-Network Facility Provider;
- The Medically Necessary services must be those for which the Member has limited or no control of the selection of such Physician;
- Hospital-Based Providers include Physicians in the specialties of:
 - Radiology;
 - Anesthesiology;
 - Pathology; and/or
 - Other specialties, as determined by the Claims Administrator.

When these Physicians provide services other than in the Hospital or other In-Network Facility, they are not considered Hospital-Based Providers.

Identification Card (ID Card)

The currently effective card issued to the Member by the Claims Administrator which must be presented when a Covered Service is requested.

Immediate Family

The Employee's:

- Spouse;
- Parent;
- Child, stepchild;
- Brother, sister;
- Mother-in-law, father-in-law;
- Sister-in-law, brother-in-law;
- Daughter-in-law, son-in-law.

Incurred

A charge shall be considered Incurred (acquired) on the date a Member receives the service or supply for which the charge is made.

Independent Clinical Laboratory

A laboratory that performs clinical pathology procedure and that is not affiliated or associated with a:

- Hospital;
- Physician; or
- Facility Provider.

In-Network Ancillary Service Provider

An Ancillary Service Provider that is:

- A member of the Personal Choice Network or is a BlueCard Provider; and
- Has agreed to a rate of reimbursement determined by contract for the provision of "in-network" Covered Services to Members.

In-Network Facility Provider

A Facility Provider that is:

- A member of the Personal Choice Network or is a BlueCard Provider; and
- Has agreed to a rate of reimbursement determined by contract for the provision of "in-network" Covered Services to Members.

In-Network Professional Provider

A Professional Provider that is:

- A member of the Personal Choice Network or is a BlueCard Provider; and
- Has agreed to a rate of reimbursement determined by contract for the provision of "in-network" Covered Services to Members.

In-Network Provider

A Facility Provider, Professional Provider or Ancillary Service Provider that is:

- A member of the Personal Choice Network or is a BlueCard Provider; and
- Authorized to perform specific "in-network" Covered Services at the In-Network level of benefits.

Inpatient Admission (Inpatient)

The actual entry of a Member, who is to receive Inpatient services as a registered bed patient, and for whom a room and board charge is made, into any of the following:

- Hospital;
- Extended care facility; or
- Facility Provider.

The Inpatient Admission shall continue until such time as the Member is actually discharged from the facility.

Inpatient Care For Alcohol Or Drug Abuse And Dependency

The provision of medical, nursing, counseling or therapeutic services 24 hours a day in a Hospital or Non-Hospital Facility, according to individualized treatment plans.

Intensive Outpatient Program

A planned, structured program that coordinates and uses the services of various health professionals, to treat patients in crisis who suffer from:

- Mental Illness;
- Serious Mental Illness; or
- Alcohol Or Drug Abuse And Dependency.

Intensive Outpatient Program treatment is an alternative to Inpatient Hospital treatment or Partial Hospitalization treatment and focuses on alleviation of symptoms and improvement in the level of functioning required to stabilize the patient until they are able to transition to less intensive Outpatient treatment, as required.

Licensed Clinical Social Worker

A social worker who:

- Has graduated from a school accredited by the Council on Social Work Education with a Doctoral or Master's Degree; and
- Is licensed by the appropriate state authority.

Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN)

A nurse who:

- Has graduated from a formal practical or nursing education program; and
- Is licensed by the appropriate state authority.

Life-Threatening Disease Or Condition (for Qualifying Clinical Trials)

Any disease or condition from which the likelihood of death is probable unless the course of the disease or condition is interrupted.

Limiting Age For Dependents

The age at which a child is no longer eligible as a Dependent under the Member's coverage. The Limiting Age for covered children is shown in the **General Information** section.

Maintenance

A continuation of the Member's care and management when:

- The maximum therapeutic value of a Medically Necessary treatment plan has been achieved;
- No additional functional improvement is apparent or expected to occur;
- The provision of Covered Services for a condition ceases to be of therapeutic value; and
- It is no longer Medically Necessary.

This includes Maintenance services that seek to:

- Prevent disease;
- Promote health; and
- Prolong and enhance the quality of life.

Managed Care Organization (MCO)

A generic term for any organization that manages and controls medical service.

It includes:

- HMOs;
- PPOs;
- Managed indemnity insurance programs; and
- Managed Blue Cross or Blue Shield programs.

Master's Prepared Therapist

A therapist who:

- Holds a Master's Degree in an acceptable human services-related field of study;
- Is licensed as a therapist at an independent practice level; and
- Is licensed by the appropriate state authority to provide therapeutic services for the treatment of Mental Health/Psychiatric Services (including treatment of Serious Mental Illness).

Maximum

A limit on the amount of Covered Services that a Member may receive. The Maximum may apply to all Covered Services or selected types. When the Maximum is expressed in dollars, this Maximum is measured by the Covered Expenses, less Deductibles, Coinsurance and Copayment amounts paid by Members for the Covered Services to which the Maximum applies. The Maximum may not be measured by the actual amounts paid by the Claims Administrator to the Providers. A Maximum may also be expressed in number of days or number of services for a specified period of time.

- Benefit Maximum - the greatest amount of a specific Covered Service that a Member may receive.
- Lifetime Maximum - the greatest amount of Covered Services that a Member may receive in the Member's lifetime.

Medical Care

Services rendered by a Professional Provider for the treatment of an illness or injury. These are services that must be rendered within the scope of their license.

Medical Foods

Liquid nutritional products which are specifically formulated to treat one of the following genetic diseases: phenylketonuria, branched-chain ketonuria, galactosemia, homocystinuria.

Medically Necessary (Medical Necessity)

Shall mean:

- Health care services that a Physician, exercising prudent clinical judgment, would provide to a patient for the purpose of:
 - Preventing, evaluating, diagnosing or treating an illness, injury, disease or its symptoms.
- Health care services that a Physician, exercising prudent clinical judgment, would provide to a patient, that are:
 - In accordance with generally accepted standards of medical practice;
 - Clinically appropriate, in terms of type, frequency, extent, site and duration, and considered effective for the patient's illness, injury or disease;
 - Not primarily for the convenience of the patient, Physician, or other health care provider; and
 - Not more costly than an alternative service or sequence of services that are at least as likely to produce equivalent therapeutic or diagnostic results as to the diagnosis or treatment of that patient's illness, injury or disease.
- For these purposes, "generally accepted standards of medical practice" means standards that are based on:
 - Credible scientific evidence published in peer-reviewed medical literature that is generally recognized by the relevant medical community, Physician Specialty Society recommendations; and
 - The views of Physicians practicing in relevant clinical areas; and
 - Any other relevant factors.

Medical Policy

Medical Policy is used to determine whether Covered Services are Medically Necessary.

Medical Policy is developed based on various sources including, but not limited to:

- Peer-reviewed scientific literature published in journals and textbooks; and
- Guidelines put forth by governmental agencies; and
- Respected professional organizations; and
- Recommendations of experts in the relevant medical specialty.

Medicare

The programs of health care for the aged and disabled established by Title XVIII of the Social Security Act of 1965, as amended.

Medicare Allowable Payment for Facilities

The payment amount, as determined by the Medicare program, for the Covered Service for a Facility Provider.

Medicare Ancillary Allowable Payment

The payment amount, as determined by the Medicare program, for the Covered Service for an Ancillary Service Provider.

Medicare Professional Allowable Payment

The payment amount, as determined by the Medicare program, for the Covered Service based on the Medicare Par Physician Fee Schedule – Pennsylvania Locality 01.

Member

An enrolled Employee or their Eligible Dependent(s) who have satisfied the specifications of the **General Information** section.

A Member does NOT mean any person who is eligible for Medicare, except as specifically stated in this Benefit Booklet.

Mental Illness

Any of various conditions, wherein mental treatment is provided by a qualified mental health Provider.

- These various conditions must be categorized as mental disorders by the most current edition of the International Classification of Diseases (ICD) or Diagnostic and Statistical Manual (DSM).
- For purposes of this Program, conditions categorized as Mental Illness do not include those conditions listed under Serious Mental Illness or Autism Spectrum Disorders.
- The benefit limits for Mental Illness, Serious Mental Illness, and Autism Spectrum Disorders are separate and not cumulative.

Negotiated Arrangement a.k.a., Negotiated National Account Arrangement

An agreement negotiated between a Control/Home Licensee and one or more Par/Host Licensees for any National Account that is not delivered through the BlueCard Program.

Non-Hospital Facility

A Facility Provider, licensed by the Department of Health for the care or treatment of Members diagnosed with Alcohol Or Drug Abuse And Dependency. This does NOT include transitional living facilities.

Non-Hospital Facilities, shall include, but not be limited to the following, for Partial

Hospitalization programs:

- Residential Treatment Facilities; and
- Free Standing Ambulatory Care Facilities.

Non-Hospital Residential Treatment

The provision of medical, nursing, counseling, or therapeutic services to Members diagnosed with Alcohol Or Drug Abuse And Dependency:

- In a residential environment;
- According to individualized treatment plans.

Non-Preferred Drug

These drugs generally have one or more generic alternatives or preferred brand options within the same drug class.

Nutritional Formula

Liquid nutritional products which are formulated to supplement or replace normal food products.

Out-of-Network Ancillary Service Provider

An Ancillary Service Provider that is NOT a member of the Personal Choice Network or is NOT a BlueCard Provider.

Out-of-Network Facility Provider

A Facility Provider that is NOT a member of the Personal Choice Network or is NOT a BlueCard Provider.

Out-of-Network Professional Provider

A Professional Provider who is NOT a:

- Member of the Personal Choice Network; or
- BlueCard Provider.

Out-of-Network Provider

A Facility Provider, Professional Provider or Ancillary Service Provider that is NOT a:

- Member of the Personal Choice Network; or
- BlueCard Provider.

Out-of-Pocket Limit

A specified dollar amount of Covered Expense Incurred by a Member for Covered Services in a Benefit Period. The Out-of-Pocket Limits are calculated as follows:

- The In-Network Out-of-Pocket Limit expense includes Copayments, Coinsurance and Deductibles, if applicable. The amount of the In-Network Care Individual Out-of-Pocket Limit and In-Network Care Family Out-of-Pocket Limit will only include expenses for Essential Health Benefits. When the In-Network Out-of-Pocket Limit is reached, the level of benefits is increased as set forth in the ***Schedule of Covered Services***.
- The Out-of-Network Out-of-Pocket Limit expense includes Coinsurance, but does not include any Copayments, Deductibles, Penalties, or amounts that exceed the Claims Administrator's payment (see the definition for "Covered Expense" for more details). When the Out-of-Network Out-of-Pocket Limit is reached, the level of benefits is increased, as specified in the ***Schedule of Covered Services***.

Outpatient Care (or Outpatient)

Medical, nursing, counseling or therapeutic treatment provided to a Member who does not require an overnight stay in a Hospital or other Inpatient Facility.

Outpatient Diabetic Education Program

An Outpatient Diabetic Education Program, provided by an In-Network Provider that has been recognized by the Department of Health or the American Diabetes Association as meeting the national standards for Diabetes Patient Education Programs established by the National Diabetes Advisory Board.

Partial Hospitalization

Medical, nursing, counseling or therapeutic services that are:

- Provided on a planned and regularly scheduled basis in a Hospital or Facility Provider; and
- Designed for a patient who would benefit from more intensive services than are offered in Outpatient treatment (Intensive Outpatient Program or Outpatient office visit) but who does not require Inpatient confinement.

Penalty

A type of cost-sharing in which the Member is assessed a percentage reduction in benefits payable for failure to obtain Precertification of certain Covered Services. Penalties, if any, are identified and explained in detail in the **General Information** section.

Personal Choice Network

The network of Providers with whom the Claims Administrator has contractual arrangements.

Pervasive Developmental Disorders (PDD)

Disorders characterized by severe and pervasive impairment in several areas of development:

- Reciprocal social interaction skills;
- Communication skills; or
- The presence of stereotyped behavior, interests and activities.

Examples are:

- Asperger's syndrome; and
- Childhood disintegrative disorder.

Physician

A person who is a doctor of medicine (M.D.) or a doctor of osteopathy (D.O.), licensed and legally entitled to practice medicine in all its branches, perform Surgery and dispense drugs.

Plan of Treatment

A plan of care which is prescribed in writing by a Professional Provider for the treatment of an injury or illness. The Plan of Treatment should include goals and duration of treatment, and be limited in scope and extent to that care which is Medically Necessary for the Member's diagnosis and condition.

Precertification (or Precertify)

Prior assessment by the Claims Administrator or a designated agent that proposed services, such as hospitalization, are Medically Necessary for a Member and covered by this Program. Payment for services depends on whether the Member and the category of service are covered under this Program.

Preferred Brand

These drugs have been selected for their reported medical effectiveness, safety, and value. These drugs generally do not have generic equivalents.

Preferred Provider Organization (PPO)

A type of managed care plan that:

- Offers the freedom to choose a Physician like a traditional health care plan; and
- Provides the Physician visits and preventive benefits normally associated with an HMO (Health Maintenance Organization).

In a PPO, an individual is:

- Not required to select a primary care Physician to coordinate care; and
- Not required to obtain referrals to see specialists.

Prenotification (Prenotify)

The requirement that a Member provide prior notice to the Claims Administrator that proposed services, such as maternity care, are scheduled to be performed.

- No Penalty will be applied for failure to comply with this requirement.
- Payment for services depends on whether the Member and the category of service are covered under this Program.
- To Prenotify, the Member should call the telephone number on the ID card, prior to obtaining the proposed service.

Preventive Care

Means:

- Evidence-based items or services that are rated "A" or "B" in the current recommendations of the United States Preventive Services Task Force with respect to the Member;
- Immunizations for routine use for Members of all ages as recommended by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices of the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention with respect to the Member;
- Evidence-informed preventive care and screenings for Members who are infants, children, and adolescents, as included in the comprehensive guidelines supported by the Health Resources and Services Administration;
- Evidence-informed preventive care and screenings for female Members as included in the comprehensive guidelines supported by the Health Resources and Services Administration; and
- Any other evidence-based or evidence-informed items as determined by the federal and/or state law.

Examples of Preventive Care include, but are not limited to:

- Routine physical examinations, including related laboratory tests and X-rays;
- Immunizations and vaccines;
- Well-baby care;
- Pap smears;
- Mammography;
- Screening tests, including colorectal cancer and prostate cancer screenings; and
- Bone density tests

Primary Care Provider

A Professional Provider as listed in the Personal Choice Network directory under "Primary Care Physicians" (General Practice, Family Practice or Internal Medicine), "Obstetricians/Gynecologists" or "Pediatricians".

Primary Care Services

Basic, routine Medical Care traditionally provided to individuals with:

- Common illnesses; and
- Common injuries; and
- Chronic illnesses.

Private Duty Nursing

Private Duty Nursing is Medically Necessary, complex skilled nursing care provided in the Member's private residence by a Registered Nurse (RN) or a Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN). It provides continuous monitoring and observation of a Member who requires frequent skilled nursing care on an hourly basis. Private Duty Nursing must be ordered by a Professional Provider who is involved in the oversight of the Member's care, in accordance with the Provider's scope of practice.

Professional Provider

A person or practitioner licensed, where required, and performing services within the scope of such licensure. The Professional Providers are:

- Audiologist;
- Autism Service Provider;
- Behavior Specialist;
- Certified Registered Nurse;
- Chiropractor;
- Dentist;
- Independent Clinical Laboratory;
- Licensed Clinical Social Worker;
- Master's Prepared Therapist;
- Nurse Midwife;
- Optometrist;
- Physical Therapist;
- Physician;
- Physician Assistant;
- Podiatrist;
- Psychologist;
- Registered Dietitian;
- Speech-Language Pathologist;
- Teacher of the hearing impaired.

Program

The benefit plan provided by the Group through an arrangement with the Claims Administrator.

Prosthetics (or Prosthetic Devices)

Devices (except dental Prosthetics), which replace all or part of:

- An absent body organ including contiguous tissue; or
- The function of a permanently inoperative or malfunctioning body organ.

Provider

A Facility Provider, Professional Provider or Ancillary Service Provider licensed where required.

Provider Incentive

An additional amount of compensation paid to a healthcare provider by a Blue Cross and/or Blue Shield Plan, based on the provider's compliance with agreed-upon procedural and/or outcome measures for a particular group/population of Members.

Psychiatric Hospital

A Facility Provider, approved by the Claims Administrator, which is primarily engaged in providing diagnostic and therapeutic services for the Inpatient treatment of Mental Illness.

- Such services are provided by or under the supervision of an organized staff of Physicians.
- Continuous nursing services are provided under the supervision of a Registered Nurse.

Psychologist

A Psychologist who is:

- Licensed in the state in which they practice; or
- Otherwise duly qualified to practice by a state in which there is no Psychologist licensure.

Qualified Individual (for Clinical Trials)

A Member who meets the following conditions:

- The Member is eligible to participate in an approved clinical trial according to the trial protocol with respect to treatment of cancer or other Life-Threatening Disease or Condition; and
- Either:
 - The referring health care professional is a health care provider participating in the clinical trial and has concluded that the Member's participation in such trial would be appropriate based upon the individual meeting the conditions described above; or
 - The Member provides medical and scientific information establishing that their participation in such trial would be appropriate based upon the Member meeting the conditions described above.

Qualifying Clinical Trial

A phase I, II, III, or IV clinical trial that is conducted in relation to the prevention, detection, or treatment of cancer or other Life-Threatening Disease Or Condition and is described in any of the following:

- Federally funded trials: the study or investigation is approved or funded (which may include funding through in-kind contributions) by one or more of the following:
 - The National Institutes of Health (NIH);
 - The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC);
 - The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ);
 - The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS);
 - Cooperative group or center of any of the entities described above or the Department of Defense (DOD) or the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA);
 - Any of the following, if the Conditions For Departments are met:
 - The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA);
 - The Department of Defense (DOD); or
 - The Department of Energy (DOE).

- The study of investigation is conducted under an investigational new drug application reviewed by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA); or
- The study or investigation is a drug trial that is exempt from having such an investigational new drug application.

In the absence of meeting the criteria listed above, the Clinical Trial must be approved by the Claims Administrator as a Qualifying Clinical Trial.

Registered Dietitian (RD)

A dietitian registered by a nationally recognized professional association of dietitians.

- A Registered Dietitian (RD) is a food and nutrition expert who has met the minimum academic and professional requirements to qualify for the credential "RD."

Registered Nurse (R.N.)

A nurse who:

- Has graduated from a formal program of nursing education (diploma school, associate degree or baccalaureate program); and
- Is licensed by the appropriate state authority.

Rehabilitation Hospital

A Facility Provider, approved by the Claims Administrator, which is primarily engaged in providing rehabilitation care services on an Inpatient basis.

- Rehabilitation care services consist of:
 - The combined use of medical, social, educational, and vocational services to enable patients disabled by disease or injury to achieve the highest possible level of functional ability.
- Services are provided by or under:
 - The supervision of an organized staff of Physicians.
- Continuous nursing services are provided:
 - Under the supervision of a Registered Nurse.

Reliable Evidence

Peer-reviewed reports of clinical studies that have been designed according to accepted scientific standards such that potential biases are minimized to the fullest extent, and generalizations may be made about safety and effectiveness of the technology outside of the research setting. Studies are to be published or accepted for publication, in medical or scientific journals that meet nationally recognized requirements for scientific manuscripts and that are generally recognized by the relevant medical community as authoritative. Furthermore, evidence-based guidelines from respected professional organizations and governmental entities may be considered Reliable Evidence if generally accepted by the relevant medical community.

Residential Treatment Facility

A Facility Provider licensed and approved by the appropriate government agency and approved by the Claims Administrator, which provides treatment for:

- Mental Illness;
- Serious Mental Illness; or
- Alcohol Or Drug Abuse And Dependency to partial, Outpatient or live-in patients who do not require acute Medical Care.

Restorative Services

Courses of treatment prescribed or provided by Professional Providers to restore loss of function of a body part.

- Restorative services generally involve neuromuscular training (training of the nerves and muscles) as a course of treatments over weeks or months.
- Examples of restorative services include, but are not limited to:
 - Manipulative treatment of functional loss from back disorder;
 - Therapy treatment of functional loss following foot surgery; and
 - Orthoptic/Pleoptic Therapy.

Retail Clinics

Retail Clinics are staffed by certified nurse practitioners trained to diagnose, treat and write prescriptions when clinically appropriate.

- Services are available to treat basic medical needs for: Urgent Care.
- Examples of needs are:
 - Sore throat;
 - Ear, eye or sinus infection;
 - Allergies;
 - Minor burns;
 - Skin infections or rashes; and
 - Pregnancy testing.

Routine Patient Costs Associated With Qualifying Clinical Trials

Routine patient costs include all items and services consistent with the coverage provided under this Program that is typically covered for a Qualified Individual who is not enrolled in a clinical trial.

Routine patient costs do NOT include:

- The investigational item, device, or service itself;
- Items and services that are provided solely to satisfy data collection and analysis needs and that are not used in the direct clinical management of the patient; and
- A service that is clearly inconsistent with widely accepted and established standards of care for a particular diagnosis.

Self-Administered Prescription Drug

A Prescription Drug that can be administered safely and effectively by either the Member or a caregiver, without medical supervision, regardless of whether initial medical supervision and/or instruction is required. Examples of Self-Administered Prescription Drugs include, but are not limited to:

- Oral drugs;
- Self-Injectable Drugs;
- Inhaled drugs; and
- Topical drugs.

Self-Injectable Prescription Drug (Self-Injectable Drug)

A Prescription Drug that:

- Is introduced into a muscle or under the skin with a syringe and needle; and
- Can be administered safely and effectively by either the Member or a caregiver without medical supervision, regardless of whether initial medical supervision and/or instruction is required.

Serious Mental Illness

Means any of the following biologically based Mental Illnesses: As defined by the American Psychiatric Association, in the most recent edition of the International Classification of Diseases (ICD) or Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM):

- Schizophrenia;
- Bipolar disorder;
- Obsessive-compulsive disorder;
- Major depressive disorder;
- Panic disorder;
- Anorexia nervosa;
- Bulimia nervosa;
- Schizo-affective disorder;
- Delusional disorder; and
- Any other Mental Illness that is considered to be "Serious Mental Illness" by law.

Benefits are provided for diagnosis and treatment of these conditions when:

- Determined to be Medically Necessary; and
- Provided by a Provider.

Covered Services may be provided on an Outpatient or Inpatient basis.

Severe Systemic Protein Allergy

Means allergic symptoms to ingested proteins of sufficient magnitude to cause:

- Weight loss or failure to gain weight;
- Skin rash;
- Respiratory symptoms; and
- Gastrointestinal symptoms of significant magnitude to cause gastrointestinal bleeding and vomiting.

Short Procedure Unit

A unit which is approved by the Claims Administrator and which is designed to handle the following kinds of procedures on an Outpatient basis:

- Lengthy diagnostic procedures; or
- Minor surgical procedures.

In the absence of a Short Procedure Unit these are procedures which would otherwise have resulted in an Inpatient Admission.

Skilled Nursing Facility

An institution or a distinct part of an institution, other than one which:

- Is primarily for the care and treatment of Mental Illness, tuberculosis, or Alcohol Or Drug Abuse And Dependency.

It is also an institution which:

- Is accredited as a Skilled Nursing Facility or extended care facility by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations; or
- Is certified as a Skilled Nursing Facility or extended care facility under the Medicare Law; or
- Is otherwise acceptable to the Claims Administrator.

Sound Natural Teeth

Teeth that are:

- Stable;
- Functional;
- Free from decay and advanced periodontal disease;
- In good repair at the time of the Accidental Injury/trauma; and
- Are not man-made.

Specialist Services

All Professional Provider services providing Medical Care or mental health/psychiatric care in any generally accepted medical or surgical specialty or subspecialty.

Specialty Drug

A medication that meets certain criteria including, but not limited to:

- The drug is used in the treatment of a rare, complex, or chronic disease.
- A high level of involvement is required by a Professional Provider to administer the drug.
- Complex storage and/or shipping requirements are necessary to maintain the drug's stability.
- The drug requires comprehensive patient monitoring and education by a Professional Provider regarding safety, side effects, and compliance.
- Access to the drug may be limited.

The Claims Administrator reserves the right to determine which Specialty Drug vendors and/or Professional Providers can dispense or administer certain Specialty Drugs.

Standard Injectable Drug

A medication that is either injectable or infusible:

- But is not defined by the Claims Administrator to be a Self-Administered Prescription Drug or a Specialty Drug. Instead, these drugs need to be administered by a Professional Provider.

Standard Injectable Drugs include, but are not limited to:

- Allergy injections and extractions; and
- Injectable medications such as antibiotics and steroid injections that are administered by a Professional Provider.

Surgery

The performance of generally accepted operative and cutting procedures including:

- Specialized instrumentations;
- Endoscopic examinations; and
- Other invasive procedures.

Payment for Surgery includes an allowance for related Inpatient preoperative and postoperative care.

Treatment of burns, fractures and dislocations are also considered Surgery.

Therapy Service

The following services or supplies prescribed by a Physician and used for the treatment of an illness or injury to promote the recovery of the Member:

- Cardiac Rehabilitation Therapy
Medically supervised rehabilitation program designed to improve a patient's tolerance for physical activity or exercise.
- Chemotherapy
The treatment of malignant disease by chemical or biological antineoplastic agents used to kill or slow the growth of cancerous cells.
- Dialysis
The treatment that removes waste materials from the body for people with:
 - Acute renal failure; or
 - Chronic irreversible renal insufficiency.
- Infusion Therapy
The infusion of:
 - Drug;
 - Hydration; or
 - Nutrition (parenteral or enteral);
 - Into the body by a Professional Provider.

Infusion therapy includes: All professional services, supplies, and equipment that are required to safely and effectively administer the therapy.

Infusion may be provided in a variety of settings (For example, home, office, Outpatient) depending on the level of skill required to:

- Prepare the drug;
- Administer the infusion; and
- Monitor the Member.

The type of Professional Provider who can administer the infusion depends on whether the drug is considered to be a Specialty Drug infusion or a Standard Injectable Drug infusion, as determined by the Claims Administrator.

- Occupational Therapy
Medically prescribed treatment concerned with improving or restoring neuromusculoskeletal (nerve, muscle and bone) functions which have been impaired by:
 - Illness or injury;
 - Congenital anomaly (a birth defect); or
 - Prior therapeutic intervention.

Occupational Therapy also includes medically prescribed treatment concerned with improving the Member's ability to perform those tasks required for independent functioning, where such function has been permanently lost or reduced by:

- Illness or injury;
- Congenital anomaly (a birth defect); or
- Prior therapeutic intervention (Prior treatment).

This does NOT include services specifically directed towards the improvement of vocational skills and social functioning.

- Physical Therapy
Medically prescribed treatment of physical disabilities or impairments resulting from:
 - Disease;
 - Injury;
 - Congenital anomaly; or
 - Prior therapeutic intervention by the use of therapeutic exercise and other interventions that focus on improving:
 - Posture;
 - Mobility;
 - Strength;
 - Endurance;
 - Balance;
 - Coordination;
 - Joint Mobility;
 - Flexibility; and
 - The functional activities of daily living.

- Pulmonary Rehabilitation Therapy
A multidisciplinary, comprehensive program for Members who have a chronic lung disease. Pulmonary rehabilitation is designed to:
 - Reduce symptoms of disease;
 - Improve functional status; and
 - Stabilize or reverse manifestations of the disease.

- Radiation Therapy
The treatment of disease by:
 - X-Ray;
 - Gamma ray;
 - Accelerated particles;
 - Mesons; or
 - Neutrons, radium, radioactive isotopes, or other radioactive substances regardless of the method of delivery.

- Respiratory Therapy
Medically prescribed treatment of diseases or disorders of the respiratory system with therapeutic gases and vaporized medications delivered by inhalation.

- Speech Therapy
Medically prescribed services that are necessary for the diagnosis and/or treatment of speech and language disorders, due to conditions or events that result in communication disabilities and/or swallowing disorders:
 - Disease;
 - Surgery;
 - Injury;
 - Congenital and developmental anomalies (birth defects); or
 - Previous therapeutic processes.

Total Disability (or Totally Disabled)

Means that a Covered Employee who, due to illness or injury:

- Cannot perform any duty of their occupation or any occupation for which the Employee is, or may be, suited by education, training and experience; and
- Is not, in fact, engaged in any occupation for wage or profit.

A Dependent is totally disabled if: They cannot engage in the normal activities of a person in good health and of like age and sex.

The Totally Disabled person must be under the regular care of a Physician.

Urgent Care

Urgent Care needs are for sudden illness or Accidental Injury that require prompt medical attention but are not life-threatening and are not Emergency medical conditions when your Professional Provider is unavailable. Examples of Urgent Care needs include stitches, fractures, sprains, ear infections, sore throats, rashes, X-rays that are not Preventive Care.

Urgent Care Centers

Facility Provider designed to offer immediate evaluation and treatment for sudden health conditions and accidental injuries that:

- Require medical attention in a non-Emergency situation; and
- When the Member's Professional Provider's office is unavailable.

Urgent Care is not the same as: Emergency Services (see definition of "Urgent Care" above).

Value-Based Program (VBP)

An outcomes-based payment arrangement and/or a coordinated care model facilitated with one or more local providers that is evaluated against cost and quality metrics/factors and is reflected in provider payment.

IMPORTANT NOTICES

Regarding Experimental/Investigative Treatment:

The Claims Administrator does not cover treatment it determines to be Experimental/Investigative in nature because that treatment is not accepted by the general medical community for the condition being treated or not approved as required by federal or governmental agencies. However, the Claims Administrator acknowledges that situations exist when a Member and their Physician agree to utilize Experimental/Investigative treatment. If a Member receives Experimental/Investigative treatment, the Member shall be responsible for the cost of the treatment. A Member or their Physician should contact the Claims Administrator to determine whether a treatment is considered Experimental/Investigative. The term "Experimental/Investigative" is defined in the ***Important Definitions*** section.

Regarding Treatment Which Is Not Medically Necessary:

The Claims Administrator only covers treatment which it determines Medically Necessary. An In-Network Provider accepts the Claims Administrator's decision and contractually is not permitted to bill the Member for treatment which the Claims Administrator determines is not Medically Necessary unless the In-Network Provider specifically advises the Member in writing, and the Member agrees in writing that such services are not covered by the Claims Administrator, and that the Member will be financially responsible for such services. An Out-of-Network Provider, however, is not obligated to accept the Claims Administrator's determination and the Member may not be reimbursed for treatment which the Claims Administrator determines is not Medically Necessary. The Member is responsible for these charges when treatment is received by an Out-of-Network Provider. The Member can avoid these charges simply by choosing an In-Network Provider for the Member's care. The term "Medically Necessary" is defined in the ***Important Definitions*** section.

Regarding Treatment for Cosmetic Purposes:

The Claims Administrator does not cover treatment which it determines is for cosmetic purposes because it is not necessitated as part of the Medically Necessary treatment of an illness, injury or congenital birth defect. However, the Claims Administrator acknowledges that situations exist when a Member and their Physician decide to pursue a course of treatment for cosmetic purposes. In such cases, the Member is responsible for the cost of the treatment. A Member or their Physician should contact the Claims Administrator to determine whether treatment is for cosmetic purposes. The exclusion for services and operations for cosmetic purposes is detailed in the ***Exclusions - What Is Not Covered*** section.

Regarding Coverage for Emerging Technology:

While the Claims Administrator does not cover treatment it determines to be Experimental/Investigative, it routinely performs technology assessments in order to determine when new treatment modalities are safe and effective. A technology assessment is the review and evaluation of available clinical and scientific information from expert sources. These sources include but are not limited to articles published by governmental agencies, national peer review journals, national experts, clinical trials, and manufacturer's literature. The Claims Administrator uses the technology assessment process to assure that new drugs, procedures or devices ("emerging technology") are safe and effective before approving them as Covered Services. When new technology becomes available or at the request of a practitioner or Member, the Claims Administrator researches all scientific information available from these expert sources. Following this analysis, the Claims Administrator makes a decision about when a new drug, procedure or device has been proven to be safe and effective and uses this information to determine when an item becomes a Covered Service for the condition being treated or not approved as required by federal or governmental agencies. A Member or their Provider should contact the Claims Administrator to determine whether a proposed treatment is considered "emerging technology".

Regarding Use of Out-of-Network Providers

While Personal Choice has an extensive network, it may not contain every provider that the Member elects to see. To receive the Maximum benefits available under this Program, the Member must obtain Covered Services from In-Network Providers that participate in the Personal Choice Network or is a BlueCard Provider.

In addition, the Members Personal Choice program allows the Member to obtain Covered Services from Out-of-Network Providers. If the Member uses an Out-of-Network Provider the Member will be reimbursed for Covered Services but will incur significantly higher out-of-pocket expenses including Deductibles, Coinsurance. In certain instances, the Out-of-Network Provider also may charge the Member for the balance of the Provider's bill. This is true regardless of the reason the Member uses an Out-of-Network Provider including, but not limited to, by choice, for level of expertise, for convenience, for location, because of the nature of the services, based on the recommendation of a Provider or network sufficiency. However, if Emergency Care is provided by certain Out-of-Network Providers (For example, ambulance services), in accordance with applicable law, the Claims Administrator will reimburse the Out-of-Network Provider at an In-Network rate directly. In this instance the specified Out-of-Network Provider will not bill the Member for amounts in excess of the Claims Administrator's payment for the Emergency Care. For payment of Covered Services provided by an Out-of-Network Provider, please refer to the definition of "Covered Expense".

For specific terms regarding Out-of-Network Providers, please refer to the following sections: ***Important Definitions***; including but not limited to the definition of "Covered Expense" and "Out-of-Network Provider", Payment of Providers and Payment Methods.

Regarding Non-Discrimination Rights

The Member has the right to receive health care services without discrimination:

- Based on race, ethnicity, age, mental or physical disability, genetic information, color, religion, gender, national origin, source of payment, sexual orientation, or sex, including stereotypes and gender identity;
- For Medically Necessary health services made available on the same terms for all individuals, regardless of sex assigned at birth, gender identity, or recorded gender;
- Based on an individual's sex assigned at birth, gender identity, or recorded gender, if it is different from the one to which such health service is ordinarily available;
- Related to gender transition if such denial or limitation results in discriminating against a transgender individual.

Discretionary Authority

The Claims Administrator or Plan Administrator, as applicable, retains discretionary authority to interpret the benefit plan and the facts presented to make benefit determinations. Benefits under this Program will be provided only if the Claims Administrator or Plan Administrator, as applicable, determines in its discretion that the Member is entitled to them.

REMEMBER: Whenever a Provider suggests a new treatment option that may fall under the category of "Experimental/Investigative", "cosmetic", or "emerging technology", the Member, or their Provider, should contact the Claims Administrator for a coverage determination. That way the Member and the Provider will know in advance if the treatment will be covered by the Claims Administrator.

In the event the treatment is not covered by the Claims Administrator, the Member can make an informed decision about whether to pursue alternative treatment options or be financially responsible for the non-covered service.

For more information on when to contact the Claims Administrator for coverage determinations, please see the Precertification and Prenotification requirements in the *General Information* section.

RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

To obtain a list of "Rights and Responsibilities", please log on to http://www.ibx.com/members/quality_management/member_rights.html or the Member should call the Customer Service telephone number that is listed on their Identification Card to receive a printed copy.

LANGUAGE AND COVERAGE CHANGES

AMENDMENT TO YOUR HEALTH BENEFITS PROGRAM

This Notice of Change is issued to form part of your Benefit Booklet that describes the Claims Administrator's Health Benefits Program, a Preferred Provider Organization Health Care Program.

This Notice changes the language that describes the provisions, conditions or other terms of the Benefit Booklet as detailed below.

Effective on your Group renewal on or after January 1, 2017:

The **Transsexual Surgery** exclusion of the ***Exclusions - What Is Not Covered*** section is hereby deleted.

Effective on your Group renewal on or after April 1, 2017:

The last paragraph of the first bulleted item of the **Covered Expense** definition of the ***Important Definitions*** section is replaced by the following:

- For Covered Services provided by an Out-of-Network Facility Provider, "Covered Expense" for Inpatient services means the lesser of the Medicare Allowable Payment for Facilities or the Facility Provider's charges. For Covered Services that are not recognized or reimbursed by the Medicare traditional program, the amount is determined by reimbursing the lesser of the Health Benefit Plan's or Claims Administrator's (as applicable) applicable proprietary fee schedule or the Provider's charges. For Covered Services not recognized or reimbursed by the Medicare traditional program or the Health Benefit Plan's or Claims Administrator's (as applicable) applicable proprietary fee schedule, the amount is determined by the applicable Health Benefit Plan's or Claims Administrator's (as applicable) proprietary fee schedule for the closest analogous Covered Service.

All other terms of your Benefit Booklet shall remain in effect.



Paula Sunshine
SVP and Chief Marketing Executive

**INDEPENDENCE BLUE CROSS
NOTICE OF PRIVACY PRACTICES**

**THIS NOTICE DESCRIBES HOW MEDICAL INFORMATION ABOUT
YOU MAY BE USED AND DISCLOSED AND HOW YOU CAN GET
ACCESS TO THIS INFORMATION¹**

PLEASE REVIEW IT CAREFULLY.

Independence Blue Cross² values you as a customer, and protection of your privacy is very important to us. In conducting our business, we will create and maintain records that contain protected health information about you and the health care provided to you as a member of our health plans.

Note: “Protected health information” or “PHI” is information about you, including information that can reasonably be used to identify you and that relates to your past, present or future physical or mental health or condition, the provision of health care to you or the payment for that care.

We protect your privacy by:

- limiting who may see your PHI;
- limiting how we may use or disclose your PHI;
- informing you of our legal duties with respect to your PHI;
- explaining our privacy policies; and
- adhering to the policies currently in effect.

This Notice describes our privacy practices, which include how we may use, disclose, collect, handle, and protect our members’ protected health information. We are required by certain federal and state laws to maintain the privacy of your protected health information. We also are required by the federal Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (or “HIPAA”) Privacy Rule to give you this Notice about our privacy practices, our legal duties, and your rights concerning your protected health information.

¹ If you are enrolled in a self-insured group benefit program, this Notice is not applicable. If you are enrolled in such a program, you should contact your Group Benefit Manager for information about your group’s privacy practices. If you are enrolled in the Federal Employee Service Benefit Plan, you will receive a separate Notice.

² For purposes of this Notice, “Independence Blue Cross” refers to the following companies: Independence Blue Cross, Keystone Health Plan East, QCC Insurance Company, and Vista Health Plan, Inc. - independent licensees of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association.

This revised Notice took effect on July 18, 2017, and will remain in effect until we replace or modify it.

Copies of this Notice

You may request a copy of our Notice at any time. If you want more information about our privacy practices, or have questions or concerns, please contact Member Services by calling the telephone number on the back of your Member Identification Card, or contact us using the contact information at the end of this Notice.

Changes to this Notice

The terms of this Notice apply to all records that are created or retained by us which contain your PHI. We reserve the right to revise or amend the terms of this Notice. A revised or amended Notice will be effective for all of the PHI that we already have about you, as well as for any PHI we may create or receive in the future. We are required by law to comply with whatever Privacy Notice is currently in effect. You will be notified of any material change to our Privacy Notice before the change becomes effective. When necessary, a revised Notice will be mailed to the address that we have on record for the contract holder of your member contract, and will also be posted on our web site at www.ibx.com.

Potential Impact of State Law

The HIPAA Privacy Rule generally does not “preempt” (or take precedence over) state privacy or other applicable laws that provide individuals greater privacy protections. As a result, to the extent state law applies, the privacy laws of a particular state, or other federal laws, rather than the HIPAA Privacy Rule, might impose a privacy standard under which we will be required to operate. For example, where such laws have been enacted, we will follow more stringent state privacy laws that relate to uses and disclosures of the protected health information concerning HIV or AIDS, mental health, substance abuse/chemical dependency, genetic testing, reproductive rights, etc.

How We May Use and Disclose Your Protected Health Information (PHI)

In order to administer our health benefit programs effectively, we will collect, use and disclose PHI for certain of our activities, including payment of covered services and health care operations.

The following categories describe the different ways in which we may use and disclose your PHI. Please note that every permitted use or disclosure of your PHI is not listed below. However, the different ways we will, or might, use or disclose your PHI do fall within one of the permitted categories described below.

Treatment: We may disclose information to doctors, pharmacies, hospitals and other health care providers who take care of you to assist in your treatment or the coordination of your care.

Payment: We may use and disclose your PHI for all payment activities including, but not limited to, collecting premiums or to determine or fulfill our responsibility to provide health care coverage under our health plans. This may include coordinating benefits with other health care programs or insurance carriers, such as Medicare or Medicaid. For example, we may use and disclose your PHI to pay claims for services provided to you by doctors or hospitals which are covered by your health plan(s), or to determine if requested services are covered under your health plan. We may also use and disclose your PHI to conduct business with other Independence Blue Cross affiliate companies.

Health Care Operations: We may use and disclose your PHI to conduct and support our business and management activities as a health insurance issuer. For example, we may use and disclose your PHI to determine our premiums for your health plan, to conduct quality assessment and improvement activities, to conduct business planning activities, to conduct fraud detection programs, to conduct or arrange for medical review, or to engage in care coordination of health care services.

We may also use and disclose your PHI to offer you one of our value added programs like smoking cessation or discounted health related services, or to provide you with information about one of our disease management programs or other available Independence Blue Cross health products or health services.

We may also use and disclose your PHI to provide you with reminders to obtain preventive health services, and to inform you of treatment alternatives and/or health related benefits and services that may be of interest to you.

Marketing: Your PHI will not be sold, used or disclosed for marketing purposes without your authorization except where permitted by law. Such exceptions may include: a marketing communication to you that is in the form of (a) a face-to-face communication, or (b) a promotional gift of nominal value.

Release of Information to Plan Sponsors: Plan sponsors are employers or other organizations that sponsor a group health plan. We may disclose PHI to the plan sponsor of your group health plan as follows:

- We may disclose “summary health information” to your plan sponsor to use to obtain premium bids for providing health insurance coverage or to modify, amend or terminate its group health plan. “Summary health information” is information that summarizes claims history, claims expenses, or types of claims experience for the individuals who participate in the plan sponsor’s group health plan;
- We may disclose PHI to your plan sponsor to verify enrollment/disenrollment in your group health plan;
- We may disclose your PHI to the plan sponsor of your group health plan so that the plan sponsor can administer the group health plan; and
- If you are enrolled in a group health plan, your plan sponsor may have met certain requirements of the HIPAA Privacy Rule that will permit us to disclose PHI to the plan sponsor. Sometimes the plan sponsor of a group health plan is the employer. In those circumstances, we may disclose PHI to your employer. You should talk to your employer to find out how this information will be used.

Research: We may use or disclose your PHI for research purposes if certain conditions are met. Before we disclose your PHI for research purposes without your written permission, an Institutional Review Board (a board responsible under federal law for reviewing and approving research involving human subjects) or Privacy Board reviews the research proposal to ensure that the privacy of your PHI is protected, and to approve the research.

Required by Law: We may disclose your PHI when required to do so by applicable law. For example, the law requires us to disclose your PHI:

- When required by the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to investigate our compliance efforts; and

- To health oversight agencies, to allow them to conduct Health Oversight Activities described below.

Public Health Activities: We may disclose your PHI to public health agencies for public health activities that are permitted or required by law, such as to:

- prevent or control disease, injury or disability;
- maintain vital records, such as births and deaths;
- report child abuse and neglect;
- notify a person about potential exposure to a communicable disease;
- notify a person about a potential risk for spreading or contracting a disease or condition;
- report reactions to drugs or problems with products or devices;
- notify individuals if a product or device they may be using has been recalled; and
- notify appropriate government agency(ies) and authority(ies) about the potential abuse or neglect of an adult patient, including domestic violence.

Health Oversight Activities: We may disclose your PHI to a health oversight agency for activities authorized by law, such as: audits; investigations; inspections; licensure or disciplinary actions; or civil, administrative, or criminal proceedings or actions. Health oversight agencies seeking this information include government agencies that oversee: (i) the health care system; (ii) government benefit programs; (iii) other government regulatory programs; and (iv) compliance with civil rights laws.

Lawsuits and Other Legal Disputes: We may disclose your PHI in response to a court or administrative order, subpoena, discovery request, or other lawful process once we have met all administrative requirements of the HIPAA Privacy Rule.

Law Enforcement: We may disclose your PHI to law enforcement officials under certain conditions. For example, we may disclose PHI:

- to permit identification and location of witnesses, victims, and fugitives;
- in response to a search warrant or court order;
- as necessary to report a crime on our premises;
- to report a death that we believe may be the result of criminal conduct; or
- in an emergency, to report a crime.

Coroners, Medical Examiners, or Funeral Directors: We may release PHI to a coroner or medical examiner. This may be necessary, for example, to identify a deceased person or to determine the cause of death. We also may disclose, as authorized by law, information to funeral directors so that they may carry out their duties.

Organ and Tissue Donation: We may use or disclose your PHI to organizations that handle organ and tissue donation and distribution, banking, or transplantation.

To Prevent a Serious Threat to Health or Safety: As permitted by law, we may disclose your PHI if we believe that the disclosure is necessary to prevent or lessen a serious and imminent threat to the health or safety of a person or the public.

Military and National Security: We may disclose to military authorities the PHI of Armed Forces personnel under certain circumstances. We may disclose to authorized federal officials PHI required for lawful intelligence, counter-intelligence, and other national security activities.

Inmates: If you are a prison inmate, we may disclose your PHI to the prison or to a law enforcement official for: (1) the prison to provide health care to you; (2) your health and safety, and the health and safety of others; or (3) the safety and security of the prison.

Underwriting: We will not use genetic information about you for underwriting purposes.

Workers' Compensation: As part of your workers' compensation claim, we may have to disclose your PHI to a worker's compensation carrier.

To You: When you ask us to, we will disclose to you your PHI that is in a "designated record set." Generally, a designated record set contains medical, enrollment, claims and billing records we may have about you, as well as other records that we use to make decisions about your health care benefits. You can request the PHI from your designated record set as described in the section below called "Your Privacy Rights Concerning Your Protected Health Information."

To Your Personal Representative: If you tell us to, we will disclose your PHI to someone who is qualified to act as your personal representative according to any relevant state laws. In order for us to disclose your PHI to your personal representative, you must send us a completed Independence Blue Cross Personal Representative Designation Form and documentation that supports the person's qualification according to state law (such as a power of attorney or guardianship). To request the Independence Blue Cross Personal Representative Designation Form, please contact Member Services at the telephone number listed on the back of your Member Identification card, print the form from our web site at www.ibx.com, or write us at the address at the end of this Notice. However, the HIPAA Privacy Rule permits us to choose not to treat that person as your personal representative when we have a reasonable belief that: (i) you have been, or may be, subjected to domestic violence, abuse or neglect by the person; (ii) treating the person as your personal representative could endanger you; or (iii) in our professional judgment, it is not in your best interest to treat the person as your personal representative.

To Family and Friends: Unless you object, we may disclose your PHI to a friend or family member who has been identified as being involved in your health care. We also may disclose your PHI to an entity assisting in a disaster relief effort so that your family can be notified about your condition, status, and location. If you are not present or able to agree to these disclosures of your PHI, then we may, using our professional judgment, determine whether the disclosure is in your best interest.

Parents as Personal Representatives of Minors: In most cases, we may disclose your minor child's PHI to you. However, we may be required to deny a parent's access to a minor's PHI according to applicable state law.

Health Information Exchanges

We share your health information electronically through certain Health Information Exchanges (“HIEs”). A HIE is a secure electronic data sharing network. In accordance with applicable federal and state privacy and security requirements, regional health care providers participate in HIEs to exchange patient information in real-time to help facilitate delivery of health care, avoid duplication of services, and more efficiently coordinate care. As a participant in HIEs, Independence shares your health information we may have received when a claim has been submitted for services you have received among authorized participating providers, such as physicians, hospitals, and health systems for the purpose of treatment, payment and health care operations as permitted by law. During an emergency, patients and their families may forget critical portions of their medical history which may be very important to the treating physician who is trying to make a quick, accurate diagnosis in order to treat the sick patient. Independence, through its participation in an HIE, makes pertinent medical history, including diagnoses, studies, lab results, medications and the treating physicians we may receive on a claim available to participating emergency room physicians while the patient is receiving care. This is invaluable to the physician, expediting the diagnosis and proper treatment of the patient.

Your treating providers who participate with an HIE, and also submit health information with the HIE, will have the ability to access your health information through the HIE and send records to your treating physicians. Through direct requests to the HIE, we will receive various types of protected health information such as pharmacy or laboratory services, or information when you have been discharged from a hospital which may be used to coordinate your care, provide case management services, or otherwise reduce duplicative services and improve the overall quality of care to our members. All providers that participate in HIEs agree to comply with certain privacy and security standards relating to their use and disclosure of the health information available through the HIE.

As an Independence member, you have the right to opt-out which means your health information will not be accessible through the HIE. Through the regional HIE (www.hsxsepa.org/patient-options-opt-out-back) website or the State HIE (www.dhs.pa.gov/citizens/healthinformationexchange/) website consumers or providers can access an online, fax, or mail form permitting patients to remove themselves (opt-out) or reinstate themselves (opt back in) to the HIE. It will take approximately one business day to process an opt-out request. If you choose to opt-out of the HIE, your health care providers will not be able to access your information through the HIE. Even if you opt-out, this will not prevent your health information from being made available and released through other means (i.e. fax, secure email) to authorized individuals, such as network providers for paying claims, coordinating care, or administering your health benefits in accordance with the law and in the normal course of conducting our business as permitted under applicable law. For more information on HIEs, please go to www.hsxsepa.org/consumers-0 or to www.paehealth.org.

Right to Provide an Authorization for Other Uses and Disclosures

- Other uses and disclosures of your PHI that are not described above will be made only with your written authorization.
- You may give us written authorization permitting us to use your PHI or disclose it to anyone for any purpose.
- We will obtain your written authorization for uses and disclosures of your PHI that are not identified by this Notice, or are not otherwise permitted by applicable law.

Any authorization that you provide to us regarding the use and disclosure of your PHI may be revoked by you in writing at any time. After you revoke your authorization, we will no longer use or disclose your PHI for the reasons described in the authorization. Of course, we are unable to take back any disclosures that we have already made with your authorization. We may also be required to disclose PHI as necessary for purposes of payment for services received by you prior to the date when you revoked your authorization.

Your authorization must be in writing and contain certain elements to be considered a valid authorization. For your convenience, you may use our approved Independence Blue Cross Authorization Form. To request the Independence Blue Cross Authorization Form, please contact Member Services at the telephone number listed on the back of your Member Identification card, print the form from our web site at www.ibx.com, or write us at the address at the end of this Notice.

Your Privacy Rights Concerning Your Protected Health Information (PHI)

You have the following rights regarding the PHI that we maintain about you. Requests to exercise your rights as listed below must be in writing. For your convenience, you may use our approved Independence Blue Cross form(s). To request a form, please contact Member Services at the telephone number listed on the back of your Member Identification card or write to us at the address listed at the end of this Notice.

Right to Access Your PHI: You have the right to inspect or get copies of your PHI contained in a designated record set. Generally, a “designated record set” contains medical, enrollment, claims and billing records we may have about you, as well as other records that we may use to make decisions about your health care benefits. However, you may not inspect or copy psychotherapy notes or certain other information that may be contained in a designated record set.

You may request that we provide copies of your PHI in a format other than photocopies such as by electronic means in certain situations. We will use the format you request unless we cannot practicably do so. We may charge a reasonable fee for copies of PHI (based on our costs), for postage, and for a custom summary or explanation of PHI. You will receive notification of any fee(s) to be charged before we release your PHI, and you will have the opportunity to modify your request in order to avoid and/or reduce the fee. In certain situations, we may deny your request for access to your PHI. If we do, we will tell you our reasons in writing, and explain your right to have the denial reviewed.

Right to Amend Your PHI: You have the right to request that we amend your PHI if you believe there is a mistake in your PHI, or that important information is missing. Approved amendments made to your PHI will also be sent to those who need to know, including (where appropriate) Independence Blue Cross's vendors (known as "Business Associates"). We may also deny your request if, for instance, we did not create the information you want amended. If we deny your request to amend your PHI, we will tell you our reasons in writing, and explain your right to file a written statement of disagreement.

Right to an Accounting of Certain Disclosures: You may request, in writing, that we tell you when we or our Business Associates have disclosed your PHI (an "Accounting"). Any accounting of disclosures will **not** include those we made:

- for payment, or health care operations;
- to you or individuals involved in your care;
- with your authorization;
- for national security purposes;
- to correctional institution personnel; or
- before April 14, 2003.

The first accounting in any 12-month period is without charge. We may charge you a reasonable fee (based on our cost) for each subsequent accounting request within a 12-month period. If a subsequent request is received, we will notify you of any fee to be charged, and we will give you an opportunity to withdraw or modify your request in order to avoid or reduce the fee.

Right to Request Restrictions: You have the right to request, in writing, that we place additional restrictions on our use or disclosure of your PHI. We are not required to agree to your request. However, if we do agree, we will be bound by our agreement except when required by law, in emergencies, or when information is necessary to treat you. An approved restriction continues until you revoke it in writing, or until we tell you that we are terminating our agreement to a restriction.

Right to Request Confidential Communications: You have the right to request that we use alternate means or an alternative location to communicate with you in confidence about your PHI. For instance, you may ask that we contact you by mail, rather than by telephone, or at work, rather than at home. Your written request must clearly state that the disclosure of all or part of your PHI at your current address or method of contact we have on record could be an endangerment to you. We will require that you provide a reasonable alternate address or other method of contact for the confidential communications. In assessing reasonableness, we will consider our ability to continue to receive payment and conduct health care operations effectively, and the subscriber's right to payment information. We may exclude certain communications that are commonly provided to all members from confidential communications. Examples of such communications include benefit booklets and newsletters.

Right to a Paper Copy of This Notice: You have the right to receive a paper copy of our Notice of Privacy Practices. You can request a copy at any time, even if you have agreed to receive this Notice electronically. To request a paper copy of this Notice, please contact Member Services at the telephone number on the back of your Member Identification Card.

Right to Notification of a Breach of Your PHI: You have the right to and will be notified following a breach of your unsecured PHI or if a security breach occurs involving your PHI.

Your Right to File a Privacy Complaint

If you believe your privacy rights have been violated, or if you are dissatisfied with Independence Blue Cross's privacy practices or procedures, you may file a complaint with the Independence Blue Cross Privacy Office and with the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

You will not be penalized for filing a complaint.

To file a privacy complaint with us, you may contact Member Services at the telephone number on the back of your member ID Card, or you may contact the Privacy Office as follows:

Independence Blue Cross
Privacy Office
P.O. Box 41762
Philadelphia, PA 19101 - 1762

Fax: (215) 241-4023 or 1-888-678-7006 (toll free)
E-mail: Privacy@ibx.com
Phone: 215-241-4735 or 1-888-678-7005 (toll free)



Benefits underwritten or administered by QCC Insurance Company, a subsidiary of Independence Blue Cross – independent licensees of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association.

Independence Blue Cross is an independent licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association.