January 1, 2019

Prudent Buyer Plan®
This Combined Evidence of Coverage and Disclosure (Evidence of Coverage) Form is a summary of the important terms of your health plan. The health plan contract must be consulted to determine the exact terms and conditions of coverage. If you have special health care needs, you should read those sections of the Evidence of Coverage that apply to those needs. Your employer will provide you with a copy of the health plan contract upon request.

NOTICE TO MEMBERS ABOUT HOW PLAN BENEFITS ARE PROVIDED

Under the Minimum Premium Funding arrangement elected by the group for your plan benefits, the group is liable for payment of a portion of the plan benefits described in this booklet. The portion of the benefits which the group is responsible to provide are not covered by Anthem.
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TYPES OF PROVIDERS

PLEASE READ THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION SO YOU WILL KNOW FROM WHOM OR WHAT GROUP OF PROVIDERS HEALTH CARE MAY BE OBTAINED. THE MEANINGS OF WORDS AND PHRASES IN ITALICS ARE DESCRIBED IN THE SECTION OF THIS BOOKLET ENTITLED DEFINITIONS.

Participating Providers in California. We have established a network of various types of “Participating Providers”. These providers are called “participating” because they have agreed to participate in our preferred provider organization program (PPO), which we call the Prudent Buyer Plan. Participating providers have agreed to a rate they will accept as reimbursement for covered services. The amount of benefits payable under this plan will be different for non-participating providers than for participating providers. See the definition of “Participating Providers” in the DEFINITIONS section for a complete list of the types of providers which may be participating providers.

We publish a directory of Participating Providers. You can get a directory from your plan administrator (usually your employer) or from us. The directory lists all participating providers in your area, including health care facilities such as hospitals and skilled nursing facilities, physicians, laboratories, and diagnostic x-ray and imaging providers. You may call us at the Member Services number listed on your ID card or you may write to us and ask us to send you a directory. You may also search for a participating provider using the “Provider Finder” function on our website at www.anthem.com/ca. The listings include the credentials of our participating providers such as specialty designations and board certification.

If you need details about a provider’s license or training, or help choosing a physician who is right for you, call the Member Services number on the back of your ID card.

How to Access Primary and Specialty Care Services

Your health plan covers care provided by primary care physicians and specialty care providers. To see a primary care physician, simply visit any participating provider physician who is a general or family practitioner, internist or pediatrician. Your health plan also covers care provided by any participating provider specialty care provider you choose (certain providers’ services are covered only upon referral of an M.D. (medical doctor) or D.O. (doctor of osteopathy), see “Physician,” below). Referrals are never needed to visit any participating provider specialty care provider including a behavioral health care provider.
To make an appointment call your physician’s office:

- Tell them you are a Prudent Buyer Plan member.
- Have your Member ID card handy. They may ask you for your group number, member I.D. number, or office visit copay.
- Tell them the reason for your visit.

When you go for your appointment, bring your Member ID card.

After hours care is provided by your physician who may have a variety of ways of addressing your needs. Call your physician for instructions on how to receive medical care after their normal business hours, on weekends and holidays. This includes information about how to receive non-emergency Care and non-urgent care within the service area for a condition that is not life threatening, but that requires prompt medical attention. If you have an emergency, call 911 or go to the nearest emergency room.

**Participating Providers Outside of California**

The Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association, of which we are a member, has a program (called the “BlueCard Program”) which allows our members to have the reciprocal use of participating providers contracted under other states’ Blue Cross and/or Blue Shield Licensees (the Blue Cross and/or Blue Shield Plan).

If you are outside of our California service areas, please call the toll-free BlueCard Provider Access number on your ID card to find a participating provider in the area you are in. A directory of PPO Providers for outside of California is available. You can get a directory from your plan administrator (usually your employer).

Certain categories of providers defined in this certificate as participating providers may not be available in the Blue Cross and/or Blue Shield Plan outside of California in the service area where you receive services. See “Co-Payments” in the SUMMARY OF BENEFITS section and “Maximum Allowed Amount” in the YOUR MEDICAL BENEFITS section for additional information on how health care services you obtain from such providers are covered.

**Non-Participating Providers.** Non-participating providers are providers which have not agreed to participate in our Prudent Buyer Plan network. They have not agreed to the reimbursement rates and other provisions of a Prudent Buyer Plan contract.
Anthem Blue Cross has processes to review claims before and after payment to detect fraud, waste, abuse and other inappropriate activity. Members seeking services from non-participating providers could be balance billed by the non-participating provider for those services that are determined to be not payable as a result of these review processes and meets the criteria set forth in any applicable state regulations adopted pursuant to state law. A claim may also be determined to be not payable due to a provider’s failure to submit medical records with the claims that are under review in these processes.

**Contracting and Non-Contracting Hospitals.** Another type of provider is the "contracting hospital". This is different from a hospital which is a participating provider. As a health care service plan, we have traditionally contracted with most hospitals to obtain certain advantages for patients covered by us. While only some hospitals are participating providers, all eligible California hospitals are invited to be contracting hospitals and most—over 90%—accept. For those which do not (called non-contracting hospitals), there is a significant benefit penalty in your plan.

**Physicians.** "Physician" means more than an M.D. Certain other practitioners are included in this term as it is used throughout the plan. This doesn't mean they can provide every service that a medical doctor could; it just means that we'll cover expense you incur from them when they're practicing within their specialty the same as we would if the care were provided by a medical doctor. As with the other terms, be sure to read the definition of "Physician" to determine which providers’ services are covered. Only providers listed in the definition are covered as physicians. Please note also that certain providers' services are covered only upon referral of an M.D. (medical doctor) or D.O. (doctor of osteopathy). Providers for whom referral is required are indicated in the definition of "physician" by an asterisk (*).  

**Other Health Care Providers.** "Other Health Care Providers" are neither physicians nor hospitals. They are mostly free-standing facilities or service organizations, such as ambulance companies. See the definition of "Other Health Care Providers" in the DEFINITIONS section for a complete list of those providers. Other health care providers are not part of our Prudent Buyer Plan provider network.
Participating and Non-Participating Pharmacies. "Participating Pharmacies” agree to charge only the prescription drug maximum allowed amount to fill the prescription. You pay only your co-payment amount.

"Non-Participating Pharmacies” have not agreed to the prescription drug maximum allowed amount. The amount that will be covered as prescription drug covered expense is significantly lower than what these providers customarily charge.

Reproductive Health Care Services. Some hospitals and other providers do not provide one or more of the following services that may be covered under your plan contract and that you or your family member might need: family planning; contraceptive services, including emergency contraception; sterilization, including tubal ligation at the time of labor and delivery; infertility treatments; or abortion. You should obtain more information before you enroll. Call your physician or clinic, or call us at the Member Services telephone number listed on your ID card to ensure that you can obtain the health care services that you need.

Centers of Medical Excellence and Blue Distinction Centers. We are providing access to Centers of Medical Excellence (CME) network and Blue Distinction Centers for Specialty Care (BDCSC). The facilities included in each of these networks are selected to provide the following specified medical services:

- Transplant Facilities. Transplant facilities have been organized to provide services for specified organ transplants (heart, liver, lung, heart-lung, kidney-pancreas, or bone marrow, including autologous bone marrow transplant, peripheral stem cell replacement and similar procedures). Subject to any applicable co-payments or deductibles, these CME and BDCSC have agreed to a rate they will accept as payment in full for covered services. These procedures are covered only at a CME or BDCSC.

- Bariatric Facilities. Hospital facilities have been organized to provide services for bariatric surgical procedures, such as gastric bypass and other surgical procedures for weight loss programs. These procedures are covered only at a BDCSC.

A participating provider in the Prudent Buyer Plan network is not necessarily a BDCSC facility.
Care Outside the United States—Blue Cross Blue Shield Global Core

Prior to travel outside the United States, call the Member Services telephone number listed on your ID card to find out if your plan has Blue Cross Blue Shield Global Core benefits. Your coverage outside the United States is limited and we recommend:

- Before you leave home, call the Member Services number on your ID card for coverage details. You have coverage for services and supplies furnished in connection only with urgent care or an emergency when travelling outside the United States.
- Always carry your current ID card.
- In an emergency, seek medical treatment immediately.
- The Blue Cross Blue Shield Global Core Service Center is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week toll-free at (800) 810-BLUE (2583) or by calling collect at (804) 673-1177. An assistance coordinator, along with a medical professional, will arrange a physician appointment or hospitalization, if needed.

Payment Information

- Participating Blue Cross Blue Shield Global Core hospitals. In most cases, you should not have to pay upfront for inpatient care at participating Blue Cross Blue Shield Global Core hospitals except for the out-of-pocket costs you normally pay (noncovered services, deductible, copays, and coinsurance). The hospital should submit your claim on your behalf.

- Doctors and/or non-participating hospitals. You will have to pay upfront for outpatient services, care received from a physician, and inpatient care from a hospital that is not a participating Blue Cross Blue Shield Global Core hospital. Then you can complete a Blue Cross Blue Shield Global Core claim form and send it with the original bill(s) to the Blue Cross Blue Shield Global Core Service Center (the address is on the form).
Claim Filing

- **Participating Blue Cross Blue Shield Global Core hospitals will file your claim on your behalf.** You will have to pay the hospital for the out-of-pocket costs you normally pay.

- **You must file the claim** for outpatient and physician care, or inpatient hospital care not provided by a participating Blue Cross Blue Shield Global Core hospital. You will need to pay the health care provider and subsequently send an international claim form with the original bills to us.

**Additional Information About Blue Cross Blue Shield Global Core Claims.**

- You are responsible, at your expense, for obtaining an English-language translation of foreign country provider claims and medical records.

- Exchange rates are determined as follows:
  - For inpatient hospital care, the rate is based on the date of admission.
  - For outpatient and professional services, the rate is based on the date the service is provided.

Claim Forms

- International claim forms are available from us, from the Blue Cross Blue Shield Global Core Service Center, or online at:


The address for submitting claims is on the form.
TIMELY ACCESS TO CARE

Anthem has contracted with health care service providers to provide covered services in a manner appropriate for your condition, consistent with good professional practice. Anthem ensures that its contracted provider networks have the capacity and availability to offer appointments within the following timeframes:

- **Urgent Care appointments for services that do not require prior authorization**: within forty-eight (48) hours of the request for an appointment;
- **Urgent Care appointments for services that require prior authorization**: within ninety-six (96) hours of the request for an appointment;
- **Non-Urgent appointments for primary care**: within ten (10) business days of the request for an appointment;
- **Non-Urgent appointments with specialists**: within fifteen (15) business days of the request for an appointment;
- **Appointments for ancillary services (diagnosis or treatment of an injury, illness or other health condition) that are not urgent care**: within fifteen (15) business days of the request for an appointment.

For Mental Health Conditions and Substance Abuse care:

- **Urgent Care appointments for services that do not require prior authorization**: within forty-eight (48) hours of the request for an appointment;
- **Urgent Care appointments for services that require prior authorization**: within ninety-six (96) hours of the request for an appointment;
- **Non-Urgent appointments with mental health and substance abuse providers who are not psychiatrists**: within ten (10) business days of the request for an appointment;
- **Non-Urgent appointments with mental health and substance abuse providers who are psychiatrists**: within fifteen (15) business days of the request for an appointment. Due to accreditation standards, the date will be ten (10) business days for the initial appointment only.
If a provider determines that the waiting time for an appointment can be extended without a detrimental impact on your health, the provider may schedule an appointment for a later time than noted above.

Anthem arranges for telephone triage or screening services for you twenty-four (24) hours per day, seven (7) days per week with a waiting time of no more than thirty (30) minutes. If Anthem contracts with a provider for telephone triage or screening services, the provider will utilize a telephone answering machine and/or an answering service and/or office staff, during and after business hours, to inform you of the wait time for a return call from the provider or how the member may obtain urgent care or emergency services or how to contact another provider who is on-call for telephone triage or screening services.

If you need the services of an interpreter, the services will be coordinated with scheduled appointments and will not result in a delay of an appointment with a participating provider.
SUMMARY OF BENEFITS

THE BENEFITS OF THIS PLAN ARE PROVIDED ONLY FOR THOSE SERVICES THAT WE DETERMINE TO BE MEDICALLY NECESSARY. THE FACT THAT A PHYSICIAN PRESCRIBES OR ORDERS A SERVICE DOES NOT, IN ITSELF, MEAN THAT THE SERVICE IS MEDICALLY NECESSARY OR THAT THE SERVICE IS COVERED UNDER THIS PLAN. CONSULT THIS BOOKLET OR TELEPHONE US AT THE NUMBER SHOWN ON YOUR IDENTIFICATION CARD IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS REGARDING WHETHER SERVICES ARE COVERED.

THIS PLAN CONTAINS MANY IMPORTANT TERMS (SUCH AS "MEDICALLY NECESSARY" AND "MAXIMUM ALLOWED AMOUNT ") THAT ARE DEFINED IN THE DEFINITIONS SECTION. WHEN READING THROUGH THIS BOOKLET, CONSULT THE DEFINITIONS SECTION TO BE SURE THAT YOU UNDERSTAND THE MEANINGS OF THESE ITALICIZED WORDS.

For your convenience, this summary provides a brief outline of your benefits. You need to refer to the entire Combined Evidence of Coverage and Disclosure (Evidence of Coverage) Form for more complete information, and you must consult your employer's health plan contract with us to determine the exact terms and conditions of your coverage.

**Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act.** The Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act provides for parity in the application of aggregate treatment limitations (day or visit limits) on mental health and substance abuse benefits with day or visit limits on medical and surgical benefits. In general, group health plans offering mental health and substance abuse benefits cannot set day/visit limits on mental health or substance abuse benefits that are lower than any such day or visit limits for medical and surgical benefits. A plan that does not impose day or visit limits on medical and surgical benefits may not impose such day or visit limits on mental health and substance abuse benefits offered under the Plan.
The Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act also provides for parity in the application of nonquantitative treatment limitations (NQTL). An example of a nonquantitative treatment limitation is a precertification requirement.

Also, the Plan may not impose Deductibles, Copayment, Coinsurance, and out of pocket expenses on mental health and substance abuse benefits that are more restrictive than Deductibles, Copayment, Coinsurance and out of pocket expenses applicable to other medical and surgical benefits.

Medical Necessity criteria and other plan documents showing comparative criteria, as well as the processes, strategies, evidentiary standards, and other factors used to apply an NQTL are available upon request.

**Second Opinions.** If you have a question about your condition or about a plan of treatment which your physician has recommended, you may receive a second medical opinion from another physician. This second opinion visit will be provided according to the benefits, limitations, and exclusions of this plan. If you wish to receive a second medical opinion, remember that greater benefits are provided when you choose a participating provider. You may also ask your physician to refer you to a participating provider to receive a second opinion.

**Triage or Screening Services.** If you have questions about a particular health condition or if you need someone to help you determine whether or not care is needed, triage or screening services are available to you from us by telephone. Triage or screening services are the evaluation of your health by a physician or a nurse who is trained to screen for the purpose of determining the urgency of your need for care. Please contact the 24/7 NurseLine at the telephone number listed on your identification card 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
Telehealth. This plan provides benefits for covered services that are appropriately provided through telehealth, subject to the terms and conditions of the plan. In-person contact between a health care provider and the patient is not required for these services, and the type of setting where these services are provided is not limited. “Telehealth” is the means of providing health care services using information and communication technologies in the consultation, diagnosis, treatment, education, care management and self-management of a patient's physical and mental health care when the patient is located at a distance from the health care provider. Telehealth does not include consultations between the patient and the health care provider, or between health care providers, by telephone, facsimile machine, or electronic mail.

After Hours Care. After hours care is provided by your physician who may have a variety of ways of addressing your needs. You should call your physician for instructions on how to receive medical care after their normal business hours, on weekends and holidays, or to receive non-emergency care and non-urgent care within the service area for a condition that is not life threatening but that requires prompt medical attention. If you have an emergency, call 911 or go to the nearest emergency room.

All benefits are subject to coordination with benefits under certain other plans.

The benefits of this plan are subject to the REIMBURSEMENT FOR ACTS OF THIRD PARTIES section.
MEDICAL BENEFITS

DEDUCTIBLES

Calendar Year Deductibles

Member Deductible

- Participating providers and other health care providers .......................................................... $150
- Non-participating providers ..................................................................................................... $400

Family Deductible

- Participating providers and other health care providers ....................................................... three Member Deductibles
- Non-participating providers .................................................................................................. two Member Deductibles

Additional Deductibles

- Emergency Room Deductible ................................................................................................. $50
- Inpatient Deductible ................................................................................................................ $500
- Non-Certification Deductible .................................................................................................... $500

Exceptions: In certain circumstances, one or more of these deductibles may not apply, as described below:

- The Calendar Year Deductible will not apply to benefits for Preventive Care Services provided by a participating provider.
- The Calendar Year Deductible will not apply to office visits to a physician who is a participating provider.

  Note: This exception only applies to the charge for the visit itself. It does not apply to any other charges made during that visit, such as for testing procedures, surgery, etc.
- The Calendar Year Deductible will not apply to diabetes education program services provided by a physician who is a participating provider.
- The Calendar Year Deductible will not apply to transplant travel expenses authorized by us. See UTILIZATION REVIEW PROGRAM for information on how to obtain prior authorization.
– The Calendar Year Deductible will not apply to transplant travel expenses authorized by us in connection with a specified transplant procedure provided at a designated CME or a BDCSC.

– The Calendar Year Deductible will not apply to inpatient hospital services provided by a participating provider.

– The Calendar Year Deductible will not apply to transgender travel expense in connection with an approved transgender surgery.

– The Emergency Room Deductible will not apply if you are admitted as a hospital inpatient immediately following emergency room treatment.

– The Inpatient Deductible will not apply to emergency admissions, nor to the services provided by a participating provider.

– The Non-Certification Deductible will not apply to emergency admissions or services, services provided by a participating provider or to medically necessary inpatient facility services available to you through the BlueCard Program. See UTILIZATION REVIEW PROGRAM.

CO-PAYMENTS

Co-Payments.* After you have met your Calendar Year Deductible, and any other applicable deductible, you will be responsible for the following percentages of the maximum allowed amount:

- Participating Providers ........................................................... 10%
- Other Health Care Providers ..................................................... 20%
- Non-Participating Providers ...................................................... 30%

Note: In addition to the Co-Payment shown above, you will be required to pay any amount in excess of the maximum allowed amount for the services of an other health care provider or non-participating provider.
*Exceptions:

- There will be no Co-Payment for any covered services provided by a participating provider under the Preventive Care benefit.

-- No Co-Payment is required for Pediatric Office visits, up to Age 5.

- Your Co-Payment for non-participating providers will be the same as for participating providers for the following services. You will be responsible for charges which exceed the maximum allowed amount.
  
a. All emergency services;

b. An authorized referral from a physician who is a participating provider to a non-participating provider (see UTILIZATION REVIEW PROGRAM); or

c. Charges by a type of physician not represented in the Prudent Buyer Plan network (for example, an audiologist).

d. Non-emergency services received at a participating hospital or facility at which, or as a result of which, you receive services from a non-participating provider, in specified circumstances. Please see “Member Cost Share” in the YOUR MEDICAL BENEFITS section for more information.

- Your Co-Payment for office visits to a physician who is a participating provider will be $15.

- Your Co-Payment for diabetes education program services provided by a physician who is a participating provider will be $15.

- Your Co-Payment for specified transplants (heart, liver, lung, combination heart-lung, kidney, pancreas, simultaneous pancreas-kidney, or bone marrow/stem cell and similar procedures) determined to be medically necessary and performed at a designated CME or BDCSC will be the same as for participating providers. **Services for specified transplants are not covered when performed at other than a designated CME or BDCSC.** See UTILIZATION REVIEW PROGRAM.

- No Co-Payment will be required for the transplant travel expenses authorized by us. See UTILIZATION REVIEW PROGRAM.
Your Co-Payment for bariatric surgical procedures determined to be medically necessary and performed at a designated BDCSC will be the same as for participating providers. Services for bariatric surgical procedures are not covered when performed at other than a designated BDCSC. See UTILIZATION REVIEW PROGRAM.

NOTE: Co-Payments do not apply to bariatric travel expenses authorized by us. Bariatric travel expense coverage is available when the closest BDCSC is 50 miles or more from the member’s residence.

Co-Payments do not apply to transgender travel expenses authorized by us. Transgender travel expense coverage is available when the facility at which the surgery or series of surgeries will be performed is 75 miles or more from the member’s residence.

Out-of-Pocket Amount*. After you have made the following total out-of-pocket payments for covered charges incurred during a calendar year, you will no longer be required to pay a Co-Payment for the remainder of that year, but you remain responsible for costs in excess of the maximum allowed amount or the prescription drug maximum allowed amount.

One member

- Participating providers and other health care providers..............................................$1,000
- Non-participating providers......................................................................................$3,600

Two or more members of the same family

- Participating providers and other health care providers..............................................$2,000
- Non-participating providers......................................................................................$7,200

*Exception:

- Expense which is incurred for non-covered services or supplies, which is in excess of the maximum allowed amount or which is in excess of the prescription drug maximum allowed amount, will not be applied toward your Out-of-Pocket Amount.
**Non-Contracting Hospital Penalty.** The *maximum allowed amount* is **reduced by 25%** for services and supplies provided by a non-contracting hospital. This penalty will be deducted from the *maximum allowed amount* prior to calculating your Co-Payment amount, and any benefit payment by us will be based on such reduced the *maximum allowed amount*. You are responsible for paying this extra expense. This reduction will be waived only for *emergency services*. To avoid this penalty, be sure to choose a **contracting hospital**.

**MEDICAL BENEFIT MAXIMUMS**

We will pay, for the following services and supplies, up to the maximum amounts, or for the maximum number of days or visits shown below:

**Skilled Nursing Facility**
- For covered *skilled nursing facility care* ........................................... **100 days**
  per calendar year

**Home Health Care**
- For covered home health services ........................................... **100 visits**
  per calendar year

**Infusion Therapy**
- For all covered services and supplies received during any one day ........................................... **$600*  
  *Non-participating providers only**

**Hearing Aid Services**
- For covered charges for hearing aids ........................................... One hearing aid per ear every three years

**Chiropractic Care**
- For covered outpatient services ........................................... **15**
  visits per calendar year
Acupuncture

- For all covered services ............................................. 12 visits per calendar year

Transplant Travel Expense

- For the Recipient and One Companion per Transplant Episode (limited to 6 trips per episode)
  - For transportation to the CME or BDCSC ......................... $250 per trip for each person for round trip coach airfare
  - For hotel accommodations ......................................... $100 per day, for up to 21 days per trip, limited to one room, double occupancy
  - For expenses such as meals ....................................... $25 per day for each person, for up to 21 days per trip

- For the Donor per Transplant Episode (limited to one trip per episode)
  - For transportation to the CME or BDCSC ......................... $250 for round trip coach airfare
  - For hotel accommodations ......................................... $100 per day, for up to 7 days
  - For expenses such as meals ....................................... $25 per day, up to 7 days

Bariatric Travel Expense

- For the member (limited to three (3) trips – one pre-surgical visit, the initial surgery and one follow-up visit)
  - For transportation to the BDCSC ............................... up to $130 per trip

- For the companion (limited to two (2) trips – the initial surgery and one follow-up visit)
  - For transportation to the BDCSC ............................... up to $130 per trip
• For the member and one companion (for the pre-surgical visit and the follow-up visit)
  – Hotel accommodations ........................................ up to $100
    per day, for up to 2 days per trip,
    limited to one room,
    double occupancy

• For one companion (for the duration of the member’s initial surgery stay)
  – Hotel accommodations ........................................ up to $100
    per day, for up to 4 days,
    limited to one room,
    double occupancy
  – For other reasonable expenses
    (excluding, tobacco, alcohol and drug expenses) ........ up to $25
    per day,
    for up to 4 days per trip

Transgender Travel Expense
• For all travel expenses authorized by us in connection with authorized transgender surgery or surgeries .................................................. up to $10,000
  per surgery or series of surgeries

Lifetime Maximum
• For all medical benefits ............................................. Unlimited
PRESCRIPTION DRUG BENEFITS

PRESCRIPTION DRUG CO-PAYMENTS. The following co-payments apply for each prescription:

Participating Pharmacies

- **Generic Drugs**: $10
- **Brand Name Drugs**: $20
- **Compound Drugs**: $20

Please note that presentation of a prescription to a pharmacy or pharmacist does not constitute a claim for benefit coverage. If you present a prescription to a participating pharmacy, and the participating pharmacy indicates your prescription cannot be filled or requires an additional Co-Payment, this is not considered an adverse claim decision. If you want the prescription filled, you will have to pay either the full cost, or the additional Co-Payment, for the prescription drug. If you believe you are entitled to some plan benefits in connection with the prescription drug, submit a claim for reimbursement to us.

Non-Participating Pharmacies*

- **Generic Drugs**: $10
- **Brand Name Drugs**: $20

Mail Service Prescriptions

- **Generic Drugs**: $10
- **Brand Name Drugs**: $20

Exception to Prescription Drug Co-payments

“No charge” Preventive Prescription Drugs and Other Items covered under YOUR PRESCRIPTION DRUG BENEFITS. Your copayment for orally administered anti-cancer medications will not exceed the lesser of any applicable copayment listed above or:

- For a 30-day supply from a retail pharmacy: $200
- For a 90-day supply through home delivery: $600
Your copayment for all other drugs covered under this plan will not exceed the lesser of any applicable copayment listed above or:

For a 30-day supply from a retail pharmacy.................................................$250

For a 90-day supply through home delivery ......................................................$750

"Important Note About Prescription Drug Covered Expense and Your Co-Payment: Prescription drug covered expense for non-participating pharmacies is significantly lower than what providers customarily charge, so you will almost always have a higher out-of-pocket expense when you use a non-participating pharmacy.

YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO PAY YOUR CO-PAYMENT AMOUNT TO THE PARTICIPATING PHARMACY AT THE TIME YOUR PRESCRIPTION IS FILLED.

Note: If your pharmacy's retail price for a drug is less than the copayment shown above, you will not be required to pay more than that retail price.

Preferred Generic Program

Prescription drugs will always be dispensed by a pharmacist as prescribed by your physician. Your physician may order a drug in a higher or lower drug co-payment tier for you. You may request your physician to prescribe a drug in a higher drug co-payment tier instead of a drug in a lower co-payment tier or you may request the pharmacist to give you a drug in a higher copay tier instead of a drug in a lower copay tier. Under this plan, if a drug is available in a lower co-payment drug tier, and it is not determined that a drug in a higher co-payment drug tier is medically necessary for you to have (see PRESCRIPTION DRUG FORMULARY: PRIOR AUTHORIZATION below), you will have to pay the co-payment for the lower tier drug plus the difference in cost between the prescription drug maximum allowed amount for the lower co-payment drug tier and the higher co-payment drug tier, but, not more than 50% of our average cost for the tier that the drug is in. If your physician specifies "dispense as written," in lieu of paying the co-payment for the lower tier drug plus the difference, as previously stated, you will pay just the applicable co-payment shown for the higher tier drug you get. For certain higher cost generic drugs, we may make an exception and not require you to pay the difference in cost between the generic drug and brand name drug.
Special Programs

From time to time, we may initiate various programs to encourage you to utilize more cost-effective or clinically-effective drugs including, but not limited to, generic drugs, home delivery drugs, over-the-counter drugs or preferred drug products. Such programs may involve reducing or waiving co-payments for those generic drugs, over-the-counter drugs, or the preferred drug products for a limited time. If we initiate such a program, and we determine that you are taking a drug for a medical condition affected by the program, you will be notified in writing of the program and how to participate in it.

Split Fill Dispensing Program

The split fill program is designed to prevent and/or minimize wasted prescription drugs if your prescription or dose changes between fills, by allowing only a portion of your prescription to be obtained through the specialty pharmacy program. This program also saves you out-of-pocket expenses.

The drugs that are included under this program have been identified as requiring more frequent follow up to monitor response to treatment and potential reactions or side-effects. This program allows you to get your prescription drug in a smaller quantity and at a prorated copay so that if your dose changes or you have to stop taking the prescription drug, you can save money by avoiding costs for prescription drugs you may not use. You can access the list of these prescription drugs by calling the toll-free number on your member ID card or log on to the website at www.anthem.com.

Therapeutic Substitution

Therapeutic substitution is an optional program that tells you and your physicians about alternatives to certain prescription drugs. We may contact you and your physician to make you aware of these choices. Only you and your physician can determine if the therapeutic substitute is right for you. For questions or issues about therapeutic drug substitutes, please call the toll-free number on your member ID card.
Day Supply and Refill Limits

Certain day supply limits apply to prescription drugs as listed in the "PRESCRIPTION DRUG COPAYMENTS" and "PRESCRIPTION DRUG CONDITIONS OF SERVICE" sections of this plan. In most cases, you must use a certain amount of your prescription before it can be refilled. In some cases we may let you get an early refill. For example, we may let you refill your prescription early if it is decided that you need a larger dose. We will work with the pharmacy to decide when this should happen.

If you are going on vacation and you need more than the day supply allowed, you should ask your pharmacist to call the pharmacy benefits manager and ask for an override for one early refill. If you need more than one early refill, please call Member Services at the number on the back of your Identification Card.

You may be able to also get partial fills of prescribed Schedule II controlled substances, if requested by you or your physician. A partial fill means a part of a prescription filled that is of a quantity less than the entire prescription. For oral, solid dosage forms of prescribed Schedule II controlled substances that are partially filled, your costshare will be prorated accordingly.

Half-tab Program

The Half-Tablet Program allows you to pay a reduced co-payment on selected “once daily dosage” medications. The Half-Tablet Program allows you to obtain a 30-day supply (15 tablets) of a higher strength version of your medication when the prescription is written by the physician to take “½ tablet daily” of those medications on an list approved by us. The Pharmacy and Therapeutics Process will determine additions and deletions to the approved list. The Half-Tablet Program is strictly voluntary and your decision to participate should follow consultation with and the concurrence of your physician. To obtain a list of the products available on this program call 1-800-700-2541 (or TTY/TDD 1-800-905-9821) or go to our internet website www.anthem.com/ca.
YOUR MEDICAL BENEFITS

MAXIMUM ALLOWED AMOUNT

General

This section describes the term “maximum allowed amount” as used in this Combined Evidence of Coverage and Disclosure Form, and what the term means to you when obtaining covered services under this plan. The maximum allowed amount is the total reimbursement payable under your plan for covered services you receive from participating and non-participating providers. It is our payment towards the services billed by your provider combined with any Deductible or Co-Payment owed by you. In some cases, you may be required to pay the entire maximum allowed amount. For instance, if you have not met your Deductible under this plan, then you could be responsible for paying the entire maximum allowed amount for covered services. In addition, if these services are received from a non-participating provider, you may be billed by the provider for the difference between their charges and our maximum allowed amount. In many situations, this difference could be significant. If you receive services from a participating hospital or facility at which, or as a result of which, you receive non-emergency covered services provided by a non-participating provider, you will pay the non-participating provider no more than the same cost sharing that you would pay for the same covered services received from a participating provider.

We have provided two examples below, which illustrate how the maximum allowed amount works. These examples are for illustration purposes only.

Example: The plan has a member Co-Payment of 30% for participating provider services after the Deductible has been met.

- The member receives services from a participating surgeon. The charge is $2,000. The maximum allowed amount under the plan for the surgery is $1,000. The member’s Co-Payment responsibility when a participating surgeon is used is 30% of $1,000, or $300. This is what the member pays. We pay 70% of $1,000, or $700. The participating surgeon accepts the total of $1,000 as reimbursement for the surgery regardless of the charges.
Example: The plan has a member Co-Payment of 50% for non-participating provider services after the Deductible has been met.

- The member receives services from a non-participating surgeon. The charge is $2,000. The maximum allowed amount under the plan for the surgery is $1,000. The member’s Co-Payment responsibility when a non-participating surgeon is used is 50% of $1,000, or $500. We pay the remaining 50% of $1,000, or $500. In addition, the non-participating surgeon could bill the member the difference between $2,000 and $1,000. So the member’s total out-of-pocket charge would be $500 plus an additional $1,000, for a total of $1,500.

When you receive covered services, we will, to the extent applicable, apply claim processing rules to the claim submitted. We use these rules to evaluate the claim information and determine the accuracy and appropriateness of the procedure and diagnosis codes included in the submitted claim. Applying these rules may affect the maximum allowed amount if we determine that the procedure and/or diagnosis codes used were inconsistent with procedure coding rules and/or reimbursement policies. For example, if your provider submits a claim using several procedure codes when there is a single procedure code that includes all of the procedures that were performed, the maximum allowed amount will be based on the single procedure code.

Provider Network Status

The maximum allowed amount may vary depending upon whether the provider is a participating provider, a non-participating provider or other health care provider.

Participating Providers. For covered services performed by a participating provider the maximum allowed amount for this plan will be the rate the participating provider has agreed with us to accept as reimbursement for the covered services. Because participating providers have agreed to accept the maximum allowed amount as payment in full for those covered services, they should not send you a bill or collect for amounts above the maximum allowed amount. However, you may receive a bill or be asked to pay all or a portion of the maximum allowed amount to the extent you have not met your Deductible or have a Co-Payment. Please call the Member Services telephone number on your ID card for help in finding a participating provider or visit www.anthem.com/ca.
If you go to a hospital which is a participating provider, you should not assume all providers in that hospital are also participating providers. To receive the greater benefits afforded when covered services are provided by a participating provider, you should request that all your provider services be performed by participating providers whenever you enter a hospital.

If you are planning to have outpatient surgery, you should first find out if the facility where the surgery is to be performed is an ambulatory surgical center. An ambulatory surgical center is licensed as a separate facility even though it may be located on the same grounds as a hospital (although this is not always the case). If the center is licensed separately, you should find out if the facility is a participating provider before undergoing the surgery.

Non-Participating Providers and Other Health Care Providers.*

Providers who are not in our Prudent Buyer network are non-participating providers or other health care providers, subject to Blue Cross Blue Shield Association rules governing claims filed by certain ancillary providers. For covered services you receive from a non-participating provider or other health care provider the maximum allowed amount will be based on the applicable Anthem Blue Cross non-participating provider rate or fee schedule for this plan, an amount negotiated by us or a third party vendor which has been agreed to by the non-participating provider, an amount derived from the total charges billed by the non-participating provider, an amount based on information provided by a third party vendor, or an amount based on reimbursement or cost information from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (“CMS”). When basing the maximum allowed amount upon the level or method of reimbursement used by CMS, Anthem Blue Cross will update such information, which is unadjusted for geographic locality, no less than annually.

Providers who are not contracted for this product, but are contracted for other products, are also considered non-participating providers. For this plan, the maximum allowed amount for services from these providers will be one of the methods shown above unless the provider’s contract specifies a different amount.

For covered services rendered outside the Anthem Blue Cross service area by non-participating providers, claims may be priced using the local Blue Cross Blue Shield plan’s non-participating provider fee schedule / rate or the pricing arrangements required by applicable state or federal law. In certain situations, the maximum allowed amount for out of area claims may be based on billed charges, the pricing we would use if the healthcare services had been obtained within the Anthem Blue Cross service area, or a special negotiated price.
Unlike participating providers, non-participating providers and other health care providers may send you a bill and collect for the amount of the non-participating provider’s or other health care provider’s charge that exceeds our maximum allowed amount under this plan. You may be responsible for paying the difference between the maximum allowed amount and the amount the non-participating provider or other health care provider charges. This amount can be significant. Choosing a participating provider will likely result in lower out of pocket costs to you. Please call the Member Services number on your ID card for help in finding a participating provider or visit our website at www.anthem.com/ca. Member Services is also available to assist you in determining this plan’s maximum allowed amount for a particular covered service from a non-participating provider or other health care provider.

Please see the “Out of Area Services” section in the Part entitled “GENERAL PROVISIONS” for additional information.

*Exceptions:

- **Emergency Services Provided by Non-Participating Providers.** For emergency services provided by non-participating providers or at non-contracting hospitals, reimbursement is based on the reasonable and customary value. You will not be responsible for any amounts in excess of the reasonable and customary value for emergency services rendered within California.

- **Emergency Ambulance Services Provided by Non-Participating Providers.** For emergency ambulance services received from non-participating providers outside of California, the plan’s payment is based on the maximum allowed amount. Non-participating providers (both inside and outside of California) may also bill you for any charges over the plan’s reasonable and customary value or maximum allowed amount, respectively.

- **Clinical Trials.** The maximum allowed amount for services and supplies provided in connection with Clinical Trials will be the lesser of the billed charge or the amount that ordinarily applies when services are provided by a participating provider.

- **If Medicare is the primary payor, the maximum allowed amount does not include any charge:**
  1. By a hospital, in excess of the approved amount as determined by Medicare; or
  2. By a physician who is a participating provider who accepts Medicare assignment, in excess of the approved amount as determined by Medicare; or
3. By a physician who is a non-participating provider or other health care provider who accepts Medicare assignment, in excess of the lesser of maximum allowed amount stated above, or the approved amount as determined by Medicare; or

4. By a physician or other health care provider who does not accept Medicare assignment, in excess of the lesser of the maximum allowed amount stated above, or the limiting charge as determined by Medicare.

Member Cost Share

For certain covered services, and depending on your plan design, you may be required to pay all or a part of the maximum allowed amount as your cost share amount (Deductibles or Co-Payments). Your cost share amount and the Out-Of-Pocket Amounts may be different depending on whether you received covered services from a participating provider or non-participating provider. Specifically, you may be required to pay higher cost-sharing amounts or may have limits on your benefits when using non-participating providers. Please see the SUMMARY OF BENEFITS section for your cost share responsibilities and limitations, or call the Member Services telephone number on your ID card to learn how this plan’s benefits or cost share amount may vary by the type of provider you use.

Anthem Blue Cross will not provide any reimbursement for non-covered services. You may be responsible for the total amount billed by your provider for non-covered services, regardless of whether such services are performed by a participating provider or non-participating provider. Non-covered services include services specifically excluded from coverage by the terms of your plan and services received after benefits have been exhausted. Benefits may be exhausted by exceeding, for example, Medical Benefit Maximums or day/visit limits.

In some instances you may only be asked to pay the lower participating provider cost share percentage when you use a non-participating provider. For example, if you go to a participating hospital or facility and receive covered services from a non-participating provider such as a radiologist, anesthesiologist or pathologist providing services at the hospital or facility, you will pay the participating provider cost share percentage of the maximum allowed amount for those covered services. However, you also may be liable for the difference between the maximum allowed amount and the non-participating provider’s charge.
In some instances you may only be asked to pay the lower participating provider cost share percentage when you use a non-participating provider. For example, if you receive covered non-emergency services at a participating hospital or facility at which, or as a result of which, you receive covered services provided by a non-participating provider such as a radiologist, anesthesiologist or pathologist, you will pay the participating provider cost share percentage of the maximum allowed amount for those covered services, and you will not be liable for the difference between the maximum allowed amount and the non-participating provider's charge. Such participating provider cost share percentage will apply to the participating provider deductible (if any) and the participating provider out-of-pocket amount. This paragraph does not apply, however, if the non-participating provider has your written consent, satisfying the following criteria:

(1) At least 24 hours in advance of care, you consent in writing to receive services from the identified non-participating provider.

(2) The consent shall be obtained by the non-participating provider in a document that is separate from the document used to obtain the consent for any other part of the care or procedure. The consent shall not be obtained by the facility or any representative of the facility. The consent shall not be obtained at the time of admission or at any time when the member is being prepared for surgery or any other procedure.

(3) At the time consent is provided the non-participating provider shall give you a written estimate of your total out-of-pocket cost of care. The written estimate shall be based on the professional's billed charges for the service to be provided. The non-participating provider shall not attempt to collect more than the estimated amount without receiving separate written consent from you or your authorized representative, unless circumstances arise during delivery of services that were unforeseeable at the time the estimate was given that would require the provider to change the estimate.

(4) The consent shall advise you that you may elect to seek care from a participating provider or may contact Anthem in order to arrange to receive the health service from a participating provider for lower out-of-pocket costs.

(5) The consent and estimate shall be provided to you in the language spoken by you, if the language is a Medi-Cal threshold language, as defined in state law (subdivision (d) of Section 128552 of the Health and Safety Code).
(6) The consent shall also advise you that any costs incurred as a result of your use of the non-participating provider benefit shall be in addition to participating provider cost-sharing amounts and may not count toward the annual out-of-pocket maximum for participating provider benefits or a deductible, if any, for participating provider benefits.

We and/or our designated pharmacy benefits manager may receive discounts, rebates, or other funds from drug manufacturers, wholesalers, distributors and/or similar vendors which may be related to certain prescription drug purchases under this plan and which positively impact the cost effectiveness of covered services and are included when our costs are calculated. However, these amounts are retained by us and will not be applied to your deductible, if any, or taken into account in determining your co-payment or co-insurance for a particular prescription drug.

**Authorized Referrals**

In some circumstances we may authorize participating provider cost share amounts (Deductibles or Co-Payments) to apply to a claim for a covered service you receive from a non-participating provider. In such circumstance, you or your physician must contact us in advance of obtaining the covered service. It is your responsibility to ensure that we have been contacted. If we authorize a participating provider cost share amount to apply to a covered service received from a non-participating provider, you also may still be liable for the difference between the maximum allowed amount and the non-participating provider’s charge. In certain situations, however, if you receive non-emergency covered services at a participating hospital or facility at which, or as a result of which, you receive services from a non-participating provider, you will pay no more than the cost sharing that you would pay for the same covered services received from a participating provider. Please see “Member Cost Share” in the YOUR MEDICAL BENEFITS section for more information.

Please call the Member Services telephone number on your ID card for authorized referral information or to request authorization. If you receive prior authorization for a non-participating provider due to network adequacy issues, you will not be responsible for the difference between the non-participating provider’s charge and the maximum allowed amount. Please call the Member Services telephone number on your ID card for authorized referral information or to request authorization.

**WARNING! Reduction of Maximum Allowed Amount for Non-Contracting Hospitals.** A small percentage of hospitals which are non-participating providers are also non-contracting hospitals. Except for emergency care, the maximum allowed amount is reduced by 25% for all services and supplies provided by a non-contracting hospital. You will be responsible for paying this amount. You are strongly encouraged to avoid this additional expense by seeking care from a contracting hospital.
You can call the Member Services number on your identification card to locate a *contracting hospital*.

**DEDUCTIBLES, CO-PAYMENTS, OUT-OF-POCKET AMOUNTS AND MEDICAL BENEFIT MAXIMUMS**

After we subtract any applicable deductible and your Co-Payment, we will pay benefits up to the *maximum allowed amount*, (or the reasonable and customary value for emergency services provided by a *non-participating provider*), not to exceed any applicable Medical Benefit Maximum. The Deductible amounts, Co-Payments, Out-Of-Pocket Amounts and Medical Benefit Maximums are set forth in the SUMMARY OF BENEFITS.

**DEDUCTIBLES**

Each deductible under this *plan* is separate and distinct from the other. Only the covered charges that make up the *maximum allowed amount* (or the reasonable and customary value for emergency services provided by a *non-participating provider*) will apply toward the satisfaction of any deductible except as specifically indicated in this booklet.

**Calendar Year Deductible.** Each year, you will be responsible for satisfying the member’s Calendar Year Deductible for *participating providers* and *other health care providers* before benefits are paid for the services of *participating providers* and *other health care providers*.

**Family Deductible.** For *participating providers* and *other health care providers*, the first three members of an enrolled family who satisfy their Calendar Year Deductibles will satisfy the Family Deductible. For *non-participating providers* the first two members of an enrolled family who satisfy their Calendar Year Deductibles will satisfy the Family Deductible. For *participating providers* and *other health care providers*, once the Family Deductible is satisfied, no further Calendar Year Deductible expense will be required for any enrolled member of that family who receives services from those providers. For *non-participating providers*, once the Family Deductible is satisfied, no further Calendar Year Deductible expense will be required for any enrolled member of that family who receives services from those providers. However, the *plan* will not credit any expense previously applied to the Calendar Year Deductible of any other member of the family.

**Prior Plan Calendar Year Deductibles.** If you were covered under the *prior plan* any amount paid during the same *calendar year* toward your calendar year deductible under the *prior plan*, will be applied toward your Calendar Year Deductible under this *plan*; provided that, such payments were for charges that would be covered under this *plan*. 
Additional Deductibles

1. Each time you visit an emergency room for treatment you will be responsible for paying the Emergency Room Deductible. But this deductible will not apply if you are admitted as a hospital inpatient from the emergency room immediately following emergency room treatment.

2. Each time you are admitted to a hospital or residential treatment center which is a non-participating provider, you are responsible for paying the Inpatient Deductible. This deductible will not apply to an emergency admission.

3. Each time you have outpatient surgery at an ambulatory surgical center which is a non-participating provider, you are responsible for paying the Ambulatory Surgical Center Deductible. This deductible will not apply to emergency surgery.

4. Each time you are admitted to a hospital or residential treatment center without properly obtaining certification, you are responsible for paying the Non-Certification Deductible. This deductible will not apply to an emergency admission or procedure, services provided at a participating provider or to medically necessary inpatient facility services available to you through the BlueCard Program. Certification is explained in UTILIZATION REVIEW PROGRAM.

CO-PAYMENTS

After you have satisfied any applicable deductible, we will subtract your Co-Payment from the maximum allowed amount remaining (or from the amount of reasonable and customary value remaining for emergency services provided by a non-participating provider).

If your Co-Payment is a percentage, we will apply the applicable percentage to the maximum allowed amount remaining after any deductible has been met. This will determine the dollar amount of your Co-Payment.
OUT-OF-POCKET AMOUNTS

Satisfaction of the Out-of-Pocket Amount. If, after you have met your Calendar Year Deductible, you pay Co-Payments equal to your Out-of-Pocket Amount during a calendar year, you will no longer be required to make Co-Payments for any additional covered services or supplies during the remainder of that year.

Participating Providers, Participating Pharmacies, Home Delivery Pharmacy and Other Health Care Providers. Only covered charges up to the maximum allowed amount or prescription drug maximum allowed amount for the services of participating providers, participating pharmacies, home delivery pharmacy and other health care providers will be applied to the Participating Providers, Participating Pharmacies, Home Delivery Pharmacy and Other Health Care Providers Out-of-Pocket Amount.

After this Out-of-Pocket Amount per member or family has been satisfied during a calendar year, you will no longer be required to make any Co-Payment for the covered services provided by a participating provider, participating pharmacy, home delivery pharmacy or other health care provider for the remainder of that year. You will continue to be required to make Co-Payments for the covered services of a non-participating provider and non-participating pharmacy until the Non-Participating Providers and Non-Participating Pharmacies Out-of-Pocket Amount has been met.

Non-Participating Providers and Non-Participating Pharmacies. Only covered charges up to the maximum allowed amount or prescription drug maximum allowed amount for the services of non-participating providers and non-participating pharmacies will be applied to the Non-Participating Providers and Non-Participating Pharmacies Out-of-Pocket Amount. After this Out-of-Pocket Amount has been satisfied during a calendar year, you will no longer be required to make any Co-Payment for the covered services provided by a non-participating provider or non-participating pharmacy for the remainder of that year.
One Member. If you pay co-payments during a calendar year equal to the participating and other health care provider out-of-pocket amount for one member, you will no longer be required to make any Co-Payment for covered services provided by a participating provider or other health care provider for the remainder of that year.

If you have satisfied the non-participating provider out-of-pocket amount for one member, you will no longer be required to make any Co-Payment for covered services provided by a non-participating provider.

Two Or More Members of the same Family. If two or more enrolled members of the same family pay co-payments during a calendar year equal to the participating and other health care provider out-of-pocket amount for two or more members, no further Co-Payment will be required for covered services provided by a participating provider or other health care provider for the remainder of that year.

If two or more enrolled members of the same family pay co-payments during a calendar year equal to the non-participating provider out-of-pocket amount for two or more members, no further Co-Payment will be required for covered services provided by a non-participating provider for the remainder of that year.

Charges Which Do Not Apply Toward the Out-of-Pocket Amount.
The following charges will not be applied toward satisfaction of an Out-of-Pocket Amount:

- Charges for services or supplies not covered under this plan;
- Charges which exceed the maximum allowed amount.
- Charges which exceed the prescription drug maximum allowed amount.

MEDICAL BENEFIT MAXIMUMS

We do not make benefit payments for any member in excess of any of the Medical Benefit Maximums.
CREDITING PRIOR PLAN COVERAGE

If you were covered by the group’s prior plan immediately before the group signs up with us, with no lapse in coverage, then you will get credit for any accrued Calendar Year Deductible and, if applicable and approved by us, Out of Pocket Amounts under the prior plan. This does not apply to individuals who were not covered by the prior plan on the day before the group’s coverage with us began, or who join the group later.

If your group moves from one of our plans to another, (for example, changes its coverage from HMO to PPO), and you were covered by the other product immediately before enrolling in this product with no break in coverage, then you will get credit for any accrued Calendar Year Deductible and Out of Pocket Amounts, if applicable and approved by us. Any maximums, when applicable, will be carried over and charged against the Medical Benefit Maximums under this plan.

If your group offers more than one of our products, and you change from one product to another with no break in coverage, you will get credit for any accrued Calendar Year Deductible and, if applicable, Out of Pocket Amounts and any maximums will be carried over and charged against Medical Benefit Maximums under this plan.

If your group offers coverage through other products or carriers in addition to ours, and you change products or carriers to enroll in this product with no break in coverage, you will get credit for any accrued Calendar Year Deductible, Out of Pocket Amount, and any Medical Benefit Maximums under this plan.

This Section Does Not Apply To You If:

- Your group moves to this plan at the beginning of a calendar year;
- You change from one of our individual policies to a group plan;
- You change employers; or
- You are a new member of the group who joins after the group’s initial enrollment with us.
CONDITIONS OF COVERAGE

The following conditions of coverage must be met for expense incurred for services or supplies to be covered under this plan.

1. You must incur this expense while you are covered under this plan. Expense is incurred on the date you receive the service or supply for which the charge is made.

2. The expense must be for a medical service or supply furnished to you as a result of illness or injury or pregnancy, unless a specific exception is made.

3. The expense must be for a medical service or supply included in MEDICAL CARE THAT IS COVERED. Additional limits on covered charges are included under specific benefits and in the SUMMARY OF BENEFITS.

4. The expense must not be for a medical service or supply listed in MEDICAL CARE THAT IS NOT COVERED. If the service or supply is partially excluded, then only that portion which is not excluded will be covered under this plan.

5. The expense must not exceed any of the maximum benefits or limitations of this plan.

6. Any services received must be those which are regularly provided and billed by the provider. In addition, those services must be consistent with the illness, injury, degree of disability and your medical needs. Benefits are provided only for the number of days required to treat your illness or injury.

7. All services and supplies must be ordered by a physician.

MEDICAL CARE THAT IS COVERED

Subject to the Medical Benefit Maximums in the SUMMARY OF BENEFITS, the requirements set forth under CONDITIONS OF COVERAGE and the exclusions or limitations listed under MEDICAL CARE THAT IS NOT COVERED, we will provide benefits for the following services and supplies:

Hospital

1. Inpatient services and supplies, provided by a hospital. The maximum allowed amount will not include charges in excess of the hospital's prevailing two-bed room rate unless there is a negotiated per diem rate between us and the hospital, or unless your physician orders, and we authorize, a private room as medically necessary.

2. Services in special care units.
3. Outpatient services and supplies provided by a hospital, including outpatient surgery.

**Skilled Nursing Facility.** Inpatient services and supplies provided by a skilled nursing facility, for up to 100 days per calendar year. The amount by which your room charge exceeds the prevailing two-bed room rate of the skilled nursing facility is not considered covered under this plan.

Skilled nursing facility services and supplies are subject to prior authorization to determine medical necessity. Please refer to UTILIZATION REVIEW PROGRAMS for information on how to obtain the proper reviews.

**Home Health Care.** Benefits are available for covered services performed by a home health agency or other provider in your home. The following are services provided by a home health agency:

1. Services of a registered nurse or licensed vocational nurse under the supervision of a registered nurse or a physician.
2. Services of a licensed therapist for physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy, or respiratory therapy.
3. Services of a medical social service worker.
4. Services of a health aide who is employed by (or who contracts with) a home health agency or with other organizations we approve. Services must be ordered and supervised by a registered nurse employed by the home health agency as professional coordinator. These services are covered only if you are also receiving the services listed in 1 or 2 above. Other organizations may give services only when approved by us, and their duties must be assigned and supervised by a professional nurse on the staff of the home health agency or other provider as approved by us.
5. Medically necessary supplies provided by the home health agency.

When available in your area, benefits are also available for intensive in-home behavioral health services. These do not require confinement to the home. These services are described in the “Benefits for Mental Health Conditions and Substance Abuse” section below.

In no event will benefits exceed 100 visits during a calendar year. A visit of four hours or less by a home health aide shall be considered as one home health visit.

Home health care services are subject to prior authorization to determine medical necessity. Please refer to MEDICAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAMS: AUTHORIZATION PROGRAM for information on how to obtain the proper reviews.
Home health care services are not covered if received while you are receiving benefits under the "Hospice Care" provision of this section.

**Hospice Care.** You are eligible for hospice care if your physician and the hospice medical director certify that you are terminally ill and likely have less than twelve (12) months to live. You may access hospice care while participating in a clinical trial or continuing disease modifying therapy, as ordered by your treating physician. Disease modifying therapy treats the underlying terminal illness.

The services and supplies listed below are covered when provided by a hospice for the palliative treatment of pain and other symptoms associated with a terminal disease. Palliative care is care that controls pain and relieves symptoms but is not intended to cure the illness. Covered services include:

1. Interdisciplinary team care with the development and maintenance of an appropriate plan of care.
2. Short-term inpatient hospital care when required in periods of crisis or as respite care. Coverage of inpatient respite care is provided on an occasional basis and is limited to a maximum of five consecutive days per admission.
3. Skilled nursing services provided by or under the supervision of a registered nurse. Certified home health aide services and homemaker services provided under the supervision of a registered nurse.
4. Social services and counseling services provided by a qualified social worker.
5. Dietary and nutritional guidance. Nutritional support such as intravenous feeding or hyperalimentation.
6. Physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy, and respiratory therapy provided by a licensed therapist.
7. Volunteer services provided by trained hospice volunteers under the direction of a hospice staff member.
8. Pharmaceuticals, medical equipment, and supplies necessary for the management of your condition. Oxygen and related respiratory therapy supplies.
9. Bereavement services, including assessment of the needs of the bereaved family and development of a care plan to meet those needs, both prior to and following the subscriber's or the family member's death. Bereavement services are available to surviving members of the immediate family for a period of one year after the death. Your immediate family means your spouse, children, step-children, parents, and siblings.

10. Palliative care (care which controls pain and relieves symptoms, but does not cure) which is appropriate for the illness.

Your physician must consent to your care by the hospice and must be consulted in the development of your treatment plan. The hospice must submit a written treatment plan to us every 30 days.

Benefits for services beyond those listed above that are given for disease modification or palliation, such as but not limited to chemotherapy and radiation therapy, are available to a member in hospice. These services are covered under other parts of this plan.

**Infusion Therapy.** The following services and supplies when provided by an infusion therapy provider in your home or in any other outpatient setting by a qualified health care provider, for the intravenous administration of your total daily nutritional intake or fluid requirements, including but not limited to Parenteral Therapy and Total Parenteral Nutrition (TPN), medication related to illness or injury, chemotherapy, antibiotic therapy, aerosol therapy, tocolytic therapy, special therapy, intravenous hydration, or pain management:

1. Medication, ancillary medical supplies and supply delivery, (not to exceed a 14-day supply); however, medication which is delivered but not administered is not covered;

2. Pharmacy compounding and dispensing services (including pharmacy support) for intravenous solutions and medications (if outpatient prescription drug benefits are provided under this plan, compound medications must be obtained from a participating pharmacy);

3. Hospital and home clinical visits related to the administration of infusion therapy, including skilled nursing services including those provided for: (a) patient or alternative caregiver training; and (b) visits to monitor the therapy;

4. Rental and purchase charges for durable medical equipment; maintenance and repair charges for such equipment;

5. Laboratory services to monitor the patient's response to therapy regimen.
6. Total Parenteral Nutrition (TPN), Enteral Nutrition Therapy, antibiotic therapy, pain management, chemotherapy, and may also include injections (intra-muscular, subcutaneous, or continuous subcutaneous).

Our maximum payment will not exceed $600 per day for services or supplies provided by a non-participating provider.

*Infusion therapy provider* services are subject to pre-service review to determine medical necessity. See UTILIZATION REVIEW PROGRAM.

**Ambulatory Surgical Center.** Services and supplies provided by an ambulatory surgical center in connection with outpatient surgery.

**Online Care Services.** When available in your area, covered services will include medical consultations using the internet via webcam, chat, or voice. Online care services are covered under plan benefits for office visits to physicians.

Non-covered services include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Reporting normal lab or other test results.
- Office visit appointment requests or changes.
- Billing, insurance coverage, or payment questions.
- Requests for referrals to other physicians or healthcare practitioners.
- Benefit precertification.
- Consultations between physicians.
- Consultations provided by telephone, electronic mail, or facsimile machines.

**Note:** You will be financially responsible for the costs associated with non-covered services.

**Professional Services**

1. Services of a physician.

2. Services of an anesthetist (M.D. or C.R.N.A.).
**Reconstructive Surgery.** Reconstructive surgery performed to correct or repair abnormal structures of the body caused by congenital defects, developmental abnormalities, trauma, infection, tumors, or disease to do either of the following: (a) improve function; or (b) create a normal appearance, to the extent possible. This includes surgery performed to restore and achieve symmetry following a *medically necessary* mastectomy. This also includes *medically necessary* dental or orthodontic services that are an integral part of *reconstructive surgery* for cleft palate procedures. “Cleft palate” means a condition that may include cleft palate, cleft lip, or other craniofacial anomalies associated with cleft palate.

This does not apply to orthognathic surgery. Please see the “Dental Care” provision below for a description of this service.

**Ambulance.** Ambulance services are covered when you are transported by a state licensed vehicle that is designed, equipped, and used to transport the sick and injured and is staffed by Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs), paramedics, or other licensed or certified medical professionals. Ambulance services are covered when one or more of the following criteria are met:

- **For ground ambulance,** you are transported:
  - From your home, or from the scene of an accident or medical *emergency*, to a *hospital*,
  - Between *hospitals*, including when you are required to move from a *hospital* that does not contract with us to one that does, or
  - Between a *hospital* and a *skilled nursing facility* or other approved facility.

- **For air or water ambulance,** you are transported:
  - From the scene of an accident or medical *emergency* to a *hospital*,
  - Between hospitals, including when you are required to move from a *hospital* that does not contract with us to one that does, or
  - Between a *hospital* and another approved facility.
Non-emergency ambulance services are subject to medical necessity reviews. 

Emergency ground ambulance services do not require pre-service review. Pre-service review is required for air ambulance in a non-medical emergency. When using an air ambulance in a non-emergency situation, we reserve the right to select the air ambulance provider. If you do not use the air ambulance we select in a non-emergency situation, no coverage will be provided.

You must be taken to the nearest facility that can provide care for your condition. In certain cases, coverage may be approved for transportation to a facility that is not the nearest facility.

Coverage includes medically necessary treatment of an illness or injury by medical professionals from an ambulance service, even if you are not transported to a hospital. If provided through the 911 emergency response system*, ambulance services are covered if you reasonably believed that a medical emergency existed even if you are not transported to a hospital.

Other non-covered ambulance services include, but are not limited to, trips to:

- A physician’s office or clinic;
- A morgue or funeral home.

If provided through the 911 emergency response system*, ambulance services are covered if you reasonably believed that a medical emergency existed even if you are not transported to a hospital.

**Important information about air ambulance coverage.** Coverage is only provided for air ambulance services when it is not appropriate to use a ground or water ambulance. For example, if using a ground ambulance would endanger your health and your medical condition requires a more rapid transport to a hospital than the ground ambulance can provide, this plan will cover the air ambulance. Air ambulance will also be covered if you are in a location that a ground or water ambulance cannot reach.

Air ambulance will not be covered if you are taken to a hospital that is not an acute care hospital (such a skilled nursing facility or a rehabilitation facility), or if you are taken to a physician’s office or to your home.

**Hospital to hospital transport:** If you are being transported from one hospital to another, air ambulance will only be covered if using a ground ambulance would endanger your health and if the hospital that first treats you cannot give you the medical services you need. Certain specialized services are not available at all hospitals.
For example, burn care, cardiac care, trauma care, and critical care are only available at certain hospitals. For services to be covered, you must be taken to the closest hospital that can treat you. Coverage is not provided for air ambulance transfers because you, your family, or your physician prefers a specific hospital or physician.

* If you have an emergency medical condition that requires an emergency response, please call the “911” emergency response system if you are in an area where the system is established and operating.

**Diagnostic Services.** Outpatient diagnostic imaging, laboratory services and genetic tests. Genetic tests are subject to pre-service review to determine medical necessity. Please refer to UTILIZATION REVIEW PROGRAM for information on how to obtain the proper reviews. Certain imaging procedures, including, but not limited to, Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI), Computerized Axial Tomography (CAT scans), Positron Emission Tomography (PET scan), Magnetic Resonance Spectroscopy (MRS scan), Magnetic Resonance Angiogram (MRA scan) and nuclear cardiac imaging are subject to pre-service review to determine medical necessity. You may call the toll-free Member Services telephone number on your identification card to find out if an imaging procedure requires pre-service review. See UTILIZATION REVIEW PROGRAM for details.

**Radiation Therapy.** This includes treatment of disease using x-ray, radium or radioactive isotopes, other treatment methods (such as teletherapy, brachytherapy, intra operative radiation, photon or high energy particle sources), material and supplies used in the therapy process and treatment planning. These services can be provided in a facility or professional setting.

**Chemotherapy.** This includes the treatment of disease using chemical or antineoplastic agents and the cost of such agents in a professional or facility setting.

**Hemodialysis Treatment.** This includes services related to renal failure and chronic (end-stage) renal disease, including hemodialysis, home intermittent peritoneal dialysis home continuous cycling peritoneal dialysis and home continuous ambulatory peritoneal dialysis.

The following renal dialysis services are covered:

- Outpatient maintenance dialysis treatments in an outpatient dialysis facility;
- Home dialysis; and
- Training for self-dialysis at home including the instructions for a person who will assist with self-dialysis done at a home setting.
Prosthetic Devices

1. Breast prostheses following a mastectomy.

2. *Prosthetic devices* to restore a method of speaking when required as a result of a covered *medically necessary* laryngectomy.

3. We will pay for other *medically necessary prosthetic devices*, including:
   a. Surgical implants, including but not limited to cochlear implants;
   b. Artificial limbs or eyes;
   c. The first pair of contact lenses or eye glasses when required as a result of a covered *medically necessary eye surgery*;
   d. Therapeutic shoes and inserts for the prevention and treatment of diabetes-related foot complications; and
   e. Benefits are available for certain types of orthotics (braces, boots, splints). Covered services include the initial purchase, fitting, and repair of a custom made rigid or semi-rigid supportive device used to support, align, prevent, or correct deformities or to improve the function of movable parts of the body, or which limits or stops motion of a weak or diseased body part.

Durable Medical Equipment. Rental or purchase of dialysis equipment; dialysis supplies. Rental or purchase of other medical equipment and supplies which are:

1. Of no further use when medical needs end (but not disposable);
2. For the exclusive use of the patient;
3. Not primarily for comfort or hygiene;
4. Not for environmental control or for exercise; and
5. Manufactured specifically for medical use.

We will determine whether the item satisfies the conditions above.

Pediatric Asthma Equipment and Supplies. The following items when required for the *medically necessary* treatment of asthma in a dependent child:

1. Nebulizers, including face masks and tubing. These items are covered under the *plan’s* medical benefits and are not subject to any limitations or maximums that apply to coverage for durable medical equipment (see "Durable Medical Equipment").
2. Inhaler spacers and peak flow meters. These items are covered under your prescription drug benefits and are subject to the copayment for brand name drugs (see YOUR PRESCRIPTION DRUG BENEFITS).

**Blood.** Blood transfusions, including blood processing and the cost of unreplaced blood and blood products. Charges for the collection, processing and storage of self-donated blood are covered, but only when specifically collected for a planned and covered surgical procedure.

**Dental Care**

1. **Admissions for Dental Care.** Listed inpatient hospital services for up to three days during a hospital stay, when such stay is required for dental treatment and has been ordered by a physician (M.D.) and a dentist (D.D.S.). We will make the final determination as to whether the dental treatment could have been safely rendered in another setting due to the nature of the procedure or your medical condition. Hospital stays for the purpose of administering general anesthesia are not considered necessary and are not covered except as specified in #2, below.

2. **General Anesthesia.** General anesthesia and associated facility charges when your clinical status or underlying medical condition requires that dental procedures be rendered in a hospital or ambulatory surgical center. This applies only if (a) the member is less than seven years old, (b) the member is developmentally disabled, or (c) the member's health is compromised and general anesthesia is medically necessary. Charges for the dental procedure itself, including professional fees of a dentist, are not covered.

3. **Dental Injury.** Services of a physician (M.D.) or dentist (D.D.S.) treating an accidental injury to natural teeth which occurs while you are covered under the agreement. Services must be received during the six months following the date of injury. Damage to natural teeth due to chewing or biting is not accidental injury unless the chewing or biting results from a medical or mental condition.

4. **Cleft Palate.** Medically necessary dental or orthodontic services that are an integral part of reconstructive surgery for cleft palate procedures. "Cleft palate" means a condition that may include cleft palate, cleft lip, or other craniofacial anomalies associated with cleft palate.
5. **Orthognathic surgery.** Orthognathic surgery for a physical abnormality that prevents normal function of the upper or lower jaw and is *medically necessary* to attain functional capacity of the affected part.

**Important:** If you decide to receive dental services that are not covered under this *plan*, a *participating provider* who is a dentist may charge you his or her usual and customary rate for those services. Prior to providing you with dental services that are not a covered benefit, the dentist should provide a treatment plan that includes each anticipated service to be provided and the estimated cost of each service. If you would like more information about the dental services that are covered under this *plan*, please call us at the Member Services telephone number listed on your ID card. To fully understand your coverage under this *plan*, please carefully review this Evidence of Coverage document.

**Pregnancy and Maternity Care**

1. All medical benefits for an enrolled *member* when provided for pregnancy or maternity care, including the following services:
   a. Prenatal, postnatal and postpartum care. Prenatal care also includes participation in the California Prenatal Screening Program, which is a statewide prenatal testing program administered by the State Department of Public Health;
   b. Ambulatory care services (including ultrasounds, fetal non-stress tests, *physician* office visits, and other *medically necessary* maternity services performed outside of a *hospital*);
   c. Involuntary complications of pregnancy;
   d. Diagnosis of genetic disorders in cases of high-risk pregnancy; and
   e. Inpatient *hospital* care including labor and delivery.

   Inpatient *hospital* benefits in connection with childbirth will be provided for at least 48 hours following a normal delivery or 96 hours following a cesarean section, unless the mother and her *physician* decide on an earlier discharge. Please see the section entitled FOR YOUR INFORMATION for a statement of your rights under federal law regarding these services.

2. Medical *hospital* benefits for routine nursery care of a newborn *child*, if the *child's* natural mother is an enrolled *member*. Routine nursery care of a newborn child includes screening of a newborn for genetic diseases, congenital conditions, and other health conditions provided through a program established by law or regulation.
3. Certain services are covered under the “Preventive Care Services” benefit. Please see that provision for further details.

**Transplant Services.** Services and supplies provided in connection with a non-investigative organ or tissue transplant, if you are:

1. The recipient; or
2. The donor.

Benefits for an organ donor are as follows:

- When both the person donating the organ and the person getting the organ are our covered members, each will get benefits under their plans.

- When the person getting the organ is our covered member, but the person donating the organ is not, benefits under this plan are limited to benefits not available to the donor from any other source. This includes, but is not limited to, other insurance, grants, foundations, and government programs.

- If our covered member is donating the organ to someone who is not a covered member, benefits are not available under this plan.

The maximum allowed amount for a donor, including donor testing and donor search, is limited to expense incurred for medically necessary medical services only. The maximum allowed amount for services incident to obtaining the transplanted material from a living donor or a human organ transplant bank will be covered. Such charges, including complications from the donor procedure for up to six weeks from the date of procurement, are covered. Services for treatment of a condition that is not directly related to, or a direct result of, the transplant are not covered.

Covered services are subject to any applicable deductibles, co-payments and medical benefit maximums set forth in the SUMMARY OF BENEFITS. The maximum allowed amount does not include charges for services received without first obtaining our prior authorization or which are provided at a facility other than a transplant center approved by us. See UTILIZATION REVIEW PROGRAM for details.

To maximize your benefits, you should call our Transplant Department as soon as you think you may need a transplant to talk about your benefit options. You must do this before you have an evaluation or work-up for a transplant. We will help you maximize your benefits by giving you coverage information, including details on what is covered and if any clinical coverage guidelines, medical policies, Centers of Medical Excellence (CME) or Blue Distinction Centers for Specialty Care (BDCSC) rules, or exclusions apply.
Call the Member Services phone number on the back of your ID card and ask for the transplant coordinator.

You or your physician must call our Transplant Department for pre-service review prior to the transplant, whether it is performed in an inpatient or outpatient setting. Prior authorization is required before we will provide benefits for a transplant. Your physician must certify, and we must agree, that the transplant is medically necessary. Your physician should send a written request for prior authorization to us as soon as possible to start this process. Not getting prior authorization will result in a denial of benefits.

Please note that your physician may ask for approval for HLA (human leukocyte antigen) testing, donor searches, or harvest and storage of stem cells prior to the final decision as to what transplant procedure will be needed. In these cases, the HLA testing and donor search charges will be covered as routine diagnostic tests. The harvest and storage request will be reviewed for medical necessity and may be approved. However, such an approval for HLA testing, donor search, or harvest and storage is NOT an approval for the later transplant. A separate medical necessity decision will be needed for the transplant itself.

Specific Transplants

You must obtain our prior authorization for all services including, but not limited to, preoperative tests and postoperative care related to the following specified transplants: heart, liver, lung, combination heart-lung, kidney, pancreas, simultaneous pancreas-kidney, or bone marrow/stem cell and similar procedures. Specified transplants must be performed at Centers of Medical Excellence (CME) or Blue Distinction Centers for Specialty Care (BDCSC). Charges for services provided for or in connection with a specified transplant performed at a facility other than a CME or BDCSC will not be considered covered under this plan. Call the toll-free telephone number for pre-service review on your identification card if your physician recommends a specified transplant for your medical care. A case manager transplant coordinator will assist in facilitating your access to a CME or BDCSC. See UTILIZATION REVIEW PROGRAM for details.
Transplant Travel Expense. The following travel expenses in connection with an authorized, specified organ transplant (heart, liver, lung, heart-lung, kidney-pancreas, or bone marrow, including autologous bone marrow transplant, peripheral stem cell replacement and similar procedures) performed at a CME or BDCSC, provided the expenses are authorized by us (See MEDICAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAMS: AUTHORIZATION PROGRAM for details.):

1. For the recipient and a companion, per transplant episode, up to six trips per episode:
   a. Round trip coach airfare to the CME or BDCSC, not to exceed $250 per person per trip.
   b. Hotel accommodations, not to exceed $100 per day for up to 21 days per trip, limited to one room, double occupancy.
   c. Other expenses, such as meals, not to exceed $25 per day for each person, for up to 21 days per trip.

2. For the donor, per transplant episode, limited to one trip:
   a. Round trip coach airfare to the CME or BDCSC, not to exceed $250.
   b. Hotel accommodations, not to exceed $100 per day for up to 7 days.
   c. Other expenses, such as meals, not to exceed $25 per day, for up to 7 days.

Bariatric Surgery. Services and supplies in connection with medically necessary surgery for weight loss, only for morbid obesity and only when performed at an approved BDCSC facility. See MEDICAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAMS: AUTHORIZATION PROGRAM for details.

You must obtain our prior authorization for all bariatric surgical procedures. Charges for services provided for or in connection with a bariatric surgical procedure performed at a facility other than a CME will not be considered covered.

Bariatric Travel Expense. The following travel expense benefits will be provided in connection with a covered bariatric surgical procedure only when the member’s home is fifty (50) miles or more from the nearest bariatric BDCSC. All travel expenses must be approved by Blue Cross in advance. The fifty (50) mile radius around the BDCSC will be determined by the bariatric BDCSC coverage area. (See DEFINITIONS.)
• Transportation for the member to and from the BDCSC up to $130 per trip for a maximum of three (3) trips (one pre-surgical visit, the initial surgery and one follow-up visit).

• Transportation for one companion to and from the BDCSC up to $130 per trip for a maximum of two (2) trips (the initial surgery and one follow-up visit).

• Hotel accommodations for the member and one companion not to exceed $100 per day for the pre-surgical visit and the follow-up visit, up to two (2) days per trip or as medically necessary. Limited to one room, double occupancy.

• Hotel accommodations for one companion not to exceed $100 per day for the duration of the member’s initial surgery stay, up to four (4) days. Limited to one room, double occupancy.

• Other reasonable expenses not to exceed $25 per day, up to four (4) days per trip. Tobacco, alcohol and drug expenses are excluded from coverage.

Member Services will confirm if the bariatric travel benefit is provided in connection with access to the selected bariatric BDCSC. Details regarding reimbursement can be obtained by calling the Member Services number on your I.D. card. A travel reimbursement form will be provided for submission of legible copies of all applicable receipts in order to obtain reimbursement.

Transgender Services. Services and supplies provided in connection with gender transition when you have been diagnosed with gender identity disorder or gender dysphoria by a physician. This coverage is provided according to the terms and conditions of the plan that apply to all other covered medical conditions, including medical necessity requirements, utilization management, and exclusions for cosmetic services. Coverage includes, but is not limited to, medically necessary services related to gender transition such as transgender surgery, hormone therapy, psychotherapy, and vocal training.

Coverage is provided for specific services according to plan benefits that apply to that type of service generally, if the plan includes coverage for the service in question. If a specific coverage is not included, the service will not be covered. For example, transgender surgery would be covered on the same basis as any other covered, medically necessary surgery; hormone therapy would be covered under the plan’s prescription drug benefits (if such benefits are included).

Transgender services are subject to prior authorization in order for coverage to be provided. Please refer to UTILIZATION REVIEW PROGRAM for information on how to obtain the proper reviews.
Transgender Travel Expense. Certain travel expenses incurred in connection with an approved transgender surgery, when the hospital at which the surgery is performed is 75 miles or more from your place of residence, provided the expenses are authorized in advance by us. Our maximum payment will not exceed $10,000 per transgender surgery, or series of surgeries (if multiple surgical procedures are performed), for the following travel expenses incurred by you and one companion:

- Ground transportation to and from the hospital when it is 75 miles or more from your place of residence.
- Coach airfare to and from the hospital when it is 300 miles or more from your residence.
- Lodging, limited to one room, double occupancy.
- Other reasonable expenses. Tobacco, alcohol, drug, and meal expenses are excluded.

The Calendar Year Deductible will not apply and no co-payments will be required for transgender travel expenses authorized in advance by us. We will provide benefits for lodging, transportation, and other reasonable expenses up to the current limits set forth in the Internal Revenue Code, not to exceed the maximum amount specified above. This travel expense benefit is not available for non-surgical transgender services.

Details regarding reimbursement can be obtained by calling the Member Services number on your identification card. A travel reimbursement form will be provided for submission of legible copies of all applicable receipts in order to obtain reimbursement.

Preventive Care Services. Preventive care includes screenings and other services for adults and children. All recommended preventive services will be covered as required by the Affordable Care Act (ACA) and applicable state law. This means for preventive care services, the calendar year deductible will not apply to these services or supplies when they are provided by a participating provider. No co-payment will apply to these services or supplies when they are provided by a participating provider.

Certain benefits for members who have current symptoms or a diagnosed health problem may be covered under a different benefit instead of this benefit, if the coverage does not fall within the state or ACA-recommended preventive care services.

1. A physician's services for routine physical examinations including routine vision or hearing examinations when done as part of the routine physical.

2. Immunizations prescribed by a examining physician.
3. Radiology and laboratory services and tests ordered by the examining physician in connection with a routine physical examination, excluding any such tests related to an illness or injury. Those radiology and laboratory services and tests related to an illness or injury will be covered as any other medical service available under the terms and conditions of the provision “Diagnostic Services”.

4. Health screenings as ordered by the examining physician for the following: breast cancer, including BRCA testing if appropriate (in conjunction with genetic counseling and evaluation), cervical cancer, including human papillomavirus (HPV), prostate cancer, colorectal cancer, and other medically accepted cancer screening tests, blood lead levels, high blood pressure, type 2 diabetes mellitus, cholesterol, and obesity, and screening for iron deficiency anemia in pregnant women.

5. Human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) testing, regardless of whether the testing is related to a primary diagnosis.

6. Counseling and risk factor reduction intervention services for sexually transmitted infections, human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), contraception, tobacco use, and tobacco use-related diseases.

7. Additional preventive care and screening for women provided for in the guidelines supported by the Health Resources and Services Administration, including the following:

    a. All FDA-approved contraceptive drugs, devices, and other products for women, including over-the-counter items, if prescribed by a physician. This includes contraceptive drugs, injectable contraceptives, patches and devices such as diaphragms, intra uterine devices (IUDs) and implants, as well as voluntary sterilization procedures, contraceptive education and counseling. It also includes follow-up services related to the drugs, devices, products and procedures, including but not limited to management of side effects, counseling for continued adherence, and device insertion and removal.

    At least one form of contraception in each of the methods identified in the FDA’s Birth Control Guide will be covered as preventive care under this section. If there is only one form of contraception in a given method, or if a form of contraception is deemed not medically advisable by a physician, the prescribed FDA-approved form of contraception will be covered as preventive care under this section.
b. In order to be covered as preventive care, contraceptive
prescription drugs must be either a generic or single-source
brand name drug (those without a generic equivalent). Multi-
source brand name drugs (those with a generic equivalent) will
be covered as preventive care services when medically
necessary according to your attending doctor, otherwise they will
be covered under your plan's prescription drug benefits (see
YOUR PRESCRIPTION DRUG BENEFITS).

Note: For FDA-approved, self-administered hormonal
contraceptives, up to a 12-month supply is covered when
dispensed or furnished at one time by a provider or pharmacist,
or at a location licensed or otherwise authorized to dispense
drugs or supplies.

c. Breast feeding support, supplies, and counseling.
d. Gestational diabetes screening.
e. Preventive prenatal care.

8. Preventive services for certain high-risk populations as determined
by your physician, based on clinical expertise.

This list of preventive care services is not exhaustive. Preventive tests
and screenings with a rating of A or B in the current recommendations of
the United States Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF), or those
supported by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)
will be covered with no copayment and will not apply to the calendar year
deductible.

See the definition of “Preventive Care Services” in the DEFINITIONS
section for more information about services that are covered by this plan as preventive care services.

Hearing Aid Services. The following hearing aid services are covered
when provided by or purchased as a result of a written recommendation
from an otolaryngologist or a state-certified audiologist.

1. Audiological evaluations to measure the extent of hearing loss and
determine the most appropriate make and model of hearing aid.
These evaluations will be covered under plan benefits for office visits
to physicians.

2. Hearing aids (monaural or binaural) including ear mold(s), the
hearing aid instrument, batteries, cords and other ancillary
equipment.

3. Visits for fitting, counseling, adjustments and repairs for a one year
period after receiving the covered hearing aid.
Benefits are provided for one hearing aid per ear every three years.

No benefits will be provided for the following:

1. Charges for a hearing aid which exceeds specifications prescribed for the correction of hearing loss.

2. Surgically implanted hearing devices (i.e., cochlear implants, audient bone conduction devices). *Medically necessary* surgically implanted hearing devices may be covered under your plan’s benefits for prosthetic devices (see “Prosthetic Devices”).

**Osteoporosis.** Coverage for services related to diagnosis, treatment, and appropriate management of osteoporosis including, but not limited to, all Food and Drug Administration approved technologies, including bone mass measurement technologies as deemed *medically necessary*.

**Breast Cancer.** Services and supplies provided in connection with the screening for, diagnosis of, and treatment for breast cancer whether due to illness or injury, including:

1. Diagnostic mammogram examinations for the treatment of a diagnosed illness or injury. Routine mammograms will be covered initially under the Preventive Care Services benefit.

2. Breast cancer (BRCA) testing, if appropriate, in conjunction with genetic counseling and evaluation. *When done as a preventive care service*, BRCA testing will be covered under the Preventive Care Services benefit.

3. Mastectomy and lymph node dissection; complications from a mastectomy including lymphedema.

4. Reconstructive surgery of both breasts performed to restore and achieve symmetry following a *medically necessary* mastectomy.

5. Breast prostheses following a mastectomy (see “Prosthetic Devices”).

**Clinical Trials.** Coverage is provided for routine patient costs you receive as a participant in an approved clinical trial. The services must be those that are listed as covered by this plan for members who are not enrolled in a clinical trial.

Routine patient care costs include items, services, and drugs provided to you in connection with an approved clinical trial that would otherwise be covered by the plan.
An “approved clinical trial” is a phase I, phase II, phase III, or phase IV clinical trial that studies the prevention, detection, or treatment of cancer or another life-threatening disease or condition, from which death is likely unless the disease or condition is treated. Coverage is limited to the following clinical trials:

1. Federally funded trials approved or funded by one or more of the following:
   a. The National Institutes of Health,
   b. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention,
   c. The Agency for Health Care Research and Quality,
   d. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services,
   e. A cooperative group or center of any of the four entities listed above or the Department of Defense or the Department of Veterans Affairs,
   f. A qualified non-governmental research entity identified in the guidelines issued by the National Institutes of Health for center support grants, or A qualified non-governmental research entity identified in the guidelines issued by the National Institutes of Health for center support grants, or
   g. Any of the following departments if the study or investigation has been reviewed and approved through a system of peer review that the Secretary of Health and Human Services determines (1) to be comparable to the system of peer review of investigations and studies used by the National Institutes of Health, and (2) assures unbiased review of the highest scientific standards by qualified individuals who have no interest in the outcome of the review:
      i. The Department of Veterans Affairs,
      ii. The Department of Defense,
      iii. The Department of Energy.

2. Studies or investigations done as part of an investigational new drug application reviewed by the Food and Drug Administration.

3. Studies or investigations done for drug trials that are exempt from the investigational new drug application.
Participation in such clinical trials must be recommended by your physician after determining participation has a meaningful potential to benefit you. All requests for clinical trials services, including requests that are not part of approved clinical trials, will be reviewed according to our Clinical Coverage Guidelines, related policies and procedures.

Routine patient costs do not include any of the items listed below. You will be responsible for the costs associated with any of the following, in addition to the costs of non-covered services.

1. The investigational item, device, or service.
2. Any item or service provided solely to satisfy data collection and analysis needs and that is not used in the clinical management of the patient.
3. Any service that is clearly inconsistent with widely accepted and established standards of care for a particular diagnosis.
4. Any item, device, or service that is paid for by the sponsor of the trial or is customarily provided by the sponsor free of charge for any enrollee in the trial.

Note: You will be financially responsible for the costs associated with non-covered services.

Disagreements regarding the coverage or medical necessity of possible clinical trial services may be subject to Independent Medical Review as described in GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES.

Physical Therapy, Physical Medicine and Occupational Therapy.

The following services provided by a physician under a treatment plan which offers a reasonable expectation of significant improvement:

1. Physical therapy and physical medicine provided on an outpatient basis for the treatment of illness or injury including the therapeutic use of heat, cold, exercise, electricity, ultra violet radiation, manipulation of the spine, or massage for the purpose of improving circulation, strengthening muscles, or encouraging the return of motion. (This includes many types of care which are customarily provided by chiropractors, physical therapists and osteopaths.)
2. Occupational therapy provided on an outpatient basis when the ability to perform daily life tasks has been lost or reduced by illness or injury including programs which are designed to rehabilitate mentally, physically or emotionally handicapped persons. Occupational therapy programs are designed to maximize or improve a patient's upper extremity function, perceptual motor skills and ability to function in daily living activities.

Benefits are not payable for care provided to relieve general soreness or for conditions that may be expected to improve without treatment.

**Chiropractic Care.** The services of a *physician* for outpatient chiropractic care provided to treat a disease, illness or injury. This includes care which is provided by chiropractors within the chiropractic scope of practice. Benefits for chiropractic care are limited to 15 visits per calendar year.

If you receive *chiropractic services* from a *non-participating provider* and you need to submit a claim to us, please send it to the address listed below. If you have any questions or are in need of assistance, please call us at the Member Services telephone number listed on your ID card.

**American Specialty Health**
**P.O. Box 509001**
**San Diego, CA 92150-9002**

**Contraceptives.** Services and supplies provided in connection with the following methods of contraception:

- Injectable drugs and implants for birth control, administered in a *physician’s office*, if *medically necessary*.

- Intrauterine contraceptive devices (IUDs) and diaphragms, dispensed by a *physician* if *medically necessary*.

- Professional services of a *physician* in connection with the prescribing, fitting, and insertion of intrauterine contraceptive devices or diaphragms.

Contraceptive supplies prescribed by a *physician* for reasons other than contraceptive purposes for *medically necessary* treatment such as decreasing the risk of ovarian cancer, eliminating symptoms of menopause or for contraception that is necessary to preserve life or health may also be covered.

If your *physician* determines that none of these contraceptive methods are appropriate for you based on your medical or personal history, coverage will be provided for another prescription contraceptive method.
that is approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and prescribed by your physician.

Certain contraceptives are covered under the “Preventive Care Services” benefit. Please see that provision for further details.

Note: For FDA-approved, self-administered hormonal contraceptives, up to a 12-month supply is covered when dispensed or furnished at one time by a provider or pharmacist, or at a location licensed or otherwise authorized to dispense drugs or supplies.

Sterilization Services. Benefits include sterilization services and services to reverse a non-elective sterilization that resulted from an illness or injury. Reversals of elective sterilizations are not covered.

Sterilizations for women are covered under the “Preventive Care Services” benefit. Please see that provision for further details.

Speech Therapy and speech-language pathology (SLP) services. Services to identify, assess, and treat speech, language, and swallowing disorders in children and adults. Therapy that will develop or treat communication or swallowing skills to correct a speech impairment.

After your initial visit to a physician for speech therapy, pre-service review must be obtained prior to receiving additional services. There is no limit on the number of covered visits for medically necessary services. However, visits must be authorized in advance. Please refer to UTILIZATION REVIEW PROGRAM for information on how to obtain the proper reviews.

Acupuncture. The services of a physician for acupuncture treatment to treat a disease, illness or injury, including a patient history visit, physical examination, treatment planning and treatment evaluation, electroacupuncture, cupping and moxibustion. We will pay for up to 12 visits during a calendar year.

Diabetes. Services and supplies provided for the treatment of diabetes, including:

1. The following equipment and supplies:
   a. Blood glucose monitors, including monitors designed to assist the visually impaired, and blood glucose testing strips.
   b. Insulin pumps.
   c. Pen delivery systems for insulin administration (non-disposable).
   d. Visual aids (but not eyeglasses) to help the visually impaired to properly dose insulin.
e. Podiatric devices, such as therapeutic shoes and shoe inserts, to treat diabetes-related complications.

Items a through d above are covered under your plan’s benefits for durable medical equipment (see “Durable Medical Equipment”). Item e above is covered under your plan’s benefits for prosthetic devices (see “Prosthetic Devices”).

2. Diabetes education program which:
   
a. Is designed to teach a member who is a patient and covered members of the patient's family about the disease process and the daily management of diabetic therapy;
   
b. Includes self-management training, education, and medical nutrition therapy to enable the member to properly use the equipment, supplies, and medications necessary to manage the disease; and
   
c. Is supervised by a physician.

Diabetes education services are covered under plan benefits for office visits to physicians.

4. Screenings for gestational diabetes are covered under your Preventive Care Services benefit. Please see that provision for further details.

Jaw Joint Disorders. We will pay for splint therapy or surgical treatment for disorders or conditions directly affecting the upper or lower jawbone or the joints linking the jawbones and the skull (the temporomandibular joints), including the complex of muscles, nerves and other tissues related to those joints.

Phenylketonuria (PKU). Benefits for the testing and treatment of phenylketonuria (PKU) are paid on the same basis as any other medical condition. Coverage for treatment of PKU shall include those formulas and special food products that are part of a diet prescribed by a licensed physician and managed by a health care professional in consultation with a physician who specializes in the treatment of metabolic disease and who participates in or is authorized by us. The diet must be deemed medically necessary to avert the development of serious physical or mental disabilities or to promote normal development or function as a consequence of PKU.
The cost of the necessary formulas and special food products is covered only as it exceeds the cost of a normal diet. “Formula” means an enteral product or products for use at home. The formula must be prescribed by a physician or nurse practitioner, or ordered by a registered dietician upon referral by a health care provider authorized to prescribe dietary treatments, and is medically necessary for the treatment of PKU. Formulas and special food products used in the treatment of PKU that are obtained from a pharmacy are covered as prescription drugs (see “Prescription Drugs and Medications”). Formulas and special food products that are not obtained from a pharmacy are covered under this benefit.

“Special food product” means a food product that is all of the following:

- Prescribed by a physician or nurse practitioner for the treatment of PKU, and
- Consistent with the recommendations and best practices of qualified physicians with expertise in the treatment and care of PKU, and
- Used in place of normal food products, such as grocery store foods, used by the general population.

**Note:** It does not include a food that is naturally low in protein, but may include a food product that is specially formulated to have less than one gram of protein per serving.

**Prescription Drug for Abortion.** Mifepristone is covered when provided under the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved treatment regimen.

**MEDICAL CARE THAT IS NOT COVERED**

No payment will be made under this plan for expenses incurred for or in connection with any of the items below. (The titles given to these exclusions and limitations are for ease of reference only; they are not meant to be an integral part of the exclusions and limitations and do not modify their meaning.)

**Not Medically Necessary.** Services or supplies that are not medically necessary, as defined.

**Unlisted Services.** Services not specifically listed in this booklet as covered services.

**Experimental or Investigative.** Any experimental or investigative procedure or medication.
Services Received Outside of the United States. Services rendered by providers located outside the United States, unless the services are for an emergency, emergency ambulance or urgent care.

Incarceration. For care required while incarcerated in a federal, state or local penal institution or required while in custody of federal, state or local law enforcement authorities, including work release programs, unless otherwise required by law or regulation. Not Covered. Services received before your effective date or after your coverage ends, except as specifically stated under EXTENSION OF BENEFITS.

Excess Amounts. Any amounts in excess of maximum allowed amounts or any Medical Benefit Maximum.

Non-Licensed Providers. Treatment or services rendered by non-licensed health care providers and treatment or services for which the provider of services is not required to be licensed. This includes treatment or services from a non-licensed provider under the supervision of a licensed physician, except as specifically provided or arranged by us. This exclusion does not apply to the medically necessary treatment of pervasive developmental disorder or autism, to the extent stated in the section BENEFITS FOR PERVERSIVE DEVELOPMENTAL DISORDER OR AUTISM.

Services Received from Providers on a Federal or State Exclusion List. Any service, drug, drug regimen, treatment, or supply furnished, ordered or prescribed by a provider identified as an excluded individual or entity on the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office of Inspector General List of Excluded Individuals/Entities (OIG List), the General Services Administration System for Award Management (GSA List), State Medicaid exclusion lists or other exclusion/sanctioned lists as published by Federal or State regulatory agencies. This exclusion does not apply to an emergency medical condition.

Waived Cost-Shares Non-Participating Provider. For any service for which you are responsible under the terms of this plan to pay a co-payment or deductible, and the co-payment or deductible is waived by a non-participating provider.

Work-Related. Any injury, condition or disease arising out of employment for which benefits or payments are covered by any worker’s compensation law or similar law. If we provide benefits for such injuries, conditions or diseases we shall be entitled to establish a lien or other recovery under section 4903 of the California Labor Code or any other applicable law, and as described in REIMBURSEMENT FOR ACTS OF THIRD PARTIES.
**Government Treatment.** Any services provided by a local, state or federal government agency, except when payment under this plan is expressly required by federal or state law.

**Medicare.** For which benefits are payable under Medicare Parts A and/or B, or would have been payable if you had applied for Parts A and/or B, except as listed in this booklet or as required by federal law, as described in the section titled “BENEFITS FOR MEDICARE ELIGIBLE MEMBERS: Coordinating Benefits With Medicare”. If you do not enroll in Medicare Part B, we will calculate benefits as if you had enrolled. You should sign up for Medicare Part B as soon as possible to avoid large out of pocket costs.

**Family Members.** Services prescribed, ordered, referred by or given by a member of your immediate family, including your spouse, child, brother, sister, parent, in-law or self.

**Medical Equipment, Devices and Supplies.** This plan does not cover the following:

- Replacement or repair of purchased or rental equipment because of misuse, abuse, or loss/theft.
- Surgical supports, corsets, or articles of clothing unless needed to recover from surgery or injury.
- Enhancements to standard equipment and devices that is not medically necessary.
- Supplies, equipment and appliances that include comfort, luxury, or convenience items or features that exceed what is medically necessary in your situation.

This exclusion does not apply to the medically necessary treatment of specifically stated in “Durable Medical Equipment” provision of MEDICAL CARE THAT IS COVERED.

**Voluntary Payment.** Services for which you have no legal obligation to pay, or for which no charge would be made in the absence of insurance coverage or other health plan coverage, except services received at a non-governmental charitable research hospital. Such a hospital must meet the following guidelines:

1. It must be internationally known as being devoted mainly to medical research;
2. At least 10% of its yearly budget must be spent on research not directly related to patient care;
3. At least one-third of its gross income must come from donations or grants other than gifts or payments for patient care;

4. It must accept patients who are unable to pay; and

5. Two-thirds of its patients must have conditions directly related to the hospital’s research.

**Private Contracts.** Services or supplies provided pursuant to a private contract between the *member* and a provider, for which reimbursement under the Medicare program is prohibited, as specified in Section 1802 (42 U.S.C. 1395a) of Title XVIII of the Social Security Act.

**Inpatient Diagnostic Tests.** Inpatient room and board charges in connection with a *hospital stay* primarily for diagnostic tests which could have been performed safely on an outpatient basis.

**Residential accommodations.** Residential accommodations to treat medical or behavioral health conditions, except when provided in a *hospital, hospice, skilled nursing facility* or *residential treatment center*. This exclusion includes procedures, equipment, services, supplies or charges for the following:

- Domiciliary care provided in a residential institution, treatment center, halfway house, or school because a *member’s own home arrangements are not available or are unsuitable*, and consisting chiefly of room and board, even if therapy is included.

- Care provided or billed by a hotel, health resort, convalescent home, rest home, nursing home or other extended care facility home for the aged, infirmary, school infirmary, institution providing education in special environments, supervised living or halfway house, or any similar facility or institution.

- Services or care provided or billed by a school, *custodial care center* for the developmentally disabled, or outward bound programs, even if psychotherapy is included.

- Wilderness camps.

This exclusion does not apply to the *medically necessary* services to treat *severe mental disorders* or serious emotional disturbances of a child as required by state law.

**Orthodontia.** Braces and other orthodontic appliances or services.
**Dental Services or Supplies.** Dental plates, bridges, crowns, caps or other dental prostheses, dental services, extraction of teeth, or treatment to the teeth or gums, or treatment to or for any disorders for the jaw joint, except as specifically stated in the "Dental Care" or "Jaw Joint Disorders" provisions of MEDICAL CARE THAT IS COVERED. Cosmetic dental surgery or other dental services for beautification.

**Hearing Aids or Tests.** Hearing aids and routine hearing tests, except as specifically provided under MEDICAL CARE THAT IS COVERED.

**Optometric Services or Supplies.** Optometric services, eye exercises including orthoptics. Routine eye exams and routine eye refractions, except as specifically provided under YOUR PREVENTIVE CARE BENEFITS. Eyeglasses or contact lenses, except as specifically stated in the "Prosthetic Devices" provision of MEDICAL CARE THAT IS COVERED.

**Outpatient Occupational Therapy.** Outpatient occupational therapy, except by a home health agency, hospice or infusion therapy provider as specifically stated in the "Home Health Care", "Hospice Care", "Infusion Therapy", or "Physical Therapy, Physical Medicine And Occupational Therapy" provisions of MEDICAL CARE THAT IS COVERED. This exclusion also does not apply to the medically necessary treatment of severe mental disorders, or to the medically necessary treatment of pervasive developmental disorder or autism, to the extent stated in the section BENEFITS FOR PERVERSIVE DEVELOPMENTAL DISORDER OR AUTISM.

**Outpatient Speech Therapy.** Outpatient speech therapy except as stated in the "Outpatient Speech Therapy" provision of MEDICAL CARE THAT IS COVERED. This exclusion also does not apply to the medically necessary treatment of severe mental disorders, or to the medically necessary treatment of pervasive developmental disorder or autism, to the extent stated in the section BENEFITS FOR PERVERSIVE DEVELOPMENTAL DISORDER OR AUTISM.

**Cosmetic Surgery.** Cosmetic surgery or other services performed to alter or reshape normal (including aged) structures or tissues of the body to improve appearance.

**Commercial Weight Loss Programs.** Weight loss programs, whether or not they are pursued under medical or physician supervision, unless specifically listed as covered in this plan.

This exclusion includes, but is not limited to, commercial weight loss programs (Weight Watchers, Jenny Craig, LA Weight Loss) and fasting programs.

This exclusion does not apply to medically necessary treatments for morbid obesity or dietary evaluations and counseling, and behavioral
modification programs for the treatment of anorexia nervosa or bulimia nervosa. Surgical treatment for morbid obesity is covered as stated in the “Bariatric Surgery” provision of MEDICAL CARE THAT IS COVERED.

Sterilization Reversal. Reversal of sterilization.

Infertility Treatment. Any services or supplies furnished in connection with the diagnosis and treatment of infertility, including, but not limited to, diagnostic tests, medication, surgery, artificial insemination, in vitro fertilization, sterilization reversal, and gamete intrafallopian transfer.

In-vitro Fertilization. Services or supplies for in-vitro fertilization (IVF) for purposes of pre-implant genetic diagnosis (PGD) of embryos, regardless of whether they are provided in connection with infertility treatment.

Surrogate Mother Services. For any services or supplies provided to a person not covered under the plan in connection with a surrogate pregnancy (including, but not limited to, the bearing of a child by another woman for an infertile couple).

Foot Orthotics. Foot orthotics, orthopedic shoes or footwear or support items unless used for a systemic illness affecting the lower limbs, such as severe diabetes.

Air Conditioners. Air purifiers, air conditioners, or humidifiers.

Custodial Care or Rest Cures. Inpatient room and board charges in connection with a hospital stay primarily for environmental change or physical therapy. Custodial care or rest cures, except as specifically provided under the "Hospice Care" or "Infusion Therapy" provisions of MEDICAL CARE THAT IS COVERED. Services provided by a rest home, a home for the aged, a nursing home or any similar facility. Services provided by a skilled nursing facility, except as specifically stated in the "Skilled Nursing Facility" provision of MEDICAL CARE THAT IS COVERED.

Chronic Pain. Treatment of chronic pain, except as specifically provided under the "Hospice Care" or "Infusion Therapy" provisions of MEDICAL CARE THAT IS COVERED.

Health Club Memberships. Health club memberships, exercise equipment, charges from a physical fitness instructor or personal trainer, or any other charges for activities, equipment or facilities used for developing or maintaining physical fitness, even if ordered by a physician. This exclusion also applies to health spas.
Personal Items. Any supplies for comfort, hygiene or beautification.

Educational or Academic Services. This plan does not cover:

1. Educational or academic counseling, remediation, or other services that are designed to increase academic knowledge or skills.

2. Educational or academic counseling, remediation, or other services that are designed to increase socialization, adaptive, or communication skills.

3. Academic or educational testing.

4. Teaching skills for employment or vocational purposes.

5. Teaching art, dance, horseback riding, music, play, swimming, or any similar activities.

6. Teaching manners and etiquette or any other social skills.

7. Teaching and support services to develop planning and organizational skills such as daily activity planning and project or task planning.

This exclusion does not apply to the medically necessary treatment of pervasive developmental disorder or autism, to the extent stated in the section BENEFITS FOR PERVERSIVE DEVELOPMENTAL DISORDER OR AUTISM. Additionally, this exclusion does not apply to the medically necessary services to treat severe mental disorders or serious emotional disturbances of a child as required by state law.

Food or Dietary Supplements. Nutritional and/or dietary supplements, except as provided in this plan or as required by law. This exclusion includes, but is not limited to, those nutritional formulas and dietary supplements that can be purchased over the counter, which by law do not require either a written prescription or dispensing by a licensed pharmacist. This exclusion does not apply to the medically necessary services to treat severe mental disorders or serious emotional disturbances of a child as required by state law.

Telephone, Facsimile Machine, and Electronic Mail Consultations. Consultations provided using telephone, facsimile machine, or electronic mail. This exclusion does not apply to the medically necessary services to treat severe mental disorders or serious emotional disturbances of a child as required by state law.

Routine Physicals and Immunizations. Physical exams and immunizations required for travel, enrollment in any insurance program, as a condition of employment, for licensing, sports programs, or for other purposes, which are not required by law under the “Preventive Care
Services provision of MEDICAL CARE THAT IS COVERED. This exclusion does not apply to medically necessary services to treat severe mental disorders or serious emotional disturbances of a child as required by state law.

Acupuncture. Acupuncture treatment except as specifically stated in the "Acupuncture" provision of MEDICAL CARE THAT IS COVERED. Acupressure, or massage to control pain, treat illness or promote health by applying pressure to one or more specific areas of the body based on dermatomes or acupuncture points.

Eye Surgery for Refractive Defects. Any eye surgery solely or primarily for the purpose of correcting refractive defects of the eye such as nearsightedness (myopia) and/or astigmatism. Contact lenses and eyeglasses required as a result of this surgery.

Drugs Given to you by a Medical Provider. The following exclusions apply to drugs you receive from a medical provider:

- **Delivery Charges.** Charges for the delivery of prescription drugs.

- **Clinically-Equivalent Alternatives.** Certain prescription drugs may not be covered if you could use a clinically equivalent drug, unless required by law. "Clinically equivalent" means drugs that for most members, will give you similar results for a disease or condition. If you have questions about whether a certain drug is covered and which drugs fall into this group, please call the number on the back of your Identification Card, or visit our website at www.anthem.com.

  If you or your physician believes you need to use a different prescription drug, please have your physician or pharmacist get in touch with us. We will cover the other prescription drug only if we agree that it is medically necessary and appropriate over the clinically equivalent drug. We will review benefits for the prescription drug from time to time to make sure the drug is still medically necessary.

- **Compound Drugs.** Compound drugs unless all of the ingredients are FDA-approved in the form in which they are used in the compound drug and as designated in the FDA’s Orange Book: Approved Drug Products with Therapeutic Equivalence Evaluations, require a prescription to dispense, and the compound drug is not essentially the same as an FDA-approved product from a drug manufacturer. Exceptions to non-FDA approved compound ingredients may include multi-source, non-proprietary vehicles and/or pharmaceutical adjuvants.
• **Drugs Contrary to Approved Medical and Professional Standards.** *Drugs* given to you or prescribed in a way that is against approved medical and professional standards of practice.

• **Drugs Over Quantity or Age Limits.** *Drugs* which are over any quantity or age limits set by the plan or us.

• **Drugs Over the Quantity Prescribed or Refills After One Year.** *Drugs* in amounts over the quantity prescribed or for any refill given more than one year after the date of the original *prescription*.

• **Drugs Prescribed by Providers Lacking Qualifications, Registrations and/or Certifications.** *Prescription drugs* prescribed by a provider that does not have the necessary qualifications, registrations and/or certifications as determined by us.

• **Drugs That Do Not Need a Prescription.** *Drugs* that do not need a *prescription* by federal law (including *drugs* that need a *prescription* by state law, but not by federal law), except for injectable insulin. This exclusion does not apply to over-the-counter *drugs* that we must cover under state law, or federal law when recommended by the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force, and prescribed by a *physician*.

• **Lost or Stolen Drugs.** Refills of lost or stolen *drugs*.

• **Non-Approved Drugs.** *Drugs* not approved by the FDA

**Physical Therapy or Physical Medicine.** Services of a *physician* for physical therapy or physical medicine, except when provided during a covered inpatient confinement, or as specifically stated in the "Home Health Care", "Hospice Care", "Infusion Therapy" or "Physical Therapy, Physical Medicine and Occupational Therapy" provisions of MEDICAL CARE THAT IS COVERED. This exclusion also does not apply to the *medically necessary* treatment of severe mental disorders, or to the *medically necessary* treatment of pervasive developmental disorder or autism, to the extent stated in the section BENEFITS FOR PERVERSIVE DEVELOPMENTAL DISORDER OR AUTISM.

**Outpatient Prescription Drugs and Medications.** Outpatient *prescription drugs* or medications and insulin, except as specifically stated in the “Infusion Therapy” or “Infusion Therapy,” “Specialty Drugs,” “Prescription Drug for Abortion,” or Preventive Care Services” provisions of MEDICAL CARE THAT IS COVERED or under YOUR PRESCRIPTION DRUG BENEFITS section of this booklet. Non-prescription, over-the-counter patent or proprietary drugs or medicines, except as specifically stated in this booklet. Cosmetics, health or beauty aids.
Contraceptive Devices. Contraceptive devices prescribed for birth control except as specifically stated in the “Contraceptives” provision in MEDICAL CARE THAT IS COVERED.

Diabetic Supplies. Prescription and non-prescription diabetic supplies, except as specifically stated in “YOUR PRESCRIPTION DRUG BENEFITS” section of this booklet.

Private Duty Nursing. Inpatient or outpatient services of a private duty nurse.

Lifestyle Programs. Programs to alter one’s lifestyle which may include but are not limited to diet, exercise, imagery or nutrition. This exclusion will not apply to cardiac rehabilitation programs approved by us.

Clinical Trials. Services and supplies in connection with clinical trials, except as specifically stated in the “Clinical Trials” provision under the section MEDICAL CARE THAT IS COVERED.
BENEFITS FOR MENTAL HEALTH CONDITIONS AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE

This plan provides coverage for the medically necessary treatment of mental health conditions and substance abuse. This coverage is provided according to the terms and conditions of this plan that apply to all other medical conditions, except as specifically stated in this section.

Services for the treatment of mental health conditions and substance abuse covered under this plan are subject to the same deductibles, coinsurance, and copayments that apply to services provided for other covered medical conditions and prescription drugs.

DEFINITIONS

The meanings of key terms used in this section are shown in italics. Please see the DEFINITIONS section for detailed explanations of any italicized words used in the section.

SUMMARY OF BENEFITS

DEDUCTIBLES

Please see the SUMMARY OF BENEFITS section for your cost share responsibilities. The amounts listed and any exceptions, if applicable, also apply to services provided for the treatment of mental health conditions and substance abuse.

CO-PAYMENTS

Mental Health Conditions and Substance Abuse Co-Payments. You are responsible for the following amounts (percentages are based on the maximum allowed amount for non-emergency services or the reasonable and customary value for emergency services provided by a non-participating provider):

Inpatient Services

-- Participating Providers ................................................................. 10%
-- Non-Participating Providers .......................................................... 30%

Outpatient Office Visit Services

-- Participating Providers ................................................................. $15*
  *This Co-Payment will not apply toward the satisfaction of any deductible.
-- Non-Participating Providers .......................................................... 30%
Other Outpatient Items and Services

-- Participating Providers ................................................................. 10%
-- Non-Participating Providers ............................................................. 30%

OUT-OF-POCKET AMOUNTS

Please see the SUMMARY OF BENEFITS section for your plan’s out-of-pocket amounts. The amounts listed and any exceptions, if applicable, also apply to services provided for the treatment of mental health conditions and substance abuse.

BENEFIT MAXIMUMS

For all services covered under this benefit, please see the Medical Benefit Maximums in the SUMMARY OF BENEFITS section for any benefit maximums that apply to your plan. The amounts listed and any exceptions, if applicable, also apply to services provided for the treatment of mental health conditions and substance abuse.

MENTAL HEALTH CONDITIONS AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE THAT ARE COVERED

Mental Health Conditions and Substance Abuse. Covered services shown below for the medically necessary treatment of mental health conditions and substance abuse, or to prevent the deterioration of chronic conditions.

Inpatient Services: Inpatient hospital services and services from a residential treatment center (including crisis residential treatment) as stated in the "Hospital" provision of this section, for inpatient services and supplies, and physician visits during a covered inpatient stay.

Outpatient Office Visits for the following:

• online visits,
• intensive in-home behavioral health services, when available in your area,
• individual and group mental health evaluation and treatment,
• nutritional counseling for the treatment of eating disorders such as anorexia nervosa and bulimia nervosa,
• drug therapy monitoring,
• individual and group chemical dependency counseling,
- medical treatment for withdrawal symptoms,
- methadone maintenance treatment,
- Behavioral health treatment for pervasive Developmental Disorder or autism delivered in an office setting.

**Other Outpatient Items and Services:**

- Partial hospitalization, including intensive outpatient programs and visits to a day treatment center. Partial hospitalization is covered as stated in the “Hospital” provision of this section, for outpatient services and supplies.
- Psychological testing,
- Multidisciplinary treatment in an intensive outpatient psychiatric treatment program,
- Behavioral health treatment for Pervasive Developmental Disorder or autism delivered at home.

**Behavioral health treatment for pervasive developmental disorder or autism.** Inpatient services, office visits, and other outpatient items and services are covered under this section. See the section BENEFITS FOR PERVERSIVE DEVELOPMENTAL DISORDER OR AUTISM for a description of the services that are covered. **Note:** You must obtain pre-service review for all behavioral health treatment services for the treatment of pervasive developmental disorder or autism in order for these services to be covered by this plan (see UTILIZATION REVIEW PROGRAM for details).

- Diagnosis and all medically necessary treatment of severe mental disorder of a person of any age and serious emotional disturbances of a child.
- Treatment for substance abuse does not include smoking cessation programs, nor treatment for nicotine dependency or tobacco use. Certain services are covered under the “Preventive Care Services” benefit or as specified in the “Preventive Prescription Drugs and Other Items” covered under YOUR PRESCRIPTION DRUG BENEFITS. Please see those provisions for further details.
MENTAL HEALTH CONDITIONS AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE THAT ARE NOT COVERED

Please see the exclusions or limitations listed under MEDICAL CARE THAT IS NOT COVERED for a list of services not covered under your plan. Services that are not covered, if applicable, also apply to services provided for the treatment of mental health conditions and substance abuse.

BENEFITS FOR PERVERSIVE DEVELOPMENTAL DISORDER OR AUTISM

This plan provides coverage for behavioral health treatment for Pervasive Developmental Disorder or autism. This coverage is provided according to the terms and conditions of this plan that apply to all other medical conditions, except as specifically stated in this section.

Behavioral health treatment services covered under this plan are subject to the same deductibles, coinsurance, and copayments that apply to services provided for other covered medical conditions. Services provided by Qualified Autism Service Providers, Qualified Autism Service Professionals, and Qualified Autism Service Paraprofessionals (see the “Definitions” below) will be covered under plan benefits that apply for outpatient office visits or other outpatient items and services. Services provided in a facility, such as the outpatient department of a hospital, will be covered under plan benefits that apply to such facilities. See also the section Mental Health And Substance Abuse (Chemical Dependency) Services for more detail.

You must obtain pre-service review for all behavioral health treatment services for the treatment of Pervasive Developmental Disorder or autism in order for these services to be covered by this plan (see UTILIZATION REVIEW PROGRAM for details).

The meanings of key terms used in this section are shown below. Whenever any of the key terms shown below appear in this section, the first letter of each word will be capitalized. When you see these capitalized words, you should refer to this “Definitions” provision.
DEFINITIONS

Pervasive Developmental Disorder or autism means one or more of the disorders defined in the most recent edition of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders.

Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) means the design, implementation, and evaluation of systematic instructional and environmental modifications to promote positive social behaviors and reduce or ameliorate behaviors which interfere with learning and social interaction.

Intensive Behavioral Intervention means any form of Applied Behavioral Analysis that is comprehensive, designed to address all domains of functioning, and provided in multiple settings, depending on the individual's needs and progress. Interventions can be delivered in a one-to-one ratio or small group format, as appropriate.

Qualified Autism Service Provider is either of the following:

- A person who is certified by a national entity, such as the Behavior Analyst Certification Board, with a certification that is accredited by the National Commission for Certifying Agencies, and who designs, supervises, or provides treatment for Pervasive Developmental Disorder or autism, provided the services are within the experience and competence of the person who is nationally certified; or
- A person licensed as a physician and surgeon (M.D. or D.O.), physical therapist, occupational therapist, psychologist, marriage and family therapist, educational psychologist, clinical social worker, professional clinical counselor, speech-language pathologist, or audiologist pursuant to state law, who designs, supervises, or provides treatment for Pervasive Developmental Disorder or autism, provided the services are within the experience and competence of the licensee.

The network of participating providers may be limited to licensed Qualified Autism Service Providers who contract with a Blue Cross and/or Blue Shield Plan and who may supervise and employ Qualified Autism Service Professionals or Qualified Autism Service Paraprofessionals who provide and administer Behavioral Health Treatment.

Qualified Autism Service Professional is a provider who meets all of the following requirements:

- Provides behavioral health treatment, which may include clinical case management and case supervision under the direction and supervision of a Qualified Autism Service Provider,
- Is supervised by a Qualified Autism Service Provider,
• Provides treatment according to a treatment plan developed and approved by the Qualified Autism Service Provider,

• Is a behavioral service provider who meets the education and experience qualifications described in Section 54342 of Title 17 of the California Code of Regulations for an associate behavior analyst, behavior analyst, behavior management assistant, behavior management consultant, or behavior management program or who meets equivalent criteria in the state in which he or she practices if not providing services in California,

• Has training and experience in providing services for Pervasive Developmental Disorder or autism pursuant to Division 4.5 (commencing with Section 4500) of the Welfare and Institutions Code or Title 14 (commencing with Section 95000) of the Government Code, and

• Is employed by the Qualified Autism Service Provider or an entity or group that employs Qualified Autism Service Providers responsible for the autism treatment plan.

Qualified Autism Service Paraprofessional is an unlicensed and uncertified individual who meets all of the following requirements:

• Is supervised by a Qualified Autism Service Provider or Qualified Autism Service Professional at a level of clinical supervision that meets professionally recognized standards of practice,

• Provides treatment and implements services pursuant to a treatment plan developed and approved by the Qualified Autism Service Provider,

• Meets the education and training qualifications described in Section 54342 of Title 17 of the California Code of Regulations,

• Has adequate education, training, and experience, as certified by a Qualified Autism Service Provider or an entity or group that employs Qualified Autism Service Providers, and

• Is employed by the Qualified Autism Service Provider or an entity or group that employs Qualified Autism Service Providers responsible for the autism treatment plan.
BEHAVIORAL HEALTH TREATMENT SERVICES COVERED

The behavioral health treatment services covered by this plan for the treatment of Pervasive Developmental Disorder or autism are limited to those professional services and treatment programs, including Applied Behavior Analysis and evidence-based behavior intervention programs, that develop or restore, to the maximum extent practicable, the functioning of an individual with Pervasive Developmental Disorder or autism and that meet all of the following requirements:

- The treatment must be prescribed by a licensed physician and surgeon (an M.D. or D.O.) or developed by a licensed clinical psychologist,
- The treatment must be provided under a treatment plan prescribed by a Qualified Autism Service Provider and administered by one of the following: (a) Qualified Autism Service Provider, (b) Qualified Autism Service Professional supervised by the Qualified Autism Service Provider, or (c) Qualified Autism Service Paraprofessional supervised by a Qualified Autism Service Provider or Qualified Autism Service Professional, and
- The treatment plan must have measurable goals over a specific timeline and be developed and approved by the Qualified Autism Service Provider for the specific patient being treated. The treatment plan must be reviewed no less than once every six months by the Qualified Autism Service Provider and modified whenever appropriate, and must be consistent with applicable state law that imposes requirements on the provision of Applied Behavioral Analysis services and Intensive Behavioral Intervention services to certain persons pursuant to which the Qualified Autism Service Provider does all of the following:
  ♦ Describes the patient's behavioral health impairments to be treated,
  ♦ Designs an intervention plan that includes the service type, number of hours, and parent participation needed to achieve the intervention plan's goal and objectives, and the frequency at which the patient's progress is evaluated and reported,
  ♦ Provides intervention plans that utilize evidence-based practices, with demonstrated clinical efficacy in treating Pervasive Developmental Disorder or autism,
  ♦ Discontinues Intensive Behavioral Intervention services when the treatment goals and objectives are achieved or no longer appropriate, and
The treatment plan is not used for purposes of providing or for the reimbursement of respite care, day care, or educational services, and is not used to reimburse a parent for participating in the treatment program. The treatment plan must be made available to us upon request.

REIMBURSEMENT FOR ACTS OF THIRD PARTIES

No payment will be made under this plan for expenses incurred for or in connection with any illness, injury, or condition for which a third party may be liable or legally responsible by reason of negligence, an intentional act or breach of any legal obligation. But we will provide the benefits of this plan subject to the following:

1. We will automatically have a lien, to the extent of benefits provided, upon any recovery, whether by settlement, judgment or otherwise, that you receive from the third party, the third party's insurer, or the third party's guarantor. The lien will be in the amount of benefits we paid under this plan for the treatment of the illness, disease, injury or condition for which the third party is liable.

   • If we paid the provider other than on a capitated basis, our lien will not be more than amount we paid for those services.

   • If we paid the provider on a capitated basis, our lien will not be more than 80% of the usual and customary charges for those services in the geographic area in which they were given.

   • If you hired an attorney to gain your recovery from the third party, our lien will not be for more than one-third of the money due you under any final judgment, compromise, or settlement agreement.

   • If you did not hire an attorney, our lien will not be for more than one-half of the money due you under any final judgment, compromise or settlement agreement.

   • If a final judgment includes a special finding by a judge, jury, or arbitrator that you were partially at fault, our lien will be reduced by the same comparative fault percentage by which your recovery was reduced.

   • Our lien is subject to a pro rata reduction equal to your reasonable attorney's fees and costs in line with the common fund doctrine.
2. You must advise us in writing, within 60 days of filing a claim against the third party and take necessary action, furnish such information and assistance, and execute such papers as we may require to facilitate enforcement of our rights. You must not take action which may prejudice our rights or interests under your plan. Failure to give us such notice or to cooperate with us, or actions that prejudice our rights or interests will be a material breach of this plan and will result in your being personally responsible for reimbursing us.

3. We will be entitled to collect on our lien even if the amount you or anyone recovered for you (or your estate, parent or legal guardian) from or for the account of such third party as compensation for the injury, illness or condition is less than the actual loss you suffered.

YOUR PRESCRIPTION DRUG BENEFITS

PRESCRIPTION DRUG COVERED EXPENSE

Prescription drug covered expense is the maximum charge for each covered service or supply that will be accepted by us for each different type of pharmacy. It is not necessarily the amount a pharmacy bills for the service.

You may avoid higher out-of-pocket expenses by choosing a participating pharmacy, or by utilizing the mail service program whenever possible. In addition, you may also reduce your costs by asking your physician, and your pharmacist, for the more cost-effective generic form of prescription drugs.

Prescription drug covered expense will always be the lesser of the billed charge or the prescription drug maximum allowed amount. Expense is incurred on the date you receive the drug for which the charge is made.

When you choose a participating pharmacy, the pharmacy benefit manager will subtract any expense which is not covered under your prescription drug benefits. The remainder is the amount of prescription drug covered expense for that claim. You will not be responsible for any amount in excess of the prescription drug maximum allowed amount for the covered services of a participating pharmacy.

When the pharmacy benefit manager receive a claim for drugs supplied by a non-participating pharmacy, we first subtract any expense which is not covered under your prescription drug benefits, and then any expense exceeding the prescription drug maximum allowed amount. The remainder is the amount of prescription drug covered expense for that claim.
You will always be responsible for expense incurred which is not covered under this plan.

**PRESCRIPTION DRUG CO-PAYMENTS**

After the pharmacy benefit manager determines prescription drug covered expense, we will subtract your Prescription Drug Co-Payment for each prescription.

If your Prescription Drug Co-Payment includes a percentage of prescription drug covered expense, then the pharmacy benefit manager will apply that percentage to such expense. This will determine the dollar amount of your Prescription Drug Co-Payment.

The Prescription Drug Co-Payments are set forth in the SUMMARY OF BENEFITS.

**HOW TO USE YOUR PRESCRIPTION DRUG BENEFITS**

**When You Go to a Participating Pharmacy.** To identify you as a member covered for prescription drug benefits, you will be issued an identification card. You must present this card to participating pharmacies when you have a prescription filled. Provided you have properly identified yourself as a member, a participating pharmacy will only charge your Co-Payment.

For information on how to locate a participating pharmacy in your area, call 1-800-700-2541 (or TTY/TDD 1-800-905-9821).

**Please note that presentation of a prescription to a pharmacy or pharmacist does not constitute a claim for benefit coverage.** If you present a prescription to a participating pharmacy, and the participating pharmacy indicates your prescription cannot be filled, or requires an additional Co-Payment, this is not considered an adverse claim decision. If you want the prescription filled, you will have to pay either the full cost, or the additional Co-Payment, for the prescription drug. If you believe you are entitled to some plan benefits in connection with the prescription drug, submit a claim for reimbursement to the pharmacy benefits manager at the address shown below:

Prescription Drug Program  
ATTN: Commercial Claims  
P.O. Box 2872  
Clinton, IA 52733-2872
Participating pharmacies usually have claims forms, but, if the participating pharmacy does not have claim forms, claim forms and Member Services are available by calling 1-800-700-2541 (or TTY/TDD 1-800-905-9821). Mail your claim, with the appropriate portion completed by the pharmacist, to the pharmacy benefits manager within 90 days of the date of purchase. If it is not reasonably possible to submit the claim within that time frame, an extension of up to 12 months will be allowed.

Important Note: If we determine that you may be using prescription drugs in a harmful or abusive manner, or with harmful frequency, your selection of participating pharmacies may be limited. If this happens, we may require you to select a single participating pharmacy that will provide and coordinate all future pharmacy services. Benefits will only be paid if you use the single participating pharmacy. We will contact you if we determine that use of a single participating pharmacy is needed and give you options as to which participating pharmacy you may use. If you do not select one of the participating pharmacies we offer within 31 days, we will select a single participating pharmacy for you. If you disagree with our decision, you may ask us to reconsider it as outlined in the “GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES” section.

In addition, if we determine that you may be using controlled substance prescription drugs in a harmful or abusive manner, or with harmful frequency, your selection of participating providers for controlled substance prescriptions may be limited. If this happens, we may require you to select a single participating provider that will provide and coordinate all controlled substance prescriptions. Benefits for controlled substance prescriptions will only be paid if you use the single participating provider. We will contact you if we determine that use of a single participating provider is needed and give you options as to which participating provider you may use. If you do not select one of the participating providers we offer within 31 days, we will select a single participating provider for you. If you disagree with our decision, you may ask us to reconsider it as outlined in the “Grievance Procedures” section of this plan.

When You Go to a Non-Participating Pharmacy. If you purchase a prescription drug from a non-participating pharmacy, you will have to pay the full cost of the drug and submit a claim to us, at the address below:

Prescription Drug Program
ATTN: Commercial Claims
P.O. Box 2872
Clinton, IA 52733-2872
Non-participating pharmacies do not have our prescription drug claim forms. You must take a claim form with you to a non-participating pharmacy. The pharmacist must complete the pharmacy’s portion of the form and sign it.

Claim forms and Member Services are available by calling 1-800-700-2541 (or TTY/TDD 1-800-905-9821). Mail your claim with the appropriate portion completed by the pharmacist to us within 90 days of the date of purchase. If it is not reasonably possible to submit the claim within that time frame, an extension of up to 12 months will be allowed.

When You are Out of State. If you need to purchase a prescription drug out of the state of California, you may locate a participating pharmacy by calling 1-800-700-2541 (or TTY/TDD 1-800-905-9821). If you cannot locate a participating pharmacy, you must pay for the drug and submit a claim to us. (See “When You Go to a Non-Participating Pharmacy” above.)

When You Order Your Prescription Through the Home Delivery Program. You can order your prescription through the home delivery prescription drug program. Not all medications are available through the home delivery pharmacy.

The prescription must state the drug name, dosage, directions for use, quantity, the physician’s name and phone number, the patient’s name and address, and be signed by a physician. You must submit it with the appropriate payment for the amount of the purchase, and a properly completed order form. You need only pay the cost of your Co-Payment.

Your first home delivery prescription must also include a completed Patient Profile questionnaire. The Patient Profile questionnaire can be obtained by calling the toll-free number on your ID card. You need only enclose the prescription or refill notice, and the appropriate payment for any subsequent home delivery prescriptions, or call the toll-free number. Co-payments can be paid by check, money order or credit card.
Order forms can be obtained by contacting us at 1-800-700-2541 (or TTY/TDD 1-800-905-9821) to request one. The form is also available online at www.anthem.com/ca.

**PRESCRIPTION DRUG UTILIZATION REVIEW**

Your prescription drug benefits include utilization review of prescription drug usage for your health and safety. Certain drugs may require prior authorization. If there are patterns of over-utilization or misuse of drugs, our medical consultant will notify your personal physician and your pharmacist. We reserve the right to limit benefits to prevent over-utilization of drugs.

**PREFERRED DRUG PROGRAM**

We use a list of preferred drugs, which is sometimes called a formulary, to help your physician make prescribing decisions. The presence of a drug on the plan’s preferred drug list does not guarantee that you will be prescribed that drug by your physician. These medications, which include both generic and brand name drugs, are listed in the preferred drug list. The preferred drug list is updated quarterly to ensure that the list includes drugs that are safe and effective. Note: The preferred drug list may change from time to time.

Some drugs may require prior authorization. Non-preferred drugs are not available through the mail service program. If you have a question regarding whether a particular drug is on our preferred drug list or requires prior authorization please call us at 1-800-700-2541 (or TTY/TDD 1-800-905-9821).

**Exception request for a drug not on the prescription drug formulary (non-formulary exceptions).**

Your prescription drug benefit covers those drugs listed on our prescription drug formulary. This prescription drug formulary contains a limited number of prescription drugs, and may be different than the prescription drug formulary for other Anthem products. In cases where your physician prescribes a medication that is not on the prescription drug formulary, it may be necessary to obtain a non-formulary exception in order for the prescription drug to be a covered benefit. Your physician must complete a non-formulary exception form and return it to us. You or your physician can get the form online at [www.anthem.com](http://www.anthem.com) or by calling the number listed on the back of your ID card.

When we receive a non-formulary exception request, we will make a coverage decision within a certain period of time, depending on whether exigent circumstances exist.
Exigent circumstances exist if you are suffering from a health condition that may seriously jeopardize your life, health, or ability to regain maximum function, or if you are undergoing a current course of treatment using a drug not covered by the plan. In this case, we will make a coverage decision within 24 hours of receiving your request. If we approve the coverage of the drug, coverage of the drug will be provided for the duration of the exigency. If we deny coverage of the drug, you have the right to request an external review by an IRO. The IRO will make a coverage decision within 24 hours of receiving your request. If the IRO approves the coverage of the drug, coverage of the drug will be provided for the duration of the exigency.

When exigent circumstances do not exist, we will make a coverage decision within 72 hours of receiving your request. If we approve the coverage of the drug, coverage of the drug will be provided for the duration of the prescription, including refills. If we deny coverage of the drug, you have the right to request an external review by an Independent Review Organization (IRO). The IRO will make a coverage decision within 72 hours of receiving your request. If the IRO approves the coverage of the drug, coverage of the drug will be provided for the duration of the prescription.

Requesting a non-formulary exception or having an IRO review your request for a non-formulary exception does not affect your right to submit a grievance or request an Independent Medical Review. Please see the section entitled “GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES” for details.

Coverage of a drug approved as a result of your request or your physician’s request for an exception will only be provided if you are a member enrolled under the plan.

Prior Authorization. Physicians must obtain prior authorization in order for you to get benefits for certain prescription drugs. At times, your physician will initiate a prior authorization on your behalf before your pharmacy fills your prescription. At other times, the pharmacy may make you or your physician aware that a prior authorization or other information is needed. In order to determine if the prescription drug is eligible for coverage, we have established criteria.

The criteria, which are called drug edits, may include requirements regarding one or more of the following:

- Quantity, dose, and frequency of administration,

- Specific clinical criteria including, but not limited to, requirements regarding age, test result requirements, and/or presence of a specific condition or disease,
Specific physician qualifications including, but not limited to, REMS certification (Risk, Evaluation and Mitigation Strategies),

Step therapy requiring one prescription drug, prescription drug regimen or treatment be used prior to use of another prescription drug, prescription drug regimen or treatment for safety and/or cost-effectiveness when clinically similar results may be anticipated.

Use of a prescription drug formulary.

You or your physician can get the list of the prescription drug that require prior authorization by calling the phone number on the back of your identification card or check our website at www.anthem.com. The list will be reviewed and updated from time to time. Including a prescription drug or related item on the list does not guarantee coverage under your plan. Your physician may check with us to verify prescription drug coverage, to find out which prescription drug are covered under this section and if any drug edits apply.

In order for you to get a drug that requires prior authorization, your physician must send a written request to us for the drug using the required uniform prior authorization request form. The request can be sent to us by mail, facsimile, or it may be submitted electronically. If your physician needs a copy of the request form, he or she may call us at [1-800-700-2541 (or TTY/TDD 1-800-905-9821)] to request one. The form is also available on-line at www.anthem.com/ca.

Upon receiving the completed uniform prior authorization request form, we will review the request and respond within the following time periods:

- 72 hours for non-urgent requests, and
- 24 hours if exigent circumstances exist. Exigent circumstances exist if you are suffering from a health condition that may seriously jeopardize your life, health, or ability to regain maximum function, or if you are undergoing a current course of treatment using a drug not covered by the plan.
While we are reviewing the request, a 72-hour emergency supply of medication may be dispensed to you if your physician or pharmacist determines that it is appropriate and medically necessary. You may have to pay the applicable co-payment shown in SUMMARY OF BENEFITS: PRESCRIPTION DRUG BENEFITS: PRESCRIPTION DRUG CO-PAYMENTS for the 72-hour supply of your drug. If we approve the request for the drug after you have received a 72-hour supply, you will receive the remainder of the 30-day supply of the drug with no additional copayment.

You may need to try a drug other than the one originally prescribed if we determine that it should be clinically effective for you. However, if we determine through prior authorization that the drug originally prescribed is medically necessary, you will be provided the drug originally requested at the applicable co-payment. (If, when you first become a member, you are already being treated for a medical condition by a drug that has been appropriately prescribed and is considered safe and effective for your medical condition, and you underwent a prior authorization process under the prior plan which required you to take different drugs, we will not require you to try a drug other than the one you are currently taking.) If approved, drugs requiring prior authorization for benefits will be provided to you after you make the required co-payment.

If you have any questions regarding whether a drug is on our preferred drug list, or requires prior authorization, please call us at 1-800-700-2541 (or TTY/TTD 1-800-905-9821).

If we deny a request for prior authorization of a drug, you or your prescribing physician may appeal our decision by calling us at 1-800-700-2541 (or TTY/TTD 1-800-905-9821). If you are not satisfied with the resolution based on your inquiry, you may file a grievance with us by following the procedures described in the section entitled GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES.

**Revoking or modifying a prior authorization.** A prior authorization of benefits for prescription drugs may be revoked or modified prior to your receiving the drugs for reasons including but not limited to the following:

- Your coverage under this plan ends;
- The agreement with the group terminates;
- You reach a benefit maximum that applies to prescription drugs, if the plan includes such a maximum;
- Your prescription drug benefits under the plan change so that prescription drugs are no longer covered or are covered in a different way.
A revocation or modification of a prior authorization of benefits for prescription drugs applies only to unfilled portions or remaining refills of the prescription, if any, and not to drugs you have already received.

New drugs and changes in the prescription drugs covered by the plan. The outpatient prescription drugs included on the list of preferred drugs covered by the plan is decided by our Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee which is comprised of independent physicians and pharmacists. The Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee meets quarterly and decides on changes to make in the preferred drug list based on recommendations from us and a review of relevant information, including current medical literature.

PREVENTIVE PRESCRIPTION DRUGS AND OTHER ITEMS

Your prescription drug benefits include certain preventive drugs, medications, and other items as listed below that may be covered under this plan as preventive care services. In order to be covered as a preventive care service, these items must be prescribed by a physician and obtained from a participating pharmacy or through the home delivery program. This includes items that can be obtained over the counter for which a physician’s prescription is not required by law.

When these items are covered as preventive care services, the Calendar Year Deductible, if any, will not apply and no co-payment will apply. In addition, any separate deductible that applies to prescription drugs will not apply.

- All FDA-approved contraceptives for women, including oral contraceptives, diaphragms, patches, and over-the-counter contraceptives. In order to be covered as a preventive care service, in addition to the requirements stated above, contraceptive prescription drugs must be generic drugs or single source brand name drugs.

  Note: For FDA-approved, self-administered hormonal contraceptives, up to a 12-month supply is covered when dispensed or furnished at one time by a provider or pharmacist, or at a location licensed or otherwise authorized to dispense drugs or supplies.

- Vaccinations prescribed by a physician and obtained from a participating pharmacy.

- Tobacco cessation drugs, medications, and other items for members age 18 and older as recommended by the United States Preventive Services Task Force including:

  ♦ Prescription drugs to eliminate or reduce dependency on, or addiction to, tobacco and tobacco products.
- FDA-approved smoking cessation products including over-the-counter (OTC) nicotine gum, lozenges and patches when obtained with a physician’s prescription and you are at least 18 years old.

  *Prescription drugs* and OTC items are limited to a no more than 180 day supply per year.

- Aspirin to reduce the risk of heart attack or stroke, for men ages 45-79 and women ages 55-79.
- Aspirin after 12 weeks of gestation in pregnant women who are at high risk for preeclampsia.
- Folic acid supplementation for women age 55 years and younger (folic acid supplement or a multivitamin).
- Vitamin D for women over age 65.
- Medications for risk reduction of primary breast cancer in women (such as tamoxifen or raloxifene) for women who are at increased risk for breast cancer and at low risk for adverse medication effects.
- Bowel preparations when prescribed for a preventive colon screening.
- Fluoride supplements for children from birth through 6 years old (drops or tablets).
- Dental fluoride varnish to prevent tooth decay of primary teeth for children from birth to 5 years old.

**PRESCRIPTION DRUG CONDITIONS OF SERVICE**

To be covered, the *drug* or medication must satisfy all of the following requirements:

1. It must be prescribed by a licensed prescriber and be dispensed within one year of being prescribed, subject to federal and state laws.
2. It must be approved for general use by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA).
3. It must be for the direct care and treatment of your illness, injury or condition. Dietary supplements, health aids or drugs for cosmetic purposes are not included. However the following items are covered:
   a. Formulas prescribed by a *physician* for the treatment of phenylketonuria.
b. Vaccinations provided at a *participating pharmacy* as specified under PREVENTIVE PRESCRIPTION DRUGS AND OTHER ITEMS, subject to all terms of this *plan* that apply to those benefits.

c. Vitamins, supplements, and health aids as specified under PREVENTIVE PRESCRIPTION DRUGS AND OTHER ITEMS, subject to all terms of this *plan* that apply to those benefits.

4. It must be dispensed from a licensed retail *pharmacy*, or through your mail service program.

5. It must not be used while you are an inpatient in any facility. Also, it must not be dispensed in or administered by an outpatient facility.

6. For a retail *pharmacy*, the *prescription* must not exceed a 30-day supply.

*Prescription drugs* federally-classified as Schedule II which are FDA-approved for the treatment of attention deficit disorder and that require a triplicate prescription form must not exceed a 60-day supply. If the *physician* prescribes a 60-day supply for *drugs* classified as Schedule II for the treatment of attention deficit disorders, the *member* has to pay double the amount of copayment for retail *pharmacies*. If the *drugs* are obtained through the mail service program, the copayment will remain the same as for any other *prescription drug*.

FDA-approved smoking cessation products and over-the-counter nicotine replacement products are limited as specified under PREVENTIVE PRESCRIPTION DRUGS AND OTHER ITEMS.

**Note:** FDA-approved, *self-administered hormonal contraceptives* must not exceed a 12-month supply when dispensed or furnished at one time by a provider or pharmacist, or at a location licensed or otherwise authorized to dispense *drugs* or supplies.

7. Certain *drugs* have specific quantity supply limits based on our analysis of prescription dispensing trends and the Food and Drug Administration dosing recommendations.

8. For the home delivery program, the *prescription* must not exceed a 90-day supply.

**Note:** FDA-approved, *self-administered hormonal contraceptives* must not exceed a 12-month supply when dispensed or furnished at one time by a provider or pharmacist, or at a location licensed or otherwise authorized to dispense *drugs* or supplies.
9. The drug will be covered under YOUR PRESCRIPTION DRUG BENEFITS only if it is not covered under another benefit of your plan.

10. Drugs for the treatment of impotence and/or sexual dysfunction are limited to six tablets/units for a 30-day period and are available at retail pharmacies only. Documented evidence of contributing medical condition must be submitted to us for review.

11. Be prescribed by a licensed physician with an active Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) license, if the drug is considered a controlled substance.

PRESCRIPTION DRUG SERVICES AND SUPPLIES THAT ARE COVERED

1. Outpatient drugs and medications which the law restricts to sale by prescription except as specifically stated in this section. Formulas prescribed by a physician for the treatment of phenylketonuria. These formulas are subject to the copayment for brand name drugs.

2. Insulin.

3. Syringes when dispensed for use with insulin and other self-injectable drugs or medications.

4. Drugs with Food and Drug Administration (FDA) labeling for self-administration.

5. AIDS vaccine (when approved by the federal Food and Drug Administration and that is recommended by the US Public Health Service).

6. All compound prescription drugs when a commercially available dosage form of a medically necessary medication is not available, all the ingredients of the compound drug are FDA approved in the form in which they are used in the compound medication and as designated in the FDA's Orange Book: Approved Drug Products with Therapeutic Equivalence Evaluations, require a prescription to dispense and are not essentially the same as an FDA approved product from a drug manufacturer. Non-FDA approved non-proprietary, multisource ingredients that are vehicles essential for compound administration may be covered.

7. Diabetic supplies (i.e. test strips and lancets).

8. Inhaler spacers and peak flow meters for the treatment of pediatric asthma. These items are subject to the copayment for brand name drugs.
9. *Prescription drugs*, vaccinations, vitamins, supplements, and certain over-the-counter items as specified under PREVENTIVE PRESCRIPTION DRUGS AND OTHER ITEMS, subject to all terms of this plan that apply to those benefits.

10. *Prescription drugs* for treatment of impotence and/or sexual dysfunction are limited to organic (non-psychological) causes.

**PRESCRIPTION DRUG SERVICES AND SUPPLIES THAT ARE NOT COVERED**

In addition to the exclusions and limitations listed under YOUR MEDICAL BENEFITS: MEDICAL CARE THAT IS NOT COVERED, *prescription drug* benefits are not provided for or in connection with the following:

1. Hypodermic syringes and/or needles except when dispensed for use with insulin and other self-injectable *drugs* or medications. While not covered under this prescription drug benefit, these items are covered under the “Home Health Care,” “Hospice Care,” “Infusion Therapy or Infusion Therapy,” and “Diabetes” provisions of YOUR MEDICAL BENEFITS: MEDICAL CARE THAT IS COVERED (see Table of Contents), subject to all terms of this plan that apply to those benefits.

2. *Drugs* and medications used to induce spontaneous and non-spontaneous abortions. While not covered under this prescription drug benefit, FDA approved medications that may only be dispensed by or under direct supervision of a *physician*, such as *drugs* and medications used to induce non-spontaneous abortions, are covered as specifically stated in the “Prescription Drug for Abortion” provision of YOUR MEDICAL BENEFITS: MEDICAL CARE THAT IS COVERED (see Table of Contents), subject to all terms of this plan that apply to the benefit.

3. *Drugs* and medications dispensed or administered in an outpatient setting; including, but not limited to, outpatient hospital facilities and physicians' offices. While not covered under this prescription drug benefit, these services are covered as specified under the “Hospital,” “Home Health Care,” “Hospice Care,” and “Infusion Therapy or Infusion Therapy” provisions of YOUR MEDICAL BENEFITS: MEDICAL CARE THAT IS COVERED (see Table of Contents), subject to all terms of this plan that apply to those benefits.

4. Professional charges in connection with administering, injecting or dispensing of *drugs*. While not covered under this prescription drug benefit, these services are covered as specified under [PC] of YOUR MEDICAL BENEFITS: MEDICAL CARE THAT IS COVERED (see Table of Contents), subject to all terms of this plan that apply to those benefits.
5. Drugs and medications, even if written as a prescription, which may be obtained without a physician’s written prescription, except insulin or niacin for cholesterol reduction.

Note: Vitamins, supplements, and certain over-the-counter items as specified under PREVENTIVE PRESCRIPTION DRUGS AND OTHER ITEMS are covered under this plan only when obtained with a physician’s prescription, subject to all terms of this plan that apply to those benefits.

6. Drugs and medications dispensed by or while you are confined in a hospital, skilled nursing facility, rest home, sanitarium, convalescent hospital, or similar facility. While not covered under this prescription drug benefit, such drugs are covered as specified under the “Hospital”, “Skilled Nursing Facility”, and “Hospice Care”, provisions of YOUR MEDICAL BENEFITS: MEDICAL CARE THAT IS COVERED (see Table of Contents), subject to all terms of this plan that apply to those benefits. While you are confined in a rest home, sanitarium, convalescent hospital or similar facility, drugs and medications supplied and administered by your physician are covered as specified under the “Professional Services” provision of YOUR MEDICAL BENEFITS: MEDICAL CARE THAT IS COVERED (see Table of Contents), subject to all terms of this plan that apply to the benefit. Other drugs that may be prescribed by your physician while you are confined in a rest home, sanitarium, convalescent hospital or similar facility, may be purchased at a pharmacy by the member, or a friend, relative or caregiver on your behalf, and are covered under this prescription drug benefit.

7. Durable medical equipment, devices, appliances and supplies, even if prescribed by a physician, except prescription contraceptive diaphragms as specified under PRESCRIPTION DRUG SERVICES AND SUPPLIES THAT ARE COVERED. While not covered under this prescription drug benefit, these items are covered as specified under the “Durable Medical Equipment”, “Hearing Aid Services”, and “Diabetes” provisions of YOUR MEDICAL BENEFITS: MEDICAL CARE THAT IS COVERED (see Table of Contents), subject to all terms of this plan that apply to those benefits.

8. Services or supplies for which you are not charged.

9. Oxygen. While not covered under this prescription drug benefit, oxygen is covered as specified under the “Hospital”, “Skilled Nursing Facility”, “Home Health Care” and “Hospice Care” provisions of YOUR MEDICAL BENEFITS: MEDICAL CARE THAT IS COVERED (see Table of Contents), subject to all terms of this plan that apply to those benefits.
10. Cosmetics and health or beauty aids. However, health aids that are *medically necessary* and meet the requirements for durable medical equipment as specified under the “Durable Medical Equipment” provision of YOUR MEDICAL BENEFITS: MEDICAL CARE THAT IS COVERED (see Table of Contents), are covered, subject to all terms of this plan that apply to that benefit.

11. *Drugs* labeled “Caution, Limited by Federal Law to Investigational Use” or Non-FDA approved investigational *drugs*. Any *drugs* or medications prescribed for *experimental* indications. If you are denied a *drug* because we determine that the *drug* is *experimental* or *investigative*, you may ask that the denial be reviewed by an external independent medical review organization. (See the section “Independent Medical Review of Denials of Experimental or Investigative Treatment” (see Table of Contents) for how to ask for a review of your *drug* denial.)

12. Any expense incurred for a *drug* or medication in excess of: *prescription drug maximum allowed amount*.

13. *Drugs* which have not been approved for general use by the Food and Drug Administration. This does not apply to *drugs* that are *medically necessary* for a covered condition.

14. *Drugs* used primarily for cosmetic purposes (e.g., Retin-A for wrinkles). However, this will not apply to the use of this type of *drug* for *medically necessary* treatment of a medical condition other than one that is cosmetic.

15. *Drugs* used primarily for the purpose of treating *infertility* (including but not limited to Clomid, Pergonal, and Metrodin) unless *medically necessary* for another covered condition.

16. Anorexiants and *drugs* used for weight loss except when used to treat morbid obesity (e.g., diet pills and appetite suppressants).

17. *Drugs* obtained outside of the United States unless they are furnished in connection with urgent care or an *emergency*.

18. Allergy desensitization products or allergy serum. While not covered under this *prescription drug* benefit, such *drugs* are covered as specified under the “Hospital”, “Skilled Nursing Facility”, and “Professional Services” provisions of YOUR MEDICAL BENEFITS: MEDICAL CARE THAT IS COVERED (see Table of Contents), subject to all terms of this plan that apply to those benefits.
19. Infusion drugs, except drugs that are self-administered subcutaneously. While not covered under this prescription drug benefit, infusion drugs are covered as specified under the [INFU] of YOUR MEDICAL BENEFITS: MEDICAL CARE THAT IS COVERED (see Table of Contents), subject to all terms of this plan that apply to those benefits.

20. Herbal supplements, nutritional and dietary supplements, except as described in this plan or that we must cover by law. This exclusion includes, but is not limited to, nutritional formulas and dietary supplements that you can buy over the counter and those you can get without a written prescription or from a licensed pharmacist.

   However, formulas prescribed by a physician for the treatment of phenylketonuria that are obtained from a pharmacy are covered as specified under PRESCRIPTION DRUG SERVICES AND SUPPLIES THAT ARE COVERED. Also, vitamins, supplements, and certain over-the-counter items as specified under PREVENTIVE PRESCRIPTION DRUGS AND OTHER ITEMS are covered under this plan only when obtained with a physician's prescription, subject to all terms of this plan that apply to those benefits.

21. Prescription drugs with a non-prescription (over-the-counter) chemical and dose equivalent except insulin. This does not apply if an over-the-counter equivalent was tried and was ineffective.

22. Onychomycosis (toenail fungus) drugs except to treat patients who are immuno-compromised or diabetic.

23. All compound prescription drugs when a commercially available dosage form of a medically necessary medication is not available, all the ingredients of the compound drug are FDA approved in the form in which they are used in the compound medication and as designated in the FDA's Orange Book: Approved Drug Products with Therapeutic Equivalence Evaluations, require a prescription to dispense and are not essentially the same as an FDA approved product from a drug manufacturer. Non-FDA approved non-proprietary, multisource ingredients that are vehicles essential for compound administration may be covered. **You will have to pay the full cost of the compound medications you get from a non-participating pharmacy.** If you are denied a compound medication because you obtained it from a non-participating pharmacy, you may file a grievance with us by following the procedures described in the section entitled GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES.
24. Specialty drugs that must be obtained from the specialty pharmacy program, but, which are obtained from a retail pharmacy or through the home delivery program. Unless you qualify for an exception, these drugs are not covered by this plan (please see YOUR PRESCRIPTION DRUG BENEFITS: PRESCRIPTION DRUG CONDITIONS OF SERVICE). You will have to pay the full cost of the specialty drugs you get from a retail pharmacy that you should have obtained from the specialty pharmacy program.

   If you order a specialty drug through the home delivery program, it will be forwarded to the specialty pharmacy program for processing and will be processed according to specialty pharmacy program rules.

25. Prescription drugs that are considered multi-source brand drugs.

26. Charges for services not described in your medical records.

27. Drugs which are over any quantity or age limits set by the plan or us.

28. Prescription drugs prescribed by a provider that does not have the necessary qualifications, registrations and/or certifications.

29. Drugs prescribed, ordered, referred by or given by a member of your immediate family, including your spouse, child, brother, sister, parent, in-law or self.

30. Services we conclude are not medically necessary. This includes services that do not meet our medical policy, clinical coverage, or benefit policy guidelines.

**COORDINATION OF BENEFITS**

If you are covered by more than one group health plan, your benefits under This Plan will be coordinated with the benefits of those Other Plans. These coordination provisions apply separately to each member, per calendar year, and are largely determined by California law. Any coverage you have for medical or dental benefits, will be coordinated as shown below.

**DEFINITIONS**

The meanings of key terms used in this section are shown below. Whenever any of the key terms shown below appear in these provisions, the first letter of each word will be capitalized. When you see these capitalized words, you should refer to this “Definitions” provision.
Allowable Expense is any necessary, reasonable and customary item of expense which is at least partially covered by any plan covering the person for whom claim is made. When a Plan provides benefits in the form of services rather than cash payments, the reasonable cash value of each service rendered will be deemed to be both an Allowable Expense and a benefit paid. An expense that is not covered by any plan covering the person for whom claim is made is not an Allowable Expense.

The following are not Allowable Expense:

1. Use of a private hospital room is not an Allowable Expense unless the patient's stay in a private hospital room is medically necessary in terms of generally accepted medical practice, or one of the plans routinely provides coverage for hospital private rooms.

2. If you are covered by two plans that calculate benefits or services on the basis of a reasonable and customary amount or relative value schedule reimbursement method or some other similar reimbursement method, any amount in excess of the higher of the reasonable and customary amounts.

3. If a person is covered by two plans that provide benefits or services on the basis of negotiated rates or fees, an amount in excess of the lower of the negotiated rates.

4. If a person is covered by one plan that calculates its benefits or services on the basis of a reasonable and customary amount or relative value schedule reimbursement method or some other similar reimbursement method and another plan provides its benefits or services on the basis of negotiated rates or fees, any amount in excess of the negotiated rate.

5. The amount of any benefit reduction by the Principal Plan because you did not comply with the plan’s provisions is not an Allowable Expense. Examples of these types of provisions include second surgical opinions, utilization review requirements, and network provider arrangements.
6. If you advise us that all plans covering you are high deductible health plans as defined by Section 223 of the Internal Revenue Code, and you intend to contribute to a health savings account established in accordance with Section 223 of the Internal Revenue Code, any amount that is subject to the primary high deductible health plan’s deductible.

**Other Plan** is any of the following:

1. Group, blanket or franchise insurance coverage;
2. Group service plan contract, group practice, group individual practice and other group prepayment coverage;
3. Group coverage under labor-management trusteed plans, union benefit organization plans, employer organization plans, employee benefit organization plans or self-insured employee benefit plans.
4. Medicare. This does not include Medicare when, by law, its benefits are secondary to those of any private insurance program or other non-governmental program.

The term "Other Plan" refers separately to each agreement, policy, contract, or other arrangement for services and benefits, and only to that portion of such agreement, policy, contract, or arrangement which reserves the right to take the services or benefits of other plans into consideration in determining benefits.

**Principal Plan** is the plan which will have its benefits determined first.

**This Plan** is that portion of this plan which provides benefits subject to this provision.

**EFFECT ON BENEFITS**

This provision will apply in determining a person’s benefits under This Plan for any calendar year if the benefits under This Plan and any Other Plans, exceed the Allowable Expenses for that calendar year.

1. If This Plan is the Principal Plan, then its benefits will be determined first without taking into account the benefits or services of any Other Plan.
2. If This Plan is not the Principal Plan, then its benefits may be reduced so that the benefits and services of all the plans do not exceed Allowable Expense.
3. The benefits of This Plan will never be greater than the sum of the benefits that would have been paid if you were covered under This Plan only.
ORDER OF BENEFITS DETERMINATION

The following rules determine the order in which benefits are payable:

The first of the following rules which applies will determine the order in which benefits are payable:

1. A plan which has no Coordination of Benefits provision pays before a plan which has a Coordination of Benefits provision. This would include Medicare in all cases, except when the law requires that This Plan pays before Medicare.

2. A plan which covers you as a subscriber pays before a plan which covers you as a dependent. But, if you are a Medicare beneficiary and also a dependent of an employee with current employment status under another plan, this rule might change. If, according to Medicare’s rules, Medicare pays after that plan which covers you as a dependent then, the plan which covers you as a dependent pays before a plan which covers you as a subscriber.

   **For example:** You are covered as a retired subscriber under this plan and a Medicare beneficiary (Medicare would pay first, this plan would pay second). You are also covered as a dependent of an active employee under another plan provided by an employer group of 20 or more employees (then, according to Medicare’s rules, Medicare would pay second). In this situation, the plan which covers you as a dependent of an active employee will pay first and the plan which covers you as a retired subscriber will pay last, after Medicare.

3. For a dependent child covered under plans of two parents, the plan of the parent whose birthday falls earlier in the calendar year pays before the plan of the parent whose birthday falls later in the calendar year. But if one plan does not have a birthday rule provision, the provisions of that plan determine the order of benefits.

   **Exception to rule 3:** For a dependent child of parents who are divorced or separated, the following rules will be used in place of Rule 3:

   a. If the parent with custody of that child for whom a claim has been made has not remarried, then the plan of the parent with custody that covers that child as a dependent pays first.

   b. If the parent with custody of that child for whom a claim has been made has remarried, then the order in which benefits are paid will be as follows:

      i. The plan which covers that child as a dependent of the parent with custody.
ii. The plan which covers that child as a dependent of the stepparent (married to the parent with custody).

iii. The plan which covers that child as a dependent of the parent without custody.

iv. The plan which covers that child as a dependent of the stepparent (married to the parent without custody).

c. Regardless of a and b above, if there is a court decree which establishes a parent's financial responsibility for that child's health care coverage, a plan which covers that child as a dependent of that parent pays first.

4. The plan covering you as a laid-off or retired employee or as a dependent of a laid-off or retired employee pays after a plan covering you as other than a laid-off or retired employee or the dependent of such a person. But, if either plan does not have a provision regarding laid-off or retired employees, provision 6 applies.

5. The plan covering you under a continuation of coverage provision in accordance with state or federal law pays after a plan covering you as an employee, a dependent or otherwise, but not under a continuation of coverage provision in accordance with state or federal law. If the order of benefit determination provisions of the Other Plan do not agree under these circumstances with the order of benefit determination provisions of This Plan, this rule will not apply.

6. When the above rules do not establish the order of payment, the plan on which you have been enrolled the longest pays first unless two of the plans have the same effective date. In this case, Allowable Expense is split equally between the two plans.

OUR RIGHTS UNDER THIS PROVISION

Responsibility For Timely Notice. We are not responsible for coordination of benefits unless timely information has been provided by the requesting party regarding the application of this provision.

Reasonable Cash Value. If any Other Plan provides benefits in the form of services rather than cash payment, the reasonable cash value of services provided will be considered Allowable Expense. The reasonable cash value of such service will be considered a benefit paid, and our liability reduced accordingly.
Facility of Payment. If payments which should have been made under This Plan have been made under any Other Plan, we have the right to pay that Other Plan any amount we determine to be warranted to satisfy the intent of this provision. Any such amount will be considered a benefit paid under This Plan, and such payment will fully satisfy our liability under this provision.

Right of Recovery. If payments made under This Plan exceed the maximum payment necessary to satisfy the intent of this provision, we have the right to recover that excess amount from any persons or organizations to or for whom those payments were made, or from any insurance company or service plan.

BENEFITS FOR MEDICARE ELIGIBLE MEMBERS

Any benefits provided under both this plan and Medicare will be provided according to Medicare Secondary Payer legislation, regulations, and Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services guidelines, subject to federal court decisions. Federal law controls whenever there is a conflict among state law, terms of this plan, and federal law.

If you are entitled to Medicare and covered under this plan as an active employee, or as a dependent of an active employee, this plan will generally pay first and Medicare will pay second, unless:

1. You are receiving treatment for end-stage renal disease following the first 30 months you are entitled to end-stage renal disease benefits under Medicare; or
2. You are enrolled in Medicare benefits as a disabled person, unless you have a current employment status as determined by Medicare rules through a group of 100 or more employees (according to federal OBRA legislation).

In cases where either of the above exceptions applies, our payment will be determined according to the provisions in the section entitled COORDINATION OF BENEFITS and the provision “Coordinating Benefits With Medicare”, below.
Coordinating Benefits With Medicare. In general, when Medicare is the primary payor according to federal law, Medicare must provide benefits first to any services that are covered both by Medicare and under this plan. For any given claim, the combination of benefits provided by Medicare and under this plan will not exceed the maximum allowed amount for the covered services.

Except when federal law requires us to be the primary payer, the benefits under this plan for members age 65 and older, or for members who are otherwise eligible for Medicare (such as due to a disability or receiving treatment for end-stage renal disease), will not duplicate any benefit for which members are entitled under Medicare, including Medicare Part B. Where Medicare is the responsible primary payer, all sums payable by Medicare for services provided to you shall be reimbursed by or on your behalf to us, to the extent we have made primary payment for such services. For the purposes of the calculation of benefits, if you are eligible for Medicare but have not enrolled, we will calculate benefits as if you had enrolled. You should enroll in Medicare as soon as possible to avoid potential liability.

UTILIZATION REVIEW PROGRAM

Your plan includes the process of utilization review to decide when services are medically necessary or experimental / investigative as those terms are defined in this booklet. Utilization review aids the delivery of cost-effective health care by reviewing the use of treatments and, when proper, level of care and/or the setting or place of service that they are performed.

REVIEWING WHERE SERVICES ARE PROVIDED

A service must be medically necessary to be a covered service. When level of care, setting or place of service is reviewed, services that can be safely given to you in a lower level of care or lower cost setting / place of care, will not be medically necessary if they are given in a higher level of care, or higher cost setting / place of care. This means that a request for a service may be denied because it is not medically necessary for the service to be provided where it is being requested. When this happens the service can be requested again in another place and will be reviewed again for medical necessity. At times a different provider or facility may need to be used in order for the service to be considered medically necessary. Examples include, but are not limited to:

- A service may be denied on an inpatient basis at a hospital but may be approvable if provided on an outpatient basis at a hospital.
A service may be denied on an outpatient basis at a hospital but may be approvable at a free standing imaging center, infusion center, ambulatory surgery center, or in a physician’s office.

A service may be denied at a skilled nursing facility but may be approvable in a home setting.

Utilization review criteria will be based on many sources including medical policy and clinical guidelines. We may decide that a treatment that was asked for is not medically necessary if a clinically equivalent treatment that is more cost-effective is available and appropriate. “Clinically equivalent” means treatments that for most members, will give you similar results for a disease or condition.

If you have any questions about the utilization review process, the medical policies or clinical guidelines you may call the Member Services phone number on the back of your Identification Card.

Coverage for or payment of the service or treatment reviewed is not guaranteed. For benefits to be covered, on the date you get service:

1. You must be eligible for benefits;
2. The service or supply must be a covered service under your plan;
3. The service cannot be subject to an exclusion under your plan (please see MEDICAL CARE THAT IS NOT COVERED for more information); and
4. You must not have exceeded any applicable limits under your plan.

**TYPES OF REVIEWS**

- **Pre-service Review** – A review of a service, treatment or admission for a benefit coverage determination which is done before the service or treatment begins or admission date.
  - **Precertification** – A required pre-service review for a benefit coverage determination for a service or treatment. Certain services require precertification in order for you to get benefits. The benefit coverage review will include a review to decide whether the service meets the definition of medical necessity or is experimental / investigative as those terms are defined in this booklet.

For admissions following an emergency, you, your authorized representative or physician must tell us within 24 hours of the admission or as soon as possible within a reasonable period of time.
For childbirth admissions, precertification is not needed for the first 48 hours for a vaginal delivery or 96 hours for a cesarean section. Admissions longer than 48/96 hours require precertification.

For inpatient hospital stays for mastectomy surgery, including the length of hospital stays associated with mastectomy, precertification is not needed.

- **Continued Stay / Concurrent Review** – A utilization review of a service, treatment or admission for a benefit coverage determination which must be done during an ongoing stay in a facility or course of treatment.

  • Both pre-service and continued stay / concurrent reviews may be considered urgent when, in the view of the treating provider or any physician with knowledge of your medical condition, without such care or treatment, your life or health or your ability to regain maximum function could be seriously threatened or you could be subjected to severe pain that cannot be adequately managed without such care or treatment. Urgent reviews are conducted under a shorter timeframe than standard reviews.

- **Post-service Review** – A review of a service, treatment or admission for a benefit coverage that is conducted after the service has been provided. Post-service reviews are performed when a service, treatment or admission did not need a precertification, or when a needed precertification was not obtained. Post-service reviews are done for a service, treatment or admission in which we have a related clinical coverage guideline and are typically initiated by us.

Services for which precertification is required (i.e., services that need to be reviewed by us to determine whether they are medically necessary) include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Scheduled, non-emergency inpatient hospital stays and residential treatment center admissions, including detoxification and rehabilitation.

  **Exceptions:** Pre-service review is not required for inpatient hospital stays for the following services:

  • Maternity care of 48 hours or less following a normal delivery or 96 hours or less following a cesarean section, and

  • Mastectomy and lymph node dissection.

- Specific non-emergency outpatient services, including diagnostic treatment, genetic tests and other services.
• Surgical procedures, wherever performed.

• Transplant services, including transplant travel expense. The following criteria must be met for certain transplants, as follows:
  ♦ For bone, skin or cornea transplants, the physicians on the surgical team and the facility in which the transplant is to take place must be approved for the transplant requested.
  ♦ For transplantation of heart, liver, lung, combination heart-lung, kidney, pancreas, simultaneous pancreas-kidney or bone marrow/stem cell and similar procedures, the providers of the related preoperative and postoperative services must be approved and the transplant must be performed at a Centers of Medical Excellence (CME) or a Blue Distinction Centers for Specialty Care (BDCSC) facility.

• Air ambulance in a non-medical emergency.

• Visits for physical therapy, physical medicine and occupational therapy beyond those described under the "Physical Therapy, Physical Medicine and Occupational Therapy" provision of YOUR MEDICAL BENEFITS: MEDICAL CARE THAT IS COVERED. A specified number of additional visits may be authorized after your initial visit. While there is no limit on the number of covered visits for medically necessary physical therapy, physical medicine, and occupational therapy, visits must be authorized in advance.

• Speech therapy services. A specified number of additional visits may be authorized after your initial visit. While there is no limit on the number of covered visits for medically necessary speech therapy, visits must be authorized in advance.

• Visits for chiropractic services beyond those described under the "Physical Therapy, Physical Medicine and Occupational Therapy" provision of YOUR MEDICAL BENEFITS: MEDICAL CARE THAT IS COVERED. A specified number of additional visits may be authorized. While there is no limit on the number of covered visits for medically necessary chiropractic services, additional visits in excess of the stated number of visits must be authorized in advance.

• Specific durable medical equipment.

• Infusion therapy or home infusion therapy, if the attending physician has submitted both a prescription and a plan of treatment before services are rendered.

• Home health care. The following criteria must be met:
♦ The services can be safely provided in your home, as certified by your attending physician;

♦ Your attending physician manages and directs your medical care at home; and

♦ Your attending physician has established a definitive treatment plan which must be consistent with your medical needs and lists the services to be provided by the home health agency.

- Admissions to a skilled nursing facility, if you require daily skilled nursing or rehabilitation, as certified by your attending physician.

- Bariatric surgical services, such as gastric bypass and other surgical procedures for weight loss, including bariatric travel expense, if:
  ♦ The services are to be performed for the treatment of morbid obesity;
  ♦ The physicians on the surgical team and the facility in which the surgical procedure is to take place are approved for the surgical procedure requested; and
  ♦ The bariatric surgical procedure will be performed at a BDCSC facility.

- Select imaging procedures, including but not limited to: Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI), Computerized Axial Tomography (CAT scan), Positron Emission Tomography (PET scan), Magnetic Resonance Spectroscopy (MRS scan), Magnetic Resonance Angiogram (MRA scan) and Nuclear Cardiac Imaging. You may call the toll-free Member Services telephone number on your identification card to find out if an imaging procedure requires pre-service review.

- All interventional spine pain, elective hip, knee, and shoulder arthroscopic/open sports medicine, and outpatient spine surgery procedures must be authorized in advance.

- Prescription drugs that require prior authorization as described under the “Prescription Drugs Obtained from or Administered by a Medical Provider” provision of YOUR MEDICAL BENEFITS: MEDICAL CARE THAT IS COVERED.
- Behavioral health treatment for pervasive developmental disorder or autism, as specified in the section BENEFITS FOR PERVERSIVE DEVELOPMENTAL DISORDER OR AUTISM.

- Partial hospitalization programs, intensive outpatient programs, transcranial magnetic stimulation (TMS).

- Transgender services, including transgender travel expense, as specified under the “Transgender Services” provision of YOUR MEDICAL BENEFITS: MEDICAL CARE THAT IS COVERED. You must be diagnosed with gender identity disorder or gender dysphoria by a physician.

For a list of current procedures requiring precertification, please call the toll-free number for Member Services printed on your Identification Card.

**WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR PRECERTIFICATION?**

Typically, participating providers know which services need precertification and will get any precertification when needed. Your physician and other participating providers have been given detailed information about these procedures and are responsible for meeting these requirements. Generally, the ordering provider, hospital or attending physician (“requesting provider”) will get in touch with us to ask for a precertification. However, you may request a precertification or you may choose an authorized representative to act on your behalf for a specific request. The authorized representative can be anyone who is 18 years of age or older. The table below outlines who is responsible for precertification and under what circumstances.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Provider Network Status</th>
<th>Responsibility to Get Precertification</th>
<th>Comments</th>
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<tr>
<td>Participating Providers</td>
<td>Provider</td>
<td>• The provider must get precertification when required.</td>
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| Non-Participating Providers | Member                                 | • *Member* must get precertification when required. (Call Member Services.)
|                             |                                        | • *Member* may be financially responsible for charges or costs related to the service and/or setting in whole or in part if the service and/or setting is found to not be *medically necessary.* |
| Blue Card Provider          | Member                                 | • *Member* must get precertification when required. (Call Member Services.)
| (Except for Inpatient Admissions) |                                        | • *Member* may be financially responsible for charges or costs related to the service and/or setting in whole or in part if the service and/or setting is found to not be *medically necessary.* |
|                             |                                        | • Blue Card Providers must obtain precertification for all Inpatient Admissions. |
NOTE: For an emergency admission, precertification is not required. However, you, your authorized representative or physician must tell us within 24 hours of the admission or as soon as possible within a reasonable period of time.

**HOW DECISIONS ARE MADE**

We use our clinical coverage guidelines, such as medical policy, clinical guidelines, and other applicable policies and procedures to help make our medical necessity decisions. This includes decisions about prescription drugs as detailed in the section “Prescription Drugs Obtained from or Administered by a Medical Provider.” Medical policies and clinical guidelines reflect the standards of practice and medical interventions identified as proper medical practice. We reserve the right to review and update these clinical coverage guidelines from time to time.

You are entitled to ask for and get, free of charge, reasonable access to any records concerning your request. To ask for this information, call the precertification phone number on the back of your identification card.

If you are not satisfied with our decision under this section of your benefits, please refer to the “Grievance Procedures” section to see what rights may be available to you.

**DECISION AND NOTICE REQUIREMENTS**

We will review requests for medical necessity according to the timeframes listed below. The timeframes and requirements listed are based on state and federal laws. Where state laws are stricter than federal laws, we will follow state laws. If you live in and/or get services in a state other than the state where your agreement was issued other state-specific requirements may apply. You may call the phone number on the back of your identification card for more details.

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<th>Request Category</th>
<th>Timeframe Requirement for Decision</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Urgent Pre-Service Review</td>
<td>72 hours from the receipt of the request</td>
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<tr>
<td>Non-Urgent Pre-Service Review</td>
<td>5 business days from the receipt of the request</td>
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### Request Category

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<tr>
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<th>Timeframe Requirement for Decision</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Continued Stay / Concurrent Review when hospitalized at the time of the request and no previous authorization exists</td>
<td>72 hours from the receipt of the request</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urgent Continued Stay / Concurrent Review when request is received at least 24 hours before the end of the previous authorization</td>
<td>24 hours from the receipt of the request</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urgent Continued Stay / Concurrent Review when request is received less than 24 hours before the end of the previous authorization</td>
<td>72 hours from the receipt of the request</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-Urgent Continued Stay / Concurrent Review</td>
<td>5 business days from the receipt of the request</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Post-Service Review</td>
<td>30 calendar days from the receipt of the request</td>
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If more information is needed to make our decision, we will tell the requesting **physician** of the specific information needed to finish the review. If we do not get the specific information we need by the required timeframe identified in the written notice, we will make a decision based upon the information we have.

We will notify you and your **physician** of our decision as required by state and federal law. Notice may be given by one or more of the following methods: verbal, written, and/or electronic.

For a copy of the medical necessity review process, please contact Member Services at the telephone number on the back of your Identification Card.

**Revoking or modifying a Precertification Review decision.** We will determine **in advance** whether certain services (including procedures and admissions) are **medically necessary** and are the appropriate length of stay, if applicable. These review decisions may be revoked or modified prior to the service being rendered for reasons including but not limited to the following:

- Your coverage under this **plan** ends;
• The agreement with the group terminates;
• You reach a benefit maximum that applies to the service in question;
• Your benefits under the plan change so that the service is no longer covered or is covered in a different way.

HEALTH PLAN INDIVIDUAL CASE MANAGEMENT

The health plan individual case management program enables us to assist you to obtain medically appropriate care in a more economical, cost-effective and coordinated manner during prolonged periods of intensive medical care. Through a case manager, we discuss possible options for an alternative plan of treatment which may include services not covered under this plan. It is not your right to receive individual case management, nor do we have an obligation to provide it; we provide these services at our sole and absolute discretion.

HOW HEALTH PLAN INDIVIDUAL CASE MANAGEMENT WORKS

Our health plan individual case management program (Case Management) helps coordinate services for members with health care needs due to serious, complex, and/or chronic health conditions. Our programs coordinate benefits and educate members who agree to take part in the Case Management program to help meet their health-related needs.

Our Case Management programs are confidential and voluntary, and are made available at no extra cost to you. These programs are provided by, or on behalf of and at the request of, your health plan case management staff. These Case Management programs are separate from any covered services you are receiving.

If you meet program criteria and agree to take part, we will help you meet your identified health care needs. This is reached through contact and team work with you and/or your chosen authorized representative, treating physicians, and other providers.

In addition, we may assist in coordinating care with existing community-based programs and services to meet your needs. This may include giving you information about external agencies and community-based programs and services.
Alternative Treatment Plan. In certain cases of severe or chronic illness or injury, we may provide benefits for alternate care that is not listed as a covered service. We may also extend services beyond the benefit maximums of this plan. We will make our decision case-by-case, if in our discretion the alternate or extended benefit is in the best interest of you and us and you or your authorized representative agree to the alternate or extended benefit in writing. A decision to provide extended benefits or approve alternate care in one case does not obligate us to provide the same benefits again to you or to any other member. We reserve the right, at any time, to alter or stop providing extended benefits or approving alternate care. In such case, we will notify you or your authorized representative in writing.

EXCEPTIONS TO THE UTILIZATION REVIEW PROGRAM

From time to time, we may waive, enhance, modify, or discontinue certain medical management processes (including utilization management, case management, and disease management) if, in our discretion, such a change furthers the provision of cost effective, value based and quality services. In addition, we may select certain qualifying health care providers to participate in a program or a provider arrangement that exempts them from certain procedural or medical management processes that would otherwise apply. We may also exempt claims from medical review if certain conditions apply.

If we exempt a process, health care provider, or claim from the standards that would otherwise apply, we are in no way obligated to do so in the future, or to do so for any other health care provider, claim, or member. We may stop or modify any such exemption with or without advance notice.

We also may identify certain providers to review for potential fraud, waste, abuse or other inappropriate activity if the claims data suggests there may be inappropriate billing practices. If a provider is selected under this program, then we may use one or more clinical utilization management guidelines in the review of claims submitted by this provider, even if those guidelines are not used for all providers delivering services to this plan's members.

You may determine whether a health care provider participates in certain programs or a provider arrangement by checking our online provider directory on our website at www.anthem.com/ca or by calling us at the Member Services telephone number listed on your ID card.
HOW COVERAGE BEGINS AND ENDS

Note: All full-time permanent non-represented County employees are eligible to participate in one of two cafeteria benefit plans established by the County pursuant to Section 125 of the Internal Revenue Code. “Full-time” for this purpose means 40 hours per week (or 56 hours per week in the case of 56 hour employees). Employees hired on or after January 1, 1991 are eligible to participate in the cafeteria benefit plan known as “MegaFlex.” Employees hired prior to January 1, 1991 are eligible to participate in either MegaFlex or separate cafeteria benefit plan established prior to MegaFlex known as the “Flexible Benefit Plan” (hereinafter referred to as “Flex”) depending on whether each employee elected coverage under MegaFlex or Flex during the annual cafeteria plan enrollments conducted for non-represented employees in 1990 and 1991.

Coverage under this plan is offered as one of the benefit options under MegaFlex and Flex. Except in the case of certain monthly temporary and monthly recurrent employees and part-time employees discussed below, eligibility for this plan is contingent on: (a) employee participation in MegaFlex or Flex, and (b) an employee election of coverage under this plan shall be governed by the participation and benefit election rules and procedures established by the County for MegaFlex and Flex and by Federal law or regulation relating to cafeteria benefit plans.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE

1. Employees. To be eligible to enroll, you must meet and continue to meet all County established eligibility requirements for participation in the health benefit program.

2. Spouse is the employee’s spouse as recognized under state or federal law. This includes same sex spouses when legally married in a state or foreign jurisdiction that recognizes same-sex marriages. Spouse does not include any person who is in active service in the armed forces. A person may be covered as both an employee and a dependent, if eligible as both. However, the total amount of benefits the plan would then pay shall not exceed the maximum allowed amount.

3. Domestic Partner is a person of the same or opposite sex who: (a) shares your permanent residence, (b) is at least 18 years of age, (c) is not a blood relative any closer than would prohibit legal marriage, and (d) has signed jointly with you and filed with the County a Declaration of Domestic Partnership. For your domestic partner to be eligible for coverage under this plan, neither you nor your domestic partner:
a. may have signed a Domestic Partner affidavit or declaration with any other person within twelve months prior to designating each other as domestic partners hereunder;

b. may be currently legally married to another person; or

c. may have any other domestic partner, spouse or spouse equivalent of the same or opposite sex.

In addition, domestic partner also means a person who is registered as the employee’s domestic partner with the California Secretary of State. If there is no domestic partner registered with the California Secretary of State, domestic partner means a person who meets the following criteria:

Has submitted a proof of a similar legal union validly formed in another state or foreign jurisdiction, or submitted a signed County of Los Angeles Domestic Partner Declaration form to the County Benefit Administrator in accordance with the rules of the County’s Domestic Partner Program.

4. Child is the employee’s, spouse’s or domestic partner’s natural child, stepchild, legally adopted child, or a child for whom the employee, spouse or domestic partner has been appointed legal guardian by a court of law, subject to the following:

a. The child is under 26 years of age.

b. The unmarried child is 26 years of age or older and: (i) cannot hold a full-time job because of a mental or physical disability that began before the child reached the age limit, and (ii) has remained continuously dependent on the subscriber, spouse or domestic partner for at least 50 percent of his or her financial support since he/she became disabled. A physician must certify in writing that the child is incapable of self-sustaining employment due to a physical or mental condition. We must receive the certification, at no expense to us, within 60-days of the date the subscriber receives our request.

We may request proof of continuing dependency and that a physical or mental condition still exists, but not more often than once each year after the initial certification.

This exception will last until the child is no longer chiefly dependent on the subscriber, spouse or domestic partner for support and maintenance due to a continuing physical or mental condition. A child is considered chiefly dependent for support and maintenance if he or she qualifies as a dependent for federal income tax purposes.
c. A child who is in the process of being adopted is considered a legally adopted child if we receive legal evidence of both: (i) the intent to adopt; and (ii) that the employee, spouse or domestic partner have either: (a) the right to control the health care of the child; or (b) assumed a legal obligation for full or partial financial responsibility for the child in anticipation of the child’s adoption.

Legal evidence to control the health care of the child means a written document, including, but not limited to, a health facility minor release report, a medical authorization form, or relinquishment form, signed by the child’s birth parent, or other appropriate authority, or in the absence of a written document, other evidence of the employee’s, the spouse’s or the domestic partner’s right to control the health care of the child.

d. A child for whom the employee, spouse or domestic partner is a legal guardian is considered eligible on the date of the court decree (the “eligibility date”). The claims administrator must receive legal evidence of the decree.

e. If both parents are covered as employees, their children may be covered as the dependents of both. However, the total amount of benefits the plan would then pay shall not exceed the maximum allowed amount.

f. Notwithstanding the foregoing, child shall include: (a) a natural grandchild of the employee during the time either of the parent of the child is enrolled as a dependent child under this plan; and (b) any other child who is totally dependent on the employee for financial support as evidenced by court documents and who resides permanently with the employee.
WHEN COVERAGE BEGINS

1. Annual Cafeteria Plan Enrollment

MegaFlex and Flex operate on the basis of a “plan year” which is defined as the calendar year. Eligible employees must annually choose between the various taxable and nontaxable benefits offered through MegaFlex and Flex, including health insurance, for a period of 12 consecutive calendar months. The annual election process normally takes place in October or November of each year as determined by the County, and benefits changes resulting from that process take effect on the following January 1. Except as noted below, any employee election to add or delete coverage under this plan for the employee or any dependent will take effect immediately following January 1 and will stay in force for a full calendar year.

2. Eligibility That Begins During a Plan Year

Employees who become eligible to participate in MegaFlex or Flex during a plan year through a mid-year appointment to an eligible position will become participants effective on the first day of the month following the month in which the employee: (a) becomes eligible, and (b) completes his or her initial benefit election. You become eligible for coverage in accordance with rules established by your employer. For specific information about your employer’s eligibility rules for coverage, please contact your Human Resources or Benefits Department.

3. Changes in Family Status

Changes in MegaFlex or Flex benefit coverage, including the addition or deletion of coverage under this plan for an employee’s family members, may be permitted during the course of a plan year for certain changes in “family status” such as marriage, divorce, birth or death of a dependent, loss of spouse’s employment, and other reasons specifically permitted under Federal regulations. Rules relating to the more common situations involving the expansion of coverage to new family members are as follows:

a. Coverage for a new spouse which is to be added to this plan will become effective on the date of the marriage; provided, however, that the employee must positively act to enroll the spouse within 90 days of the marriage in accordance with the enrollment procedures established by the County. Completion of the enrollment within this time frame will provide continuous coverage from the date of marriage.
b. Coverage for *domestic partners* and his or her children will become effective on the date the domestic partnership is registered with the County and coverage is elected in accordance with the enrollment procedures established by the County.

c. Coverage for a newborn *child* will automatically become effective upon birth and during the first 31 days following birth. However, coverage after 31 days is contingent on the *employee* positively acting to enroll the *child* within 90 days of birth in accordance with enrollment procedures established by the County. Completion of the enrollment within this time frame will provide continuous coverage from birth.

d. Coverage for a newly adopted *child*, or a *child* who is being adopted, will become effective on the date the birth parent or other appropriate legal authority grants the *employee* or his or her *spouse* or *domestic partner*, in writing, the right to control the *child’s* health care; provided, however, that the *employee* must positively act to enroll the *child* within 90 days of such grant of legal authority in accordance with enrollment procedures established by the County. Completion of the enrollment within this time frame will provide continuous coverage from the grant of legal authority.

e. Where an *employee* becomes a court appointed legal guardian of a *child*, coverage for the *child* will become effective on the effective date of the court appointment; provided, however, that the *employee* must positively act to enroll the *child* within 90 days of such court appointment in accordance with the enrollment procedures established by the County. Completion of the enrollment within this time frame will provide continuous coverage from the court appointment.

f. Your coverage under the other health plan wherein you were covered as an individual or dependent ended as follows:

-- If the other health plan was a state Medicaid plan or a state child health insurance program (SCHIP), including the Healthy Families Program or the Access for Infants and Mothers (AIM) Program, coverage ended because you lost eligibility under the program. You must properly file an application with the *group* within 90 days after the date your coverage ended. Coverage will be effective on the first day of the month following the date you file the enrollment application.
g. You meet or exceed a lifetime limit on all benefits under another health plan. Application must be made within 90 days of the date a claim or a portion of a claim is denied due to your meeting or exceeding the lifetime limit on all benefits under the other plan. Coverage will be effective on the first day of the month following the date you file the enrollment application.

h. You become eligible for assistance, with respect to the cost of coverage under the employer’s group plan, under a state Medicaid or SCHIP health plan, including any waiver or demonstration project conducted under or in relation to these plans. You must properly file an application with the group within 90 days after the date you are determined to be eligible for this assistance. Coverage will be effective on the first day of the month following the date you file the enrollment application.

i. You are an employee who is a reservist as defined by state or federal law, who terminated coverage as a result of being ordered to military service as defined under state or federal law, and apply for reinstatement of coverage following reemployment with your employer. Your coverage will be reinstated without any waiting period. The coverage of any dependents whose coverage was also terminated will also be reinstated. For dependents, this applies only to dependents who were covered under the plan and whose coverage terminated when the employee’s coverage terminated.

Other dependents who were not covered may not enroll at this time unless they qualify under another of the circumstances listed above. Coverage will be effective as of the date of reemployment.

j. Failure to comply with the requisite County established procedures, including the enrollment deadlines, will preclude coverage under this plan, or, in the case of a newborn child, continuation of coverage beyond an initial 30 days, until the subsequent January 1 when coverage may be initiated through the annual enrollment process.
Changes in family status, particularly changes involving an employee’s, spouse’s or domestic partner’s employment status, will be subject to review by the County on an individual case basis to ensure compliance with Federal law. The County, in its sole discretion, will approve or disapprove change of family status requests, and its decision will be final. Please refer to the County’s separate MegaFlex and Flex communications materials for further information on the rules and procedures relating to change of family status situations, including deadlines and required documentation, or contact your Departmental Personnel Office, or the Department of Human Resources at (213) 388-9982.

4. Monthly Temporary and Monthly Recurrent Employees

Certain non-represented monthly temporary and monthly recurrent employees employed on positions known as “O items” and “B items”, respectively, may be eligible for coverage under this plan even though the employees are not participants in MegaFlex or Flex. For further information on the coverage for these employees, contact your Departmental Personnel Office, or the Department of Human Resources at (213) 388-9982.

5. Part-time Employees

Part-time employees who work an average of 20 hours or more per week during a period of three consecutive months and are on items classified as C, E, F, H, Y, or Z may be eligible for coverage under this plan even though the employees are not participants in the MegaFlex or Flex.

WHEN COVERAGE ENDS

1. Coverage ends for an employee upon the occurrence of any of the following:

   a. The employee chooses not to continue coverage under this plan during the annual MegaFlex and Flex benefit election process. In such event, coverage under this plan will end on December 31 of the then current plan year.

   b. The employee ceases to be a participant in MegaFlex or Flex. Except as noted in paragraphs I and II below, coverage shall cease effective on the first day of the second month following last month the employee was a MegaFlex or Flex participant. These are two exceptions to this rule, however:
h. If the employee becomes eligible to participate in one of the two cafeteria benefit plans applicable to represented County employees known as the "Choices" and "Options" plans, respectively, the employee shall be permitted to elect continued coverage under this plan through the end of the current plan year if he or she has incurred expenses in the current plan year toward the annual deductible under this plan.

i. Beginning with the subsequent plan year, the employee must choose from the various health insurance options provided under the Choices and Options plans.

ii. If the employee ceases to be eligible to participate in any of the cafeteria benefit plans available to County employees, he or she may be entitled to continued coverage under the Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1985 (COBRA). For further information on this law, see the provisions of this Summary Plan Description pertaining to "CONTINUATION OF COVERAGE."

c. The employee requests, and is granted termination of coverage under the change of family status rules.

d. Except as provided in paragraph e below, the employee takes an unpaid leave of absence for one full calendar month or more and fails to make arrangements with the County pay the required monthly premiums for the plan.

e. Coverage will not cease if take a leave of absence that qualifies as a family or medical leave under the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 (an "FMLA leave"). For additional information on the effects of leaves of absence on your coverage under this plan, please contact your Departmental Personnel Office or the Department of Human Resources at (213) 388-9982.

2. Coverage ends for a spouse or domestic partner upon the occurrence of any of the following:

a. Coverage ends for the employee. Neither a spouse, nor a domestic partner, nor a dependent child(ren) may be covered.
b. The employee requests and is granted and is granted termination of coverage for the spouse or domestic partner under the change of family status rules. In such case, the coverage will terminate on the first of the month following receipt of request for such change.

Notes: COBRA coverage may apply to a spouse or domestic partner. See provisions of this Summary Plan Description pertaining to “CONTINUATION OF COVERAGE.”

Domestic partners and their dependents can be terminated at any time during the year. In such case, the coverage will terminate on the first of the month following receipt of the request for change.

3. Coverage ends for a child(ren) upon the occurrence of any of the following:

a. Coverage ends for the employee.

b. The employee requests and is granted termination of coverage for the child(ren) only under the change of family status rules. In such case, the coverage will terminate on the first of the month following the date of change in family status.

c. The child ceases to meet the age limitations or other requisite conditions of being a dependent “child” under the terms of the plan. In such case, the coverage will be terminated effective on the first of the month following the month in which the pertinent changes occur.

Note: COBRA coverage may apply to a child. See provisions of this Summary Plan Description pertaining to "CONTINUATION OF COVERAGE."

Exception.

Uniformed Service Employment and Reemployment Rights Act of 1994

If you take a military leave, whether for active duty or for training, you are entitled to continue coverage for up to 24 months as long as you give the plan administrator advance notices (with certain exceptions) of the leave. If the entire length of the leave is 30 days or less, you will not be required to pay any more than the portion you paid before the leave. If the entire length of the leave is 31 days or longer, you may be required to pay up to 102% of the entire amount necessary to cover an employee who does not go on military leave.
If you take a military leave, but your coverage under the plan is terminated, for instance, because you do not elect the extended coverage, you will be treated as if you had not asked for a military leave upon reemployment when determining whether an exclusion or waiting period applies upon your reinstatement into the plan.

You may be entitled to continued benefits under terms which are specified elsewhere under CONTINUATION OF COVERAGE, EXTENSION

Unfair Termination of Coverage. If you believe that your coverage has been or will be improperly terminated, you may file a grievance with us in accordance with the procedures described in the section entitled GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES. You should file your grievance as soon as possible after you receive notice that your coverage will end. You may also request a review of the matter by the Director of the Department of Managed Health Care. If your coverage is still in effect when you submit a grievance, we will continue to provide coverage to you under the terms of this plan until a final determination of your request for review has been made, including any review by the Director of the Department of Managed Health Care (this does not apply if your coverage is cancelled for non-payment of subscription charges). If your coverage is maintained in force pending outcome of the review, Subscription charges must still be paid to us on your behalf.

CONTINUATION OF COVERAGE

Most employers who employ 20 or more people on a typical business day are subject to The Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1985 (COBRA). If the employer who provides coverage under the agreement is subject to the federal law which governs this provision (Title X of P. L. 99-272), you may be entitled to continuation of coverage. Check with your employer for details.

DEFINITIONS

The meanings of key terms used in this section are shown below. Whenever any of the key terms shown below appear in these provisions, the first letter of each word will appear in capital letters. When you see these capitalized words, you should refer to this "Definitions" provision.

Initial Enrollment Period is the period of time following the original Qualifying Event, as indicated in the "Terms of COBRA Continuation" provisions below.
Qualified Beneficiary means: (a) a person enrolled for this COBRA continuation coverage who, on the day before the Qualifying Event, was covered under this agreement as either a subscriber or family member; and (b) a child who is born to or placed for adoption with the subscriber during the COBRA continuation period. Qualified Beneficiary does not include any person who was not enrolled during the Initial Enrollment Period, including any family members acquired during the COBRA continuation period, with the exception of newborns and adoptees as specified above.

Qualifying Event means any one of the following circumstances which would otherwise result in the termination of your coverage under the agreement. The events will be referred to throughout this section by number.

1. For Subscribers and Family Members:
   a. The subscriber’s termination of employment, for any reason other than gross misconduct; or
   b. Loss of coverage under an employer’s health plan due to a reduction in the subscriber’s work hours.

2. For Retired Employees and their Family Members. Cancellation or a substantial reduction of retiree benefits under the plan due to the group’s filing for Chapter 11 bankruptcy, provided that:
   a. The agreement expressly includes coverage for retirees; and
   b. Such cancellation or reduction of benefits occurs within one year before or after the group’s filing for bankruptcy.

3. For Family Members:
   a. The death of the subscriber;
   b. The spouse’s divorce or legal separation from the subscriber;
   c. The termination of a domestic partnership;
   d. The end of a child’s status as a dependent child, as defined by the agreement; or
   e. The subscriber’s entitlement to Medicare.

ELIGIBILITY FOR COBRA CONTINUATION

A subscriber or family member may choose to continue coverage under the agreement if your coverage would otherwise end due to a Qualifying Event.
TERMS OF COBRA CONTINUATION

Notice. The group or its administrator (we are not the administrator) will notify either the subscriber or family member of the right to continue coverage under COBRA, as provided below:

1. For Qualifying Events 1, or 2, the group or its administrator will notify the subscriber of the right to continue coverage.

2. For Qualifying Events 3(a) or 3(d) above, a family member will be notified of the COBRA continuation right.

3. You must inform the group within 60 days of Qualifying Events 3(b) or 3(c) above if you wish to continue coverage. The group in turn will promptly give you official notice of the COBRA continuation right.

If you choose to continue coverage you must notify the group within 60 days of the date you receive notice of your COBRA continuation right. The COBRA continuation coverage may be chosen for all members within a family, or only for selected members.

If you fail to elect the COBRA continuation during the Initial Enrollment Period, you may not elect the COBRA continuation at a later date.

Notice of continued coverage, along with the initial premium, must be delivered to us by the group within 45 days after you elect COBRA continuation coverage.

Additional Family Members. A spouse, domestic partner or child acquired during the COBRA continuation period is eligible to be enrolled as a family member. The standard enrollment provisions of the agreement apply to enrollees during the COBRA continuation period.

Cost of Coverage. You are required to pay the entire cost of your COBRA continuation coverage. You must remit this cost (called the "premium") to us each month during the COBRA continuation period. We must receive payment of the premium and administrative fee each month in order to maintain the coverage in force.

Besides applying to the subscriber, the subscriber's rate also applies to:

1. A spouse whose COBRA continuation began due to divorce, separation or death of the subscriber;

2. A domestic partner whose COBRA continuation began due to the end of the domestic partnership or death of the subscriber;
3. A child if neither the subscriber nor the spouse has enrolled for this COBRA continuation coverage (if more than one child is so enrolled, the premium will be the two-party or three-party rate depending on the number of children enrolled); and

4. A child whose COBRA continuation began due to the person no longer meeting the dependent child definition.

Subsequent Qualifying Events. Once covered under the COBRA continuation, it's possible for a second Qualifying Event to occur. If that happens, a member, who is a Qualified Beneficiary, may be entitled to an extended COBRA continuation period. This period will in no event continue beyond 36 months from the date of the first qualifying event.

For example, a child may have been originally eligible for this COBRA continuation due to termination of the subscriber's employment, and enrolled for this COBRA continuation as a Qualified Beneficiary. If, during the COBRA continuation period, the child reaches the upper age limit of the plan, the child is eligible for an extended continuation period which would end no later than 36 months from the date of the original Qualifying Event (the termination of employment).

When COBRA Continuation Coverage Begins. When COBRA continuation coverage is elected during the Initial Enrollment Period and the premium is paid, coverage is reinstated back to the date of the original Qualifying Event, so that no break in coverage occurs.

For family members properly enrolled during the COBRA continuation, coverage begins according to the enrollment provisions of the agreement.

When the COBRA Continuation Ends. This COBRA continuation will end on the earliest of:

1. The end of 18 months from the Qualifying Event, if the Qualifying Event was termination of employment or reduction in work hours;*

2. The end of 36 months from the Qualifying Event, if the Qualifying Event was the death of the subscriber, divorce or legal separation, the end of a domestic partnership, or the end of dependent child status;*

3. The end of 36 months from the date the subscriber became entitled to Medicare, if the Qualifying Event was the subscriber's entitlement to Medicare. If entitlement to Medicare does not result in coverage terminating and Qualifying Event 1 occurs within 18 months after Medicare entitlement, coverage for Qualified Beneficiaries other than the subscriber will end 36 months from the date the subscriber became entitled to Medicare;
4. The date the agreement terminates;

5. The end of the period for which premiums are last paid;

6. The date, following the election of COBRA, the member first becomes covered under any other group health plan; or

7. The date, following the election of COBRA, the member first becomes entitled to Medicare. However, entitlement to Medicare will not preclude a person from continuing coverage which the person became eligible for due to Qualifying Event 2.

*For a member whose COBRA continuation coverage began under a prior plan, this term will be dated from the time of the Qualifying Event under that prior plan. Additional note: If your COBRA continuation under this plan began on or after January 1, 2003 and ends in accordance with item 1, you may further elect to continue coverage for medical benefits only under CalCOBRA for the balance of 36 months (COBRA and CalCOBRA combined). All COBRA eligibility must be exhausted before you are eligible to further continue coverage under CalCOBRA. Please see CALCOBRA CONTINUATION OF COVERAGE in this booklet for more information.

Subject to the agreement remaining in effect, a retired subscriber whose COBRA continuation coverage began due to Qualifying Event 2 may be covered for the remainder of his or her life; that person’s covered family members may continue coverage for 36 months after the subscriber’s death. But coverage could terminate prior to such time for either the subscriber or family member in accordance with items 4, 5 or 6 above.

Other Coverage Options Besides COBRA Continuation Coverage.
Instead of enrolling in COBRA continuation coverage, there may be other coverage options for you and your family through the Health Insurance Marketplace, Medicaid, or other group health plan coverage options (such as a spouse’s plan) through the conditions listed under the SPECIAL ENROLLMENT PERIODS provision. Some of these options may cost less than COBRA continuation coverage. You can learn more about many of these options at www.healthcare.gov.

EXTENSION OF CONTINUATION DURING TOTAL DISABILITY

If at the time of termination of employment or reduction in hours, or at any time during the first 60 days of the COBRA continuation, a Qualified Beneficiary is determined to be disabled for Social Security purposes, all covered members may be entitled to up to 29 months of continuation coverage after the original Qualifying Event.
Eligibility for Extension. To continue coverage for up to 29 months from the date of the original Qualifying Event, the disabled member must:

1. Satisfy the legal requirements for being totally and permanently disabled under the Social Security Act; and
2. Be determined and certified to be so disabled by the Social Security Administration.

Notice. The member must furnish the group with proof of the Social Security Administration's determination of disability during the first 18 months of the COBRA continuation period and no later than 60 days after the later of the following events:

1. The date of the Social Security Administration's determination of the disability;
2. The date on which the original Qualifying Event occurs;
3. The date on which the Qualified Beneficiary loses coverage; or
4. The date on which the Qualified Beneficiary is informed of the obligation to provide the disability notice.

Cost of Coverage. For the 19th through 29th months that the total disability continues, you must remit the cost for the extended continuation coverage to us. This cost (called the “premium”) shall be subject to the following conditions:

1. If the disabled member continues coverage during this extension, this charge shall be 150% of the applicable rate for the length of time the disabled member remains covered, depending upon the number of covered dependents. If the disabled member does not continue coverage during this extension, this charge shall remain at 102% of the applicable rate.
2. You must remit to us the cost for extended continuation coverage each month during the period of extended continuation coverage. Timely payment of the premium must be received each month in order to maintain the extended continuation coverage in force.
3. You may be required to pay the entire cost of your extended continuation coverage.
If a second Qualifying Event occurs during this extended continuation, the total COBRA continuation may continue for up to 36 months from the date of the first Qualifying Event. The premium shall then be 150% of the applicable rate for the 19th through 36th months if the disabled member remains covered. The charge will be 102% of the applicable rate for any periods of time the disabled member is not covered following the 18th month.

When The Extension Ends. This extension will end at the earlier of:

1. The end of the month following a period of 30 days after the Social Security Administration's final determination that you are no longer totally disabled;
2. The end of 29 months from the Qualifying Event;
3. The date the agreement terminates;
4. The end of the period for which premiums are last paid;
5. The date, following the election of COBRA, the member first becomes covered under any other group health plan; or
6. The date, following the election of COBRA, the member first becomes entitled to Medicare. However, entitlement to Medicare will not preclude a person from continuing coverage which the person became eligible for due to Qualifying Event 2.

You must inform the group within 30 days of a final determination by the Social Security Administration that you are no longer totally disabled.

*Note: If your COBRA continuation under this plan began on or after January 1, 2003 and ends in accordance with item 2, you may further elect to continue coverage for medical benefits only under CalCOBRA for the balance of 36 months (COBRA and CalCOBRA combined). All COBRA eligibility must be exhausted before you are eligible to further continue coverage under CalCOBRA. Please see CALCOBRA CONTINUATION OF COVERAGE in this booklet for more information.
CALCOBRA CONTINUATION OF COVERAGE

If your continuation coverage under federal COBRA began on or after January 1, 2003, you have the option to further continue coverage under CalCOBRA for medical benefits only if your federal COBRA ended following:

1. 18 months after the qualifying event, if the qualifying event was termination of employment or reduction in work hours; or

2. 29 months after the qualifying event, if you qualified for the extension of COBRA continuation during total disability.

All federal COBRA eligibility must be exhausted before you are eligible to further continue coverage under CalCOBRA. You are not eligible to further continue coverage under CalCOBRA if you (a) are entitled to Medicare; (b) have other coverage or become covered under another group plan; or (c) are eligible for or covered under federal COBRA. Coverage under CalCOBRA is available for medical benefits only.

TERMS OF CALCOBRA CONTINUATION

Notice. Within 180 days prior to the date federal COBRA ends, we will notify you of your right to further elect coverage under CalCOBRA. If you choose to elect CalCOBRA coverage, you must notify us in writing within 60 days of the date your coverage under federal COBRA ends or when you are notified of your right to continue coverage under CalCOBRA, whichever is later.

Please examine your options carefully before declining this coverage. You should be aware that companies selling individual health insurance typically require a review of your medical history that could result in higher cost or you could be denied coverage entirely.

Additional Family Members. A dependent acquired during the CalCOBRA continuation period is eligible to be enrolled as a family member. The standard enrollment provisions of the agreement apply to enrollees during the CalCOBRA continuation period.
Cost of Coverage. You will be required to pay the entire cost of your CalCOBRA continuation coverage (this is the “premium”). This cost will be:

1. 110% of the applicable group rate if your coverage under federal COBRA ended after 18 months; or

2. 150% of the applicable group rate if your coverage under federal COBRA ended after 29 months.

You must make payment to us within the timeframes specified below. We must receive payment of your premium each month to maintain your coverage in force.

Payment Dates. The first payment is due along with your enrollment form within 45 days after you elect continuation coverage. You must make this payment by first-class mail or other reliable means of delivery, in an amount sufficient to pay any required premiums and premiums due. Failure to submit the correct amount within this 45-day period will disqualify you from receiving continuation coverage under CalCOBRA. Succeeding premiums are due on the first day of each following month.

If premium payments are not received when due, your coverage will be cancelled. We will cancel your coverage only upon sending you written notice of cancellation at least 30 days prior to cancelling your coverage (or any longer period of time required by applicable federal law, rule, or regulation). If you make payment in full within this time period, your coverage will not be cancelled. If you do not make the required payment in full within this time period, your coverage will be cancelled as of 12:00 midnight on the thirty-first day after the date on which the notice of cancellation is sent (or any longer period of time required by applicable federal law, rule, or regulation) and will not be reinstated. Any payment we receive after this time period runs out will be refunded to you within 20 business days. Note: You are still responsible for any unpaid premium payments that you owe to us, including premium payments that apply during any grace period.

Change of Premium. The amounts of the premiums may be changed by us as of any premium due date. We will provide you with written notice at least 60 days prior to the date any premium increase goes into effect.

Accuracy of Information. You are responsible for supplying up-to-date eligibility information. We shall rely upon the latest information received as correct without verification; but we maintain the right to verify any eligibility information you provide.
CalCOBRA Continuation Coverage Under the Prior Plan. If you were covered through CalCOBRA continuation under the prior plan, your coverage may continue under this plan for the balance of the continuation period. However, your coverage shall terminate if you do not comply with the enrollment requirements and premium payment requirements of this plan within 30 days of receiving notice that your continuation coverage under the prior plan will end.

When CalCOBRA Continuation Coverage Begins. When you elect CalCOBRA continuation coverage and pay the premium, coverage is reinstated back to the date federal COBRA ended, so that no break in coverage occurs.

For family members properly enrolled during the CalCOBRA continuation, coverage begins according to the enrollment provisions of the agreement.

When the CalCOBRA Continuation Ends. This CalCOBRA continuation will end on the earliest of:

1. The date that is 36 months after the date of your qualifying event under federal COBRA*;
2. The date the agreement terminates;
3. The end of the period for which premiums are last paid;
4. The date you become covered under any other health plan;
5. The date you become entitled to Medicare; or
6. The date you become covered under a federal COBRA continuation.

CalCOBRA continuation will also end if you move out of our service area or if you commit fraud.

*If your CalCOBRA continuation coverage began under a prior plan, this term will be dated from the time of the qualifying event under that prior plan.
EXTENSION OF BENEFITS

If you are a totally disabled subscriber or a totally disabled family member and under the treatment of a physician on the date of discontinuance of the agreement, your benefits may be continued for treatment of the totally disabling condition. This extension of benefits is not available if you become covered under another group health plan that provides coverage without limitation for your disabling condition. Extension of benefits is subject to the following conditions:

1. If you are confined as an inpatient in a hospital or skilled nursing facility, you are considered totally disabled as long as the inpatient stay is medically necessary, and no written certification of the total disability is required. If you are discharged from the hospital or skilled nursing facility, you may continue your total disability benefits by submitting written certification by your physician of the total disability within 90 days of the date of your discharge. Thereafter, we must receive proof of your continuing total disability at least once every 90 days while benefits are extended.

2. If you are not confined as an inpatient but wish to apply for total disability benefits, you must do so by submitting written certification by your physician of the total disability. We must receive this certification within 90 days of the date coverage ends under this plan. At least once every 90 days while benefits are extended, we must receive proof that your total disability is continuing.

3. Your extension of benefits will end when any one of the following circumstances occurs:
   a. You are no longer totally disabled.
   b. The maximum benefits available to you under this plan are paid.
   c. You become covered under another group health plan that provides benefits without limitation for your disabling condition.
   d. A period of up to 12 months has passed since your extension began.
GENERAL PROVISIONS

Providing of Care. We are not responsible for providing any type of hospital, medical or similar care, nor are we responsible for the quality of any such care received.

Independent Contractors. Our relationship with providers is that of an independent contractor. Physicians, and other health care professionals, hospitals, skilled nursing facilities and other community agencies are not our agents nor are we, or any of our employees, an employee or agent of any hospital, medical group or medical care provider of any type.

Non-Regulation of Providers. The benefits of this plan do not regulate the amounts charged by providers of medical care, except to the extent that rates for covered services are regulated with participating providers.

Inter-Plan Arrangements

Out-of-Area Services

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

When you receive care outside of the Anthem Blue Cross Service Area, you will receive it from one of two kinds of providers. Most providers (“participating providers”) contract with the local Blue Cross and/or Blue Shield Plan in that geographic area (“Host Blue”). Some providers (“non-participating providers”) do not contract with the Host Blue. We explain below how we pay both kinds of providers.

Inter-Plan Arrangements Eligibility – Claim Types

Most claim types are eligible to be processed through Inter-Plan Arrangements, as described above. Examples of claims that are not included are prescription drugs that you obtain from a pharmacy and most dental or vision benefits.
A. BlueCard® Program

Under the BlueCard® Program, when you receive covered services within the geographic area served by a Host Blue, we will still fulfill our contractual obligations. But, the Host Blue is responsible for: (a) contracting with its providers; and (b) handling its interactions with those providers.

When you receive covered services outside the Anthem Blue Cross Service Area and the claim is processed through the BlueCard Program, the amount you pay is calculated based on the lower of:

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

Often, this “negotiated price” will be a simple discount that reflects an actual price that the Host Blue pays to the provider. Sometimes, it is an estimated price that takes into account special arrangements with that provider. Sometimes, such an arrangement may be an average price, based on a discount that results in expected average savings for services provided by similar types of providers. Estimated and average pricing arrangements may also involve types of settlements, incentive payments and/or other credits or charges.

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

B. Negotiated (non–BlueCard Program) Arrangements

With respect to one or more Host Blues, instead of using the BlueCard Program, Anthem Blue Cross may process your claims for covered services through Negotiated Arrangements for National Accounts.

The amount you pay for covered services under this arrangement will be calculated based on the lower of either billed charges for covered services or the negotiated price (refer to the description of negotiated price under Section A. BlueCard Program) made available to Anthem Blue Cross by the Host Blue.
C. Special Cases: Value-Based Programs

*BlueCard® Program*

If you receive covered services under a Value-Based Program inside a Host Blue’s Service Area, you will not be responsible for paying any of the provider incentives, risk-sharing, and/or Care Coordinator Fees that are a part of such an arrangement, except when a Host Blue passes these fees to Anthem Blue Cross through average pricing or fee schedule adjustments. Additional information is available upon request.

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

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

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

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

E. Non-participating Providers Outside Our Service Area

1. **Allowed Amounts and Member Liability Calculation**

   When covered services are provided outside of Anthem Blue Cross’s Service Area by non-participating providers, we may determine benefits and make payment based on pricing from either the Host Blue or the pricing arrangements required by applicable state or federal law. In these situations, the amount you pay for such services as deductible or copayment will be based on that allowed amount. Also, you may be responsible for the difference between the amount that the non-participating provider bills and the payment we will make for the covered services as set forth in this paragraph. Federal or state law, as applicable, will govern payments for out-of-network *emergency* services.
2. **Exceptions**

In certain situations, we may use other pricing methods, such as billed charges or the pricing we would use if the healthcare services had been obtained within the Anthem Blue Cross Service Area, or a special negotiated price to determine the amount we will pay for services provided by non-participating providers. In these situations, you may be liable for the difference between the amount that the non-participating provider bills and the payment we make for the covered services as set forth in this paragraph.

**F. Blue Cross Blue Shield Global Core Program**

If you plan to travel outside the United States, call Member Services to find out your Blue Cross Blue Shield Global Core benefits. Benefits for services received outside of the United States may be different from services received in the United States. Remember to take an up to date health ID card with you.

When you are traveling abroad and need medical care, you can call the Blue Cross Blue Shield Global Core Service Center any time. They are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The toll free number is 800-810-2583. Or you can call them collect at 804-673-1177.

If you need inpatient hospital care, you or someone on your behalf, should contact us for preauthorization. Keep in mind, if you need emergency medical care, go to the nearest hospital. There is no need to call before you receive care.

Please refer to the “Utilization Review Program” section in this booklet for further information. You can learn how to get pre-authorization when you need to be admitted to the hospital for emergency or non-emergency care.

**How Claims are Paid with Blue Cross Blue Shield Global Core**

In most cases, when you arrange inpatient hospital care with Blue Cross Blue Shield Global Core, claims will be filed for you. The only amounts that you may need to pay up front are any copayment or deductible amounts that may apply.

You will typically need to pay for the following services up front:

- **Physician services**;
- Inpatient hospital care not arranged through Blue Cross Blue Shield Global Core; and
- Outpatient services.

You will need to file a claim form for any payments made up front.
When you need Blue Cross Blue Shield Global Core claim forms you can get international claims forms in the following ways:

- Call the Blue Cross Blue Shield Global Core Service Center at the numbers above; or


You will find the address for mailing the claim on the form.

Terms of Coverage

1. In order for you to be entitled to benefits under the agreement, both the agreement and your coverage under the agreement must be in effect on the date the expense giving rise to a claim for benefits is incurred.

2. The benefits to which you may be entitled will depend on the terms of coverage in effect on the date the expense giving rise to a claim for benefits is incurred. An expense is incurred on the date you receive the service or supply for which the charge is made.

3. The agreement is subject to amendment, modification or termination according to the provisions of the agreement without your consent or concurrence.

Nondiscrimination. No person who is eligible to enroll will be refused enrollment based on health status, health care needs, genetic information, previous medical information, disability, sexual orientation or identity, gender, or age.

Protection of Coverage. We do not have the right to cancel your coverage under this plan while: (1) this plan is in effect; (2) you are eligible; and (3) your subscription charges are paid according to the terms of the agreement.

Free Choice of Provider. This plan in no way interferes with your right as a member entitled to hospital benefits to select a hospital. You may choose any physician who holds a valid physician and surgeon's certificate and who is a member of, or acceptable to, the attending staff and board of directors of the hospital where services are received. You may also choose any other health care professional or facility which provides care covered under this plan, and is properly licensed according to appropriate state and local laws. However, your choice may affect the benefits payable according to this plan.
Continuity of Care. If we terminate our contractual relationship with a participating provider and you are undergoing a course of treatment from that provider at the time the contract is terminated, you may be able to continue to receive services from that provider (but only if such provider agrees to continue to comply with the same contractual requirements that applied prior to termination). To qualify, you must have an acute or a serious chronic condition, a high risk pregnancy, or a pregnancy in the second or third trimester. You may request this continuity of care by calling us at the Member Services telephone number listed on your ID card. If approved, services may be received for a limited period of time, but no longer than 90 days, unless you cannot be safely transferred to a participating provider. Coverage is provided according to the terms and conditions of this plan applicable to participating providers.

Provider Reimbursement. Physicians and other professional providers are paid on a fee-for-service basis, according to an agreed schedule. A participating physician may, after notice from us, be subject to a reduced negotiated rate in the event the participating physician fails to make routine referrals to participating providers, except as otherwise allowed (such as for emergency services). Hospitals and other health care facilities may be paid either a fixed fee or on a discounted fee-for-service basis.

Availability of Care. If there is an epidemic or public disaster and you cannot obtain care for covered services, we refund the unearned part of the subscription charge paid for you. A written request for that refund and satisfactory proof of the need for care must be sent to us within 31 days. This payment fulfills our obligation under this plan.

Medical Necessity. The benefits of this plan are provided only for services which we determine to be medically necessary. The services must be ordered by the attending physician for the direct care and treatment of a covered condition. They must be standard medical practice where received for the condition being treated and must be legal in the United States. The process used to authorize or deny health care services under this plan is available to you upon request.

Expense in Excess of Benefits. We are not liable for any expense you incur in excess of the benefits of this plan.

Benefits Not Transferable. Only the member is entitled to receive benefits under this plan. The right to benefits cannot be transferred.
Notice of Claim. You must send properly and fully completed claim forms to us within 90 days of the date you receive the service or supply for which a claim is made. Services received and charges for the services must be itemized, and clearly and accurately described. If it is not reasonably possible to submit the claim within that time frame, an extension of up to 12 months will be allowed. We are not liable for the benefits of the agreement if you do not file claims within the required time period. Claim forms must be used; canceled checks or receipts are not acceptable.

To obtain a claim form you or someone on your behalf may call the Member Services phone number shown on your ID Card or go to our website at www.anthem.com/ca and download and print one.

Member’s Cooperation. You will be expected to complete and submit to us all such authorizations, consents, releases, assignments and other documents that may be needed in order to obtain or assure reimbursement under Medicare, Workers’ Compensation or any other governmental program. If you fail to cooperate (including if you fail to enroll under Part B of the Medicare program where Medicare is the responsible payer), you will be responsible for any charge for services.

Payment to Providers. We will pay the benefits of this plan directly to contracting hospitals, participating providers, CME and medical transportation providers. Also, we will pay non-contracting hospitals and other providers of service directly when you assign benefits in writing. If you are a MediCal beneficiary and you assign benefits in writing to the State Department of Health Services, we will pay the benefits of this plan to the State Department of Health Services. These payments will fulfill our obligation to you for those covered services.

Care Coordination. We pay participating providers in various ways to provide covered services to you. For example, sometimes we may pay participating providers a separate amount for each covered service they provide. We may also pay them one amount for all covered services related to treatment of a medical condition. Other times, we may pay a periodic, fixed pre-determined amount to cover the costs of covered services. In addition, we may pay participating providers financial incentives or other amounts to help improve quality of care and/or promote the delivery of health care services in a cost-efficient manner, or compensate participating providers for coordination of your care. In some instances, participating providers may be required to make payment to us because they did not meet certain standards. You do not share in any payments made by participating providers to us under these programs.
**Right of Recovery.** Whenever payment has been made in error, we will have the right to recover such payment from you or, if applicable, the provider, in accordance with applicable laws and regulations. In the event we recover a payment made in error from the provider, except in cases of fraud or misrepresentation on the part of the provider, we will only recover such payment from the provider within 365 days of the date we made the payment on a claim submitted by the provider. We reserve the right to deduct or offset any amounts paid in error from any pending or future claim.

Under certain circumstances, if we pay your healthcare provider amounts that are your responsibility, such as deductibles, co-payments or co-insurance, we may collect such amounts directly from you. You agree that we have the right to recover such amounts from you.

We have oversight responsibility for compliance with provider and vendor and subcontractor contracts. We may enter into a settlement or compromise regarding enforcement of these contracts and may retain any recoveries made from a provider, vendor, or subcontractor resulting from these audits if the return of the overpayment is not feasible.

We have established recovery policies to determine which recoveries are to be pursued, when to incur costs and expenses, and whether to settle or compromise recovery amounts. We will not pursue recoveries for overpayments if the cost of collection exceeds the overpayment amount. We may not provide you with notice of overpayments made by us or you if the recovery method makes providing such notice administratively burdensome.

**Workers’ Compensation Insurance.** The *agreement* does not affect any requirement for coverage by workers’ compensation insurance. It also does not replace that insurance.

**Legal Actions.** No attempt to recover on the *plan* through legal or equity action may be made until at least 60 days after the written proof of loss has been furnished as required by this *plan*. No such action may be started later than three years from the time written proof of loss is required to be furnished. If you bring a civil action under Section 502(a) of ERISA, you must bring it within one year of the grievance or appeal decision.

**Prepayment Fees.** Your employer is responsible for paying subscription charges to us for all coverage provided to you and your *family members*. Your employer may require that you contribute all or part of the costs of these subscription charges. Please consult your employer for details.
Liability of Subscriber to Pay Providers. In accordance with California law, you will not be required to pay any participating provider or other health care provider any amounts we owe to that provider (not including co-payments or deductibles), even in the unlikely event that we fail to pay that provider. You may be liable, however, to pay non-participating providers any amounts not paid to them by us.

Renewal Provisions. Your employer's health plan agreement with us is subject to renewal at certain intervals. We may change the subscription charges or other terms of the plan from time to time.

Public Policy Participation. We have established a Public Policy Committee (that we call our Consumer Relations Committee) to advise our Board of Directors. This Committee advises the Board about how to assure the comfort, dignity, and convenience of the people we cover. The Committee consists of members covered by our health plan, participating providers and a member of our Board of Directors. The Committee may review our financial information and information about the nature, volume, and resolution of the complaints we receive. The Consumer Relations Committee reports directly to our Board.

Financial Arrangements with Providers. Blue Cross or an affiliate has contracts with certain health care providers and suppliers (hereafter referred to together as "Providers") for the provision of and payment for health care services rendered to its subscribers and members/insured persons entitled to health care benefits under individual certificates and group policies or contracts to which Blue Cross or an affiliate is a party, including all persons covered under the agreement.

Under the above-referenced contracts between Providers and Blue Cross or an affiliate, the negotiated rates paid for certain medical services provided to persons covered under the agreement may differ from the rates paid for persons covered by other types of products or programs offered by Blue Cross or an affiliate for the same medical services. In negotiating the terms of the agreement, the group was aware that Blue Cross or its affiliates offer several types of products and programs. The subscribers, family members and the group are entitled to receive the benefits of only those discounts, payments, settlements, incentives, adjustments and/or allowances specifically applicable to Blue Cross or its affiliates' agreements for insured group accounts.
Under arrangements with some health care providers and suppliers (hereafter referred to together as “Providers”) certain discounts, payments, rebates, settlements, incentives, adjustments and/or allowances, including, but not limited to, pharmacy rebates, may be based on aggregate payments made by Blue Cross or an affiliate in respect to all health care services rendered to all persons who have coverage through a program provided or administered by Blue Cross or an affiliate. They are not attributed to specific claims or plans and do not inure to the benefit of any covered individual or group, but may be considered by Blue Cross or an affiliate in determining its fees or subscription charges or premiums.

Confidentiality and Release of Medical Information. We will use reasonable efforts, and take the same care to preserve the confidentiality of the member’s medical information. We may use data collected in the course of providing services hereunder for statistical evaluation and research. If such data is ever released to a third party, it shall be released only in aggregate statistical form without identifying the member. Medical information may be released only with the written consent of the member or as required by law. It must be signed, dated and must specify the nature of the information and to which persons and organizations it may be disclosed. Members may access their own medical records.

We may release your medical information to professional peer review organizations and to the group for purposes of reporting claims experience or conducting an audit of our operations, provided the information disclosed is reasonably necessary for the group to conduct the review or audit.

A statement describing our policies and procedures for preserving the confidentiality of medical records is available and will be furnished to you upon request.

Medical Policy and Technology Assessment. Blue Cross reviews and evaluates new technology according to its technology evaluation criteria developed by its medical directors. Technology assessment criteria is used to determine the investigational status or medical necessity of new technology. Guidance and external validation of Blue Cross’ medical policy is provided by the Medical Policy and Technology Assessment Committee (MPTAC) which consists of approximately 20 physicians from various medical specialties including Blue Cross’ medical directors, physicians in academic medicine and physicians in private practice. Conclusions made are incorporated into medical policy used to establish decision protocols for particular diseases or treatments and applied to medical necessity criteria used to determine whether a procedure, service, supply or equipment is covered.
Transition Assistance for New Members: Transition Assistance is a process that allows for completion of covered services for new members receiving services from a non-participating provider. If you are a new member, you may request Transition Assistance if any one of the following conditions applies:

1. An acute condition. An acute condition is a medical condition that involves a sudden onset of symptoms due to an illness, injury, or other medical problem that requires prompt medical attention and that has a limited duration. Completion of covered services shall be provided for the duration of the acute condition.

2. A serious chronic condition. A serious chronic condition is a medical condition caused by a disease, illness, or other medical problem or medical disorder that is serious in nature and that persists without full cure or worsens over an extended period of time or requires ongoing treatment to maintain remission or prevent deterioration. Completion of covered services shall be provided for a period of time necessary to complete a course of treatment and to arrange for a safe transfer to another provider, as determined by Blue Cross in consultation with you and the non-participating provider and consistent with good professional practice. Completion of covered services shall not exceed twelve (12) months from the time you enroll with Blue Cross.

3. A pregnancy. A pregnancy is the three trimesters of pregnancy and the immediate postpartum period. Completion of covered services shall be provided for the duration of the pregnancy.

4. A terminal illness. A terminal illness is an incurable or irreversible condition that has a high probability of causing death within one (1) year or less. Completion of covered services shall be provided for the duration of the terminal illness.

5. The care of a newborn child between birth and age thirty-six (36) months. Completion of covered services shall not exceed twelve (12) months from the time the child enrolls with Blue Cross.

6. Performance of a surgery or other procedure that we have authorized as part of a documented course of treatment and that has been recommended and documented by the provider to occur within 180 days of the time you enroll with Blue Cross.

Please contact Member Services at the telephone number listed on your ID card to request Transition Assistance or to obtain a copy of the written policy. Eligibility is based on your clinical condition and is not determined by diagnostic classifications. Transition Assistance does not provide coverage for services not otherwise covered under the plan.
We will notify you by telephone, and the provider by telephone and fax, as to whether or not your request for Transition Assistance is approved. If approved, you will be financially responsible only for applicable deductibles, coinsurance, and copayments under the plan. Financial arrangements with non-participating providers are negotiated on a case-by-case basis. We will request that the non-participating provider agree to accept reimbursement and contractual requirements that apply to participating providers, including payment terms. If the non-participating provider does not agree to accept said reimbursement and contractual requirements, we are not required to continue that provider’s services. If you do not meet the criteria for Transition Assistance, you are afforded due process including having a physician review the request.

**Continuity of Care after Termination of Provider:** Subject to the terms and conditions set forth below, Blue Cross will provide benefits at the participating provider level for covered services (subject to applicable copayments, coinsurance, deductibles and other terms) received from a provider at the time the provider's contract with us terminates (unless the provider's contract terminates for reasons of medical disciplinary cause or reason, fraud, or other criminal activity).

You must be under the care of the participating provider at the time the provider’s contract terminates. The terminated provider must agree in writing to provide services to you in accordance with the terms and conditions of his or her agreement with Blue Cross prior to termination. The provider must also agree in writing to accept the terms and reimbursement rates under his or her agreement with Blue Cross prior to termination. If the provider does not agree with these contractual terms and conditions, we are not required to continue the provider’s services beyond the contract termination date.

Blue Cross will provide such benefits for the completion of covered services by a terminated provider only for the following conditions:

1. **An acute condition.** An acute condition is a medical condition that involves a sudden onset of symptoms due to an illness, injury, or other medical problem that requires prompt medical attention and that has a limited duration. Completion of covered services shall be provided for the duration of the acute condition.

2. **A serious chronic condition.** A serious chronic condition is a medical condition caused by a disease, illness, or other medical problem or medical disorder that is serious in nature and that persists without full cure or worsens over an extended period of time or requires ongoing treatment to maintain remission or prevent deterioration. Completion of covered services shall be provided for a period of time necessary to complete a course of treatment and to arrange for a safe transfer to another provider, as determined by Blue Cross in consultation with
you and the terminated provider and consistent with good professional practice. Completion of covered services shall not exceed twelve (12) months from the date the provider's contract terminates.

3. A pregnancy. A pregnancy is the three trimesters of pregnancy and the immediate postpartum period. Completion of covered services shall be provided for the duration of the pregnancy.

4. A terminal illness. A terminal illness is an incurable or irreversible condition that has a high probability of causing death within one (1) year or less. Completion of covered services shall be provided for the duration of the terminal illness.

5. The care of a newborn child between birth and age thirty-six (36) months. Completion of covered services shall not exceed twelve (12) months from the date the provider's contract terminates.

6. Performance of a surgery or other procedure that we have authorized as part of a documented course of treatment and that has been recommended and documented by the provider to occur within 180 days of the date the provider's contract terminates.

Such benefits will not apply to providers who have been terminated due to medical disciplinary cause or reason, fraud, or other criminal activity.

Please contact Member Services at the telephone number listed on your ID card to request continuity of care or to obtain a copy of the written policy. Eligibility is based on the member's clinical condition and is not determined by diagnostic classifications. Continuity of care does not provide coverage for services not otherwise covered under the plan.

We will notify you by telephone, and the provider by telephone and fax, as to whether or not your request for continuity of care is approved. If approved, you will be financially responsible only for applicable deductibles, coinsurance, and copayments under the plan. Financial arrangements with terminated providers are negotiated on a case-by-case basis. We will request that the terminated provider agree to accept reimbursement and contractual requirements that apply to participating providers, including payment terms. If the terminated provider does not agree to accept the same reimbursement and contractual requirements, we are not required to continue that provider's services. If you disagree with our determination regarding continuity of care, you may file a grievance with us by following the procedures described in the section entitled GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES.

Value-Added Programs. We may offer health or fitness related programs, through which you may access discounted rates from certain vendors for products and services available to the general public.
Products and services available under this program are not covered services under your plan but are in addition to plan benefits. As such, program features are not guaranteed under your health plan contract and could be discontinued at any time. We do not endorse any vendor, product or service associated with this program. Program vendors are solely responsible for the products and services you receive.

**Voluntary Clinical Quality Programs.** We may offer additional opportunities to assist you in obtaining certain covered preventive or other care (e.g., well child check-ups or certain laboratory screening tests) that you have not received in the recommended timeframe. These opportunities are called voluntary clinical quality programs. They are designed to encourage you to get certain care when you need it and are separate from covered services under your plan. These programs are not guaranteed and could be discontinued at any time. We will give you the choice and if you choose to participate in one of these programs, and obtain the recommended care within the program’s timeframe, you may receive incentives such as gift cards or retailer coupons, which we encourage you to use for health and wellness related activities or items. Under other clinical quality programs, you may receive a home test kit that allows you to collect the specimen for certain covered laboratory tests at home and mail it to the laboratory for processing. You may also be offered a home visit appointment to collect such specimens and complete biometric screenings. You may need to pay any cost shares that normally apply to such covered laboratory tests (e.g., those applicable to the laboratory processing fee) but will not need to pay for the home test kit or the home visit. If you have any questions about whether receipt of a gift card or retailer coupon results in taxable income to you, we recommend that you consult your tax advisor.

**Voluntary Wellness Incentive Programs.** We may offer health or fitness related program options for purchase by your group to help you achieve your best health. These programs are not covered services under your plan, but are separate components, which are not guaranteed under this plan and could be discontinued at any time. If your group has selected one of these options to make available to all employees, you may receive incentives such as gift cards by participating in or completing such voluntary wellness promotion programs as health assessments, weight management or tobacco cessation coaching. Under other options a group may select, you may receive such incentives by achieving specified standards based on health factors under wellness programs that comply with applicable law. If you think you might be unable to meet the standard, you might qualify for an opportunity to earn the same reward by different means. You may contact us at the Member Services number on your ID card and we will work with you (and, if you wish, your physician) to find a wellness program with the same reward that is right for you in light of your health status.
If you receive a gift card as a wellness reward and use it for purposes other than for qualified medical expenses, this may result in taxable income to you. For additional guidance, please consult your tax advisor.

**Program Incentives.** We may offer incentives from time to time at our discretion in order to introduce you to new programs and services available under this plan. The purpose of these incentives include, but is not limited to, making you aware of cost effective benefit options or services, helping you achieve your best health, and encouraging you to update member-related information. These incentives may be offered in various forms such as retailer coupons, gift cards and health-related merchandise. Acceptance of these incentives is voluntary as long as we offer the incentives program. We may discontinue an incentive for a particular new service or program at any time. If you have any questions about whether receipt of an incentive or retailer coupon results in taxable income to you, we recommend that you consult your tax advisor.

**BINDING ARBITRATION**

Any dispute or claim, of whatever nature, arising out of, in connection with, or in relation to this plan or the agreement, or breach or rescission thereof, or in relation to care or delivery of care, including any claim based on contract, tort or statute, must be resolved by arbitration if the amount sought exceeds the jurisdictional limit of the small claims court. Any dispute regarding a claim for damages within the jurisdictional limits of the small claims court will be resolved in such court.

The Federal Arbitration Act shall govern the interpretation and enforcement of all proceedings under this BINDING ARBITRATION provision. To the extent that the Federal Arbitration Act is inapplicable, or is held not to require arbitration of a particular claim, state law governing agreements to arbitrate shall apply.

The member and Blue Cross agree to be bound by these arbitration provisions and acknowledge that they are giving up their right to trial by jury for both medical malpractice claims and any other disputes.

California Health & Safety Code section 1363.1 requires that any arbitration agreement include the following notice based on California Code of Civil Procedure 1295(a): *It is understood that any dispute as to medical malpractice, that is, whether any medical services rendered under this contract were unnecessary or unauthorized or were improperly, negligently or incompetently rendered, will be determined by submission to arbitration as provided by California law, and not by a lawsuit or resort to court process except as California law provides for judicial review of arbitration proceedings and except for disputes regarding a claim for damages within the jurisdictional limits of the small claims court. Both parties to this*
contract, by entering into it, acknowledge that they are giving up their constitutional right to have any and all disputes, including medical malpractice claims, decided in a court of law before a jury, and instead are accepting the use of arbitration.

The *member* and Blue Cross agree to give up the right to participate in class arbitrations against each other. Even if applicable law permits class actions or class arbitrations, the *member* waives any right to pursue, on a class basis, any such controversy or claim against Blue Cross and Blue Cross waives any right to pursue on a class basis any such controversy or claim against the *member*.

The arbitration findings will be final and binding except to the extent that state or federal law provides for the judicial review of arbitration proceedings.

The arbitration is initiated by the *member* making written demand on Blue Cross. The arbitration will be conducted by Judicial Arbitration and Mediation Services (“JAMS”), according to its applicable Rules and Procedures. If for any reason JAMS is unavailable to conduct the arbitration, the arbitration will be conducted by another neutral arbitration entity, by agreement of the *member* and Blue Cross, or by order of the court, if the *member* and Blue Cross cannot agree.

The costs of the arbitration will be allocated per the JAMS Policy on Consumer Arbitrations. If the arbitration is not conducted by JAMS, the costs will be shared equally by the parties, except in cases of extreme financial hardship, upon application to the neutral arbitration entity to which the parties have agreed, in which cases, Blue Cross will assume all or a portion of the costs of the arbitration.

Please send all Binding Arbitration demands in writing to Anthem Blue Cross, P.O. Box 4310, Woodland Hills, CA 91365-4310 marked to the attention of the Member Services Department listed on your identification card.
DEFINITIONS

The meanings of key terms used in this booklet are shown below. Whenever any of the key terms shown below appear, it will appear in italicized letters. When any of the terms below are italicized in this booklet, you should refer to this section.

**Accidental injury** is physical harm or disability which is the result of a specific unexpected incident caused by an outside force. The physical harm or disability must have occurred at an identifiable time and place. Accidental injury does not include illness or infection, except infection of a cut or wound.

**Agreement** is the Group Benefit Agreement issued by us to the group.

**Ambulatory surgical center** is a freestanding outpatient surgical facility. It must be licensed as an outpatient clinic according to state and local laws and must meet all requirements of an outpatient clinic providing surgical services. It must also meet accreditation standards of the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Health Care Organizations or the Accreditation Association of Ambulatory Health Care.

**Anthem Blue Cross (Anthem)** is a health care service plan, regulated by the California Department of Managed Health Care.

**Authorized referral** occurs when you, because of your medical needs, require the services of a specialist who is a non-participating provider, or require special services or facilities not available at a contracting hospital, but only when the referral has been authorized by us before services are rendered and when the following conditions are met:

- there is no participating provider who practices in the appropriate specialty, or there is no contracting hospital which provides the required services or has the necessary facilities;
- that meets the adequacy and accessibility requirements of state or federal law; and
- you are referred to hospital or physician that does not have an agreement with Anthem for a covered service by a participating provider.

Benefits for medically necessary and appropriate authorized referral services received from a non-participating provider will be payable as shown in the Exceptions under the SUMMARY OF BENEFITS: CO-PAYMENTS.
You or your physician must call the toll-free telephone number printed on your identification card prior to scheduling an admission to, or receiving the services of, a non-participating provider.

Such authorized referrals are not available to bariatric surgical services. These services are only covered when performed at a designated bariatric CME.

**Average wholesale price** is a term accepted in the pharmaceutical industry as a benchmark for pricing by pharmaceutical manufacturers.

**Bariatric CME Coverage Area** is the area within the 50-mile radius surrounding a designated Bariatric CME.

**Brand name prescription drugs (brand name drugs)** are prescription drugs that we classify as brand name drugs or our pharmacy benefit manager has classified as brand name drugs through use of an independent proprietary industry database.

**Biosimilar (Biosimilars)** is a type of biological product that is licensed (approved) by FDA because it is highly similar to an already FDA-approved biological product, known as the biological reference product (reference product), and has been shown to have no clinically meaningful differences from the reference product.

**Blue Distinction Centers for Specialty Care (BDCSC)** are health care providers designated by us as a selected facility for specified medical services. A provider participating in a BDCSC network has an agreement in effect with us at the time services are rendered or is available through our affiliate companies or our relationship with the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association. BDCSC agree to accept the maximum allowed amount as payment in full for covered services. A participating provider is not necessarily a BDCSC.

**Centers of Medical Excellence (CME)** are health care providers which have a Centers of Medical Excellence Agreement in effect with us at the time services are rendered. CME agree to accept the maximum allowed amount as payment in full for covered services. A participating provider in the Prudent Buyer Plan network is not necessarily a CME. A provider’s participation in the Prudent Buyer Plan network or other agreement with us is not a substitute for a Centers of Medical Excellence Agreement.

**Child** meets the plan’s eligibility requirements for children as outlined under HOW COVERAGE BEGINS AND ENDS.

**Chiropractic services** means medically necessary care by means of adjustment of the spine (to correct a subluxation) performed by a legally licensed chiropractor pursuant to the terms of their license. (Subluxation is
a term used in the chiropractic field to describe what happens when one of the vertebrae in your spine moves out of position.)

**Compound Medication** is a mixture of prescription drugs when a commercially available dosage form of a medically necessary medication is not available, all the ingredients of the compound drug are FDA approved in the form in which they are used in the compound medication and as designated in the FDA’s Orange Book: Approved Drug Products with Therapeutic Equivalence Evaluations, require a prescription to dispense and are not essentially the same as an FDA approved product from a drug manufacturer. Non-FDA approved non-proprietary, multisource ingredients that are vehicles essential for compound administration may be covered.

**Contracting hospital** is a hospital which has a Standard Hospital Contract in effect with us to provide care to members. A contracting hospital is not necessarily a participating provider. A list of contracting hospitals will be sent on request.

**Cosmetic services** are services or surgery performed solely for beautification or to alter or reshape normal (including aged) structures or tissues of the body to improve appearance.

**Custodial care** is care provided primarily to meet your personal needs. This includes help in walking, bathing or dressing. It also includes preparing food or special diets, feeding, administration of medicine which is usually self-administered or any other care which does not require continuing services of medical personnel.

If medically necessary, benefits will be provided for feeding (by tube or gastrostomy) and suctioning.

**Day treatment center** is an outpatient psychiatric facility which is licensed according to state and local laws to provide outpatient programs and treatment of mental health conditions or substance abuse under the supervision of physicians.

**Designated pharmacy provider** is a participating pharmacy that has executed a Designated Pharmacy Provider Agreement with us or a participating provider that is designated to provide prescription drugs, including specialty drugs, to treat certain conditions.

**Domestic partner** meets the plan’s eligibility requirements for domestic partners as outlined under HOW COVERAGE BEGINS AND ENDS: HOW COVERAGE BEGINS.
Drug (prescription drug) means a drug approved by the Food and Drug Administration for general use by the public which requires a prescription before it can be obtained. For the purposes of this plan, insulin will be considered a prescription drug.

Effective date is the date your coverage begins under this plan.

Emergency or Emergency Medical Condition means a medical or behavioral health condition manifesting itself by acute symptoms of sufficient severity including severe pain such that the absence of immediate medical attention could reasonably be expected to result in any of the following:

- Placing the patient’s health or the health of another person (or, with respect to a pregnant woman, the health of the woman or her unborn child) in serious jeopardy;
- Serious impairment to bodily functions; or
- Serious dysfunction of any bodily organ or part.

Emergency includes being in active labor when there is inadequate time for a safe transfer to another hospital prior to delivery, or when such a transfer would pose a threat to the health and safety of the member or unborn child.

An emergency medical condition includes a psychiatric emergency medical condition, which is a mental disorder that manifests itself by acute symptoms of sufficient severity that it renders the patient as being either of the following: a) an immediate danger to himself or herself or to others, or b) immediately unable to provide for, or utilize, food, shelter, or clothing, due to the mental disorder.

Emergency services are services provided in connection with the initial treatment of a medical or psychiatric emergency.

Experimental procedures are those that are mainly limited to laboratory and/or animal research.

Family member meets the plan’s eligibility requirements for family members as outlined under HOW COVERAGE BEGINS AND ENDS.

Full-time employee meets the plan’s eligibility requirements for full-time employees as outlined under HOW COVERAGE BEGINS AND ENDS.
Generic prescription drugs (generic drugs) are prescription drugs that we classify as generic drugs or that our PBM has classified as generic drugs through use of an independent proprietary industry database. Generic drugs have the same active ingredients, must meet the same FDA rules for safety, purity and potency, and must be given in the same form (tablet, capsule, cream) as the brand name drug.

Group refers to the business entity to which we have issued this agreement. The name of the group is COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES.

Home health agencies are home health care providers which are licensed according to state and local laws to provide skilled nursing and other services on a visiting basis in your home, and recognized as home health providers under Medicare and/or accredited by a recognized accrediting agency such as the Joint Commission on the Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations.

Infusion therapy provider is a provider licensed according to state and local laws as a pharmacy, and must be either certified as a home health care provider by Medicare, or accredited as a home pharmacy by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Health Care Organizations.

Hospice is an agency or organization providing a specialized form of interdisciplinary health care that provides palliative care (pain control and symptom relief) and alleviates the physical, emotional, social, and spiritual discomforts of a terminally ill person, as well as providing supportive care to the primary caregiver and the patient’s family. A hospice must be: currently licensed as a hospice pursuant to Health and Safety Code section 1747 or a licensed home health agency with federal Medicare certification pursuant to Health and Safety Code sections 1726 and 1747.1. A list of hospices meeting these criteria is available upon request.

Hospital is a facility which provides diagnosis, treatment and care of persons who need acute inpatient hospital care under the supervision of physicians. It must be licensed as a general acute care hospital according to state and local laws. It must also be registered as a general hospital by the American Hospital Association and meet accreditation standards of the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Health Care Organizations.

For the limited purpose of inpatient care, the definition of hospital also includes: (1) psychiatric health facilities (only for the acute phase of a mental health condition or substance abuse), and (2) residential treatment centers.
Infertility is: (1) the presence of a condition recognized by a physician as a cause of infertility; or (2) the inability to conceive a pregnancy or to carry a pregnancy to a live birth after a year or more of regular sexual relations without contraception or after 3 cycles of artificial insemination.

Intensive In-Home Behavioral Health Program is a range of therapy services provided in the home to address symptoms and behaviors that, as the result of a mental health condition or substance abuse disorder, put you and others at risk of harm.

Intensive Outpatient Program is a structured, multidisciplinary behavioral health treatment that provides a combination of individual, group and family therapy in a program that operates no less than 3 hours per day, 3 days per week.

Interchangeable Biologic Product is a type of biological product that is licensed (approved) by FDA because it is highly similar to an already FDA-approved biological product, known as the biological reference product (reference product), and has been shown to have no clinically meaningful differences from the reference product. In addition to meeting the biosimilarity standard, it is expected to produce the same clinical result as the reference product in any given patient.

Intensive Outpatient Program is a short-term behavioral health treatment that provides a combination of individual, group and family therapy.

Investigative procedures or medications are those that have progressed to limited use on humans, but which are not widely accepted as proven and effective within the organized medical community.

Maximum allowed amount is the maximum amount of reimbursement we will allow for covered medical services and supplies under this plan. See YOUR MEDICAL BENEFITS: MAXIMUM ALLOWED AMOUNT.

Medically necessary procedures, supplies, equipment or services are those we determine to be:

1. Appropriate and necessary for the diagnosis or treatment of the medical condition;
2. Clinically appropriate in terms of type, frequency, extent, site and duration and considered effective for the patient’s illness, injury or disease;
3. Provided for the diagnosis or direct care and treatment of the medical condition;
4. Within standards of good medical practice within the organized medical community;
5. Not primarily for your convenience, or for the convenience of your physician or another provider;

6. Not more costly than an equivalent service, including the same service in an alternative setting, or sequence of services that is medically appropriate and is likely to produce equivalent therapeutic or diagnostic results in regard to the diagnosis or treatment of the patient's illness, injury, or condition; and

7. The most appropriate procedure, supply, equipment or service which can safely be provided. The most appropriate procedure, supply, equipment or service must satisfy the following requirements:

   a. There must be valid scientific evidence demonstrating that the expected health benefits from the procedure, supply, equipment or service are clinically significant and produce a greater likelihood of benefit, without a disproportionately greater risk of harm or complications, for you with the particular medical condition being treated than other possible alternatives; and

   b. Generally accepted forms of treatment that are less invasive have been tried and found to be ineffective or are otherwise unsuitable.

When setting or place of service is part of the review, services that can be safely provided to you in a lower cost setting will not be medically necessary if they are performed in a higher cost setting. For example we will not provide coverage for an inpatient admission for surgery if the surgery could have been performed on an outpatient basis or an infusion or injection of a specialty drug provided in the outpatient department of a hospital if the drug could be provided in a physician's office or the home setting.

**Member** is the subscriber or family member.

**Mental health conditions** include conditions that constitute severe mental disorders and serious emotional disturbances of a child, as defined in the most recent edition of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM), as well as any mental health condition identified as a “mental disorder” in the DSM, Fourth Edition Text Revision (DSM IV). Substance abuse means drug or alcohol abuse or dependence.

**Non-contracting hospital** is a hospital which does not have a Standard Hospital Contract in effect with us at the time services are rendered.
Non-participating pharmacy is a pharmacy which does not have a Participating Pharmacy Agreement in effect with us at the time services are rendered. In most cases, you will be responsible for a larger portion of your pharmaceutical bill when you go to a non-participating pharmacy.

Non-participating provider is one of the following providers which does NOT have a Prudent Buyer Plan Participating Provider Agreement in effect with us at the time services are rendered:

- A hospital
- A physician
- An ambulatory surgical center
- A home health agency
- A facility which provides diagnostic imaging services
- A durable medical equipment outlet
- A skilled nursing facility
- A clinical laboratory
- An infusion therapy provider
- A hospice
- A licensed ambulance company
- A licensed qualified autism service provider

They are not participating providers. Remember that the maximum allowed amount may only represent a portion of the amount which a non-participating provider charges for services. See YOUR MEDICAL BENEFITS: MAXIMUM ALLOWED AMOUNT.

Other health care provider is one of the following providers:

- A certified registered nurse anesthetist
- A blood bank

The provider must be licensed according to state and local laws to provide covered medical services.

Partial Hospitalization Program is a structured, multidisciplinary behavioral health treatment that offers nursing care and active individual, group and family treatment in a program that operates no less than 6 hours per day, 5 days per week.
Participating pharmacy is a pharmacy which has a Participating Pharmacy Agreement in effect with us at the time services are rendered. Call your local pharmacy to determine whether it is a participating pharmacy or call the toll-free Member Services telephone number. Many participating pharmacies display a "Rx" decal with our logo in their window so that you can easily identify them.

Participating provider is one of the following providers which has a Prudent Buyer Plan Participating Provider Agreement in effect with us at the time services are rendered:

- A hospital
- A physician
- An ambulatory surgical center
- A home health agency
- A facility which provides diagnostic imaging services
- A durable medical equipment outlet
- A skilled nursing facility
- A clinical laboratory
- An infusion therapy provider
- A hospice
- A licensed ambulance company
- A licensed qualified autism service provider

Participating providers agree to accept the maximum allowed amount as payment for covered services. A directory of participating providers is available upon request.

Pharmacy means a licensed retail pharmacy.

Pharmacy and Therapeutics Process is a process in which health care professionals including nurses, pharmacists, and physicians determine the clinical appropriateness of drugs and promote access to quality medications. The process also reviews drugs to determine the most cost effective use of benefits and advise on programs to help improve care. Our programs include, but are not limited to, drug utilization programs, prior authorization criteria, therapeutic conversion programs, cross-branded initiatives, and drug profiling initiatives.

Pharmacy Benefits Manager (PBM) is a company that manages pharmacy benefits on Anthem’s behalf. Anthem’s PBM has a nationwide network of retail pharmacies, a home delivery pharmacy, and clinical services that include prescription drug list management.
The management and other services the PBM provides include, but are not limited to, managing a network of retail pharmacies and operating a mail service pharmacy. Anthem’s PBM, in consultation with Anthem, also provides services to promote and assist members in the appropriate use of pharmacy benefits, such as review for possible excessive use, proper dosage, drug interactions or drug/pregnancy concerns.

**Physician** means:

1. A doctor of medicine (M.D.) or doctor of osteopathy (D.O.) who is licensed to practice medicine or osteopathy where the care is provided; or

2. One of the following providers, but only when the provider is licensed to practice where the care is provided, is rendering a service within the scope of that license, is providing a service for which benefits are specified in this booklet, and when benefits would be payable if the services were provided by a physician as defined above:

   - A dentist (D.D.S. or D.M.D.)
   - An optometrist (O.D.)
   - A dispensing optician
   - A podiatrist or chiropodist (D.P.M., D.S.P. or D.S.C.)
   - A licensed clinical psychologist
   - A licensed educational psychologist or other provider permitted by California law to provide behavioral health treatment services for the treatment of pervasive developmental disorder or autism only
   - A chiropractor (D.C.)
   - An acupuncturist (A.C.)
   - A licensed clinical social worker (L.C.S.W.)
   - A marriage and family therapist (M.F.T.)
   - A licensed professional clinical counselor (L.P.C.C.)*
   - A physical therapist (P.T. or R.P.T.)*
   - A speech pathologist*
   - An audiologist*
   - An occupational therapist (O.T.R.)*
   - A respiratory care practitioner (R.C.P.)*
   - A nurse midwife**
   - A nurse practitioner
   - A physician assistant
   - A *psychiatric mental health nurse* (R.N.)*
• A registered dietitian (R.D.)* or another nutritional professional* with a master's or higher degree in a field covering clinical nutrition sciences, from a college or university accredited by a regional accreditation agency, who is deemed qualified to provide these services by the referring M.D. or D.O. A registered dietitian or other nutritional professional as described here are covered for the provision of diabetic medical nutrition therapy and nutritional counseling for the treatment of eating disorders such as anorexia nervosa and bulimia nervosa only.

• A qualified autism service provider, qualified autism service professional, and a qualified autism service paraprofessional, as described under the BENEFITS FOR PERVERSIVE DEVELOPMENTAL DISORDER OR AUTISM section.

*Note: The providers indicated by asterisks (*) are covered only by referral of a physician as defined in 1 above.

**If there is no nurse midwife who is a participating provider in your area, you may call the Member Services telephone number on your ID card for a referral to an OB/GYN.

Plan is the set of benefits described in this booklet and in the amendments to this booklet, if any. This plan is subject to the terms and conditions of the agreement we have issued to the group. If changes are made to the plan, an amendment or revised booklet will be issued to the group for distribution to each subscriber affected by the change. (The word "plan" here does not mean the same as "plan" as used in ERISA.)

Preferred drug is a drug listed on the preferred drug program.

Preferred drug program is a list which we have developed of outpatient prescription drugs which may be cost-effective, therapeutic choices. Any participating pharmacy can assist you in purchasing drugs listed on the preferred drug program.

Prescription means a written order or refill notice issued by a licensed prescriber.

Prescription drug covered expense is the expense you incur for a covered prescription drug, but not more than the prescription drug maximum allowed amount. Expense is incurred on the date you receive the service or supply.
**Prescription drug maximum allowed amount** is the maximum amount we will allow for any *drug*. The amount is determined by us using prescription drug cost information provided to us by the *pharmacy benefits manager*. The amount is subject to change. You may determine the prescription drug maximum allowed amount of a particular drug by calling 1-800-700-2541 (or TTY/TDD 1-800-905-9821).

**Preventive Care Services** include routine examinations, screenings, tests, education, and immunizations administered with the intent of preventing future disease, illness, or injury. Services are considered preventive if you have no current symptoms or prior history of a medical condition associated with that screening or service. These services shall meet requirements as determined by federal and state law. Sources for determining which services are recommended include the following:

1. Services with an “A” or “B” rating from the United States Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF);
2. Immunizations recommended by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention;
3. Preventive care and screenings for infants, children, and adolescents as provided for in the comprehensive guidelines supported by the Health Resources and Services Administration; and
4. Additional preventive care and screenings for women provided for in the guidelines supported by the Health Resources and Services Administration.

Please call us at the Member Services number listed on your ID card for additional information about services that are covered by this *plan* as preventive care services. You may also refer to the following websites that are maintained by the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services.

https://www.healthcare.gov/what-are-my-preventive-care-benefits
http://www.ahrq.gov
http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/acip/index.html

**Prior plan** is a plan sponsored by the *group* which was replaced by this *plan* within 60 days. You are considered covered under the prior plan if you: (1) were covered under the prior plan on the date that plan terminated; (2) properly enrolled for coverage within 31 days of this *plan’s* Effective Date; and (3) had coverage terminate solely due to the prior plan’s termination.
**Prosthetic devices** are appliances which replace all or part of a function of a permanently inoperative, absent or malfunctioning body part. The term "prosthetic devices" includes orthotic devices, rigid or semi-supportive devices which restrict or eliminate motion of a weak or diseased part of the body.

**Psychiatric emergency medical condition** is a *mental disorder* that manifests itself by acute symptoms of sufficient severity that the patient is either (1) an immediate danger to himself or herself or to others, or (2) immediately unable to provide for or utilize food, shelter, or clothing due to the *mental disorder*.

**Psychiatric health facility** is an acute 24-hour facility as defined in California Health and Safety Code 1250.2. It must be:

1. Licensed by the California Department of Health Services;
2. Qualified to provide short-term inpatient treatment according to state law;
3. Accredited by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Health Care Organizations; and
4. Staffed by an organized medical or professional staff which includes a *physician* as medical director.

Benefits provided for treatment in a psychiatric health facility which does not have a Standard Hospital Contract in effect with us will be subject to the *non-contracting hospital* penalty in effect at the time of service.

**Psychiatric mental health nurse** is a registered nurse (R.N.) who has a master's degree in psychiatric mental health nursing, and is registered as a psychiatric mental health nurse with the state board of registered nurses.

**Reasonable and customary value** is (1) for professional *non-participating providers*, the reasonable and customary value is determined by using a percentile of billed charges from a database of a third-party that takes into consideration various factors, such as the amounts billed for same or similar services, and the geographic locations in which the services were rendered; and (2) for facility *non-participating providers* and *non-contracting hospitals*, the reasonable and customary value is determined by using a percentile of billed charges from a database of Anthem's actual claims experience, subject to certain thresholds based on each provider's cost-to-charge ratio as reported by the provider to a California governmental agency and the actual claim submitted to us.
Reconstructive surgery is surgery performed to correct or repair abnormal structures of the body caused by congenital defects, developmental abnormalities, trauma, infection, tumors, or disease to do either of the following: (a) improve function; or (b) create a normal appearance, to the extent possible.

Residential treatment center is an inpatient treatment facility where the patient resides in a modified community environment and follows a comprehensive medical treatment regimen for treatment and rehabilitation of a mental health condition or substance abuse. The facility must be licensed to provide psychiatric treatment of mental health condition or substance abuse according to state and local laws and requires a minimum of one physician visit per week in the facility. The facility must be fully accredited by The Joint Commission (TJC), the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF), the National Integrated Accreditation for Healthcare Organizations (NIAHO), or the Council on Accreditation (COA).

Retail Health Clinic - A facility that provides limited basic medical care services to members on a "walk-in" basis. These clinics normally operate in major pharmacies or retail stores.

Self-Administered Hormonal Contraceptives are products with the following routes of administration:

- Oral;
- Transdermal;
- Vaginal;
- Depot Injection.

Severe mental disorders include severe mental illness as specified in California Health and Safety Code section 1374.72: schizophrenia, schizoaffective disorder, bipolar disorder, major depression, panic disorder, obsessive-compulsive disorder, pervasive developmental disorder or autism, anorexia, and bulimia.

"Severe mental disorders" also includes serious emotional disturbances of a child as indicated by the presence of one or more mental disorders as identified in the most recent edition of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual (DSM) of Mental Disorders, other than primary substance abuse or developmental disorder, resulting in behavior inappropriate to the child's age according to expected developmental norms. The child must also meet one or more of the following criteria:

The child must also meet one or more of the following criteria:

1. As a result of the mental disorder, the child has substantial impairment in at least two of the following areas: self-care, school functioning, family relationships, or ability to function in the
community and is at risk of being removed from the home or has already been removed from the home or the mental disorder has been present for more than six months or is likely to continue for more than one year without treatment.

2. The child is psychotic, suicidal, or potentially violent.

3. The child meets special education eligibility requirements under California law (Education Code Section 56320).

**Skilled nursing facility** is an institution that provides continuous skilled nursing services. It must be licensed according to state and local laws and be recognized as a skilled nursing facility under Medicare.

**Special care units** are special areas of a hospital which have highly skilled personnel and special equipment for acute conditions that require constant treatment and observation.

**Specialist** is a physician who focuses on a specific area of medicine or group of patients to diagnose, manage, prevent, or treat certain types of symptoms and conditions. A non-physician specialist is a provider who has added training in a specific area of health care.

**Spouse** meets the plan’s eligibility requirements for spouses as outlined under HOW COVERAGE BEGINS AND ENDS.

**Stay** is inpatient confinement which begins when you are admitted to a facility and ends when you are discharged from that facility.

**Subscriber** is the person who, by meeting the plan’s eligibility requirements for subscribers, is allowed to choose membership under this plan for himself or herself and his or her eligible family members. Such requirements are outlined in HOW COVERAGE BEGINS AND ENDS. A person may enroll as a subscriber under only one health plan provided by Anthem, or any of its affiliates, which is sponsored by the group.

**Totally disabled family member** is a family member who is unable to perform all activities usual for persons of that age.

**Totally disabled subscriber** is a subscriber who, because of illness or injury, is unable to work for income in any job for which he/she is qualified or for which he/she becomes qualified by training or experience, and who is in fact unemployed.
Transplant Centers of Medical Excellence maximum allowed amount (CME maximum allowed amount) is the fee CME agree to accept as payment for covered services. It is usually lower than their normal charge. CME maximum allowed amounts are determined by Centers of Medical Excellence Agreements.

Urgent care is the services received for a sudden, serious, or unexpected illness, injury or condition, other than one which is life threatening, which requires immediate care for the relief of severe pain or diagnosis and treatment of such condition.

We (us, our) refers to Anthem Blue Cross.

Year or calendar year is a 12 month period starting January 1 at 12:01 a.m. Pacific Standard Time.

You (your) refers to the subscriber and family members who are enrolled for benefits under this plan.
GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES

We want your experience with us to be as positive as possible. There may be times, however, when you have a complaint, problem, or question about your plan or a service you have received. If you have a question about your eligibility, (including if you believe your coverage under this plan has been or will be improperly terminated), your benefits under this plan, or concerning a claim, please call the telephone number listed on your identification card, or you may write to us (please address your correspondence to Anthem Blue Cross, P.O. Box 4310, Woodland Hills, CA 91365-4310 marked to the attention of the Member Services Department listed on your identification card). Our Member Services staff will answer your questions or assist you in resolving your issue.

If you are not satisfied with the resolution based on your initial inquiry, you may request a copy of the Plan Grievance Form from the Member Services representative. You may complete and return the form to us, or ask the Member Services representative to complete the form for you over the telephone. You may also submit a grievance to us online or print the Plan Grievance Form through the Anthem Blue Cross website at www.anthem.com/ca. You must submit your grievance to us no later than 180 days following the date you receive a denial notice from us or any other incident or action with which you are dissatisfied. Your issue will then become part of our formal grievance process and will be resolved accordingly.

All grievances received by us will be acknowledged in writing, together with a description of how we propose to resolve the grievance. Except for grievances that concern the prescription drug formulary, we will review and respond to your grievance within the following timeframes:

- After we have received your grievance, we will send you a written statement on its resolution within 30 days.

- If your case is urgent and involves an imminent threat to your health, including, but not limited to, severe pain, the potential loss of life, limb, or major bodily function, review of your grievance will be expedited and resolved within three days.

You have the right to review all documents that are part of your grievance file and to present evidence and testimony as part of the grievance process.
If, after our denial, we consider, rely on or generate any new or additional evidence in connection with your claim, we will provide you with that new or additional evidence, free of charge. We will not base our appeal decision on a new or additional rationale without first providing you (free of charge) with, and a reasonable opportunity to respond to, any such new or additional rationale. If we fail to follow the appeal procedures outlined under this section the appeals process may be deemed exhausted. However, the appeals process will not be deemed exhausted due to minor violations that do not cause, and are not likely to cause, prejudice or harm so long as the error was for good cause or due to matters beyond our control.

If you are dissatisfied with the resolution of your grievance, or if your grievance has not been resolved after at least 30 days (or within three days for urgent cases), you may submit your grievance to the California Department of Managed Health Care for review prior to binding arbitration (see DEPARTMENT OF MANAGED HEALTH CARE). If your case is urgent and involves an imminent threat to your health, as described above, you are not required to complete our grievance process or to wait at least 30 days, but may immediately submit your grievance to the Department of Managed Health Care (DMHC) for review. If your grievance concerns the termination of your coverage, you may also immediately submit your grievance to the DMHC if the DMHC determines your grievance requires immediate review.

If your grievance concerns the termination of your coverage and your coverage is still in effect when you submit a grievance, we will continue to provide coverage to you under the terms of this plan until a final determination of your request for review has been made, including any review by the Director of the Department of Managed Health Care. (Note: This does not apply if your coverage is cancelled due to non-payment of subscription charges.) If your coverage is maintained in force pending outcome of the review, subscription charges must still be paid to us on your behalf. If your coverage has already ended when you submit the grievance, your coverage will not be maintained. If the Director of the Department of Managed Health Care determines that your coverage should not have been terminated, we will reinstate your coverage back to the date it was terminated. Subscription charges must be paid current to us on your behalf from the date coverage is reinstated.

If at the conclusion of review of your grievance by the Department of Managed Health Care you continue to be dissatisfied with its resolution, or prior to and instead of review of your case by the Department of Managed Health Care, your remedy may be binding arbitration (see BINDING ARBITRATION).
Questions about your prescription drug coverage. If you have outpatient prescription drug coverage and you have questions or concerns, you may call the Pharmacy Member Services number listed on your ID card. If you are dissatisfied with the resolution of your inquiry and want to file a grievance, you may write to us at the address listed above and follow the formal grievance process.

Independent Medical Review of Denials of Experimental or Investigative Treatment

If coverage for a proposed treatment is denied because we determine that the treatment is experimental or investigative, you may ask that the denial be reviewed by an external independent medical review organization contracting with the Department of Managed Health Care ("DMHC"). Your request for this review may be submitted to the DMHC. You pay no application or processing fees of any kind for this review. You have the right to provide information in support of your request for review. A decision not to participate in this review process may cause you to forfeit any statutory right to pursue legal action against us regarding the disputed health care service. We will send you an application form and an addressed envelope for you to use to request this review with any grievance disposition letter denying coverage for this reason. You may also request an application form by calling us at the telephone number listed on your identification card or write to us at Anthem Blue Cross, P.O. Box 4310, Woodland Hills, CA 91365-4310. To qualify for this review, all of the following conditions must be met:

- You have a life-threatening or seriously debilitating condition, described as follows:
  - A life-threatening condition is a condition or disease where the likelihood of death is high unless the course of the disease is interrupted or a condition or disease with a potentially fatal outcome where the end point of clinical intervention is the patient’s survival.
  - A seriously debilitating condition is a disease or condition that causes major, irreversible morbidity.

- Your physician must certify that either (a) standard treatment has not been effective in improving your condition, (b) standard treatment is not medically appropriate, or (c) there is no more beneficial standard treatment covered by this plan than the proposed treatment.

- The proposed treatment must either be:
  - Recommended by a participating provider who certifies in writing that the treatment is likely to be more beneficial than standard treatments, or
Requested by you or by a licensed board certified or board eligible physician qualified to treat your condition. The treatment requested must be likely to be more beneficial for you than standard treatments based on two documents of scientific and medical evidence from the following sources:

a) Peer-reviewed scientific studies published in or accepted for publication by medical journals that meet nationally recognized standards;

b) Medical literature meeting the criteria of the National Institutes of Health's National Library of Medicine for indexing in Index Medicus, Excerpta Medicus (EMBASE), Medline, and MEDLARS database of Health Services Technology Assessment Research (HSTAR);

c) Medical journals recognized by the Secretary of Health and Human Services, under Section 1861(t)(2) of the Social Security Act;

d) Either of the following: (i) The American Hospital Formulary Service’s Drug Information, or (ii) the American Dental Association Accepted Dental Therapeutics;

e) Any of the following references, if recognized by the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services as part of an anticancer chemotherapeutic regimen: (i) the Elsevier Gold Standard’s Clinical Pharmacology, (ii) the National Comprehensive Cancer Network Drug and Biologics Compendium, or (iii) the Thomson Micromedex DrugDex;

f) Findings, studies or research conducted by or under the auspices of federal governmental agencies and nationally recognized federal research institutes, including the Federal Agency for Health Care Policy and Research, National Institutes of Health, National Cancer Institute, National Academy of Sciences, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Congressional Office of Technology Assessment, and any national board recognized by the National Institutes of Health for the purpose of evaluating the medical value of health services; and

g) Peer reviewed abstracts accepted for presentation at major medical association meetings.

In all cases, the certification must include a statement of the evidence relied upon.
You must request this review within six months of the date you receive a denial notice from us in response to your grievance, or from the end of the 30 day or three day grievance period, whichever applies. This application deadline may be extended by the DMHC for good cause.

Within three business days of receiving notice from the DMHC of your request for review we will send the reviewing panel all relevant medical records and documents in our possession, as well as any additional information submitted by you or your physician. Any newly developed or discovered relevant medical records identified by us or by a participating provider after the initial documents are sent will be immediately forwarded to the reviewing panel. The external independent review organization will complete its review and render its opinion within 30 days of its receipt of request for review (or within seven days if your physician determines that the proposed treatment would be significantly less effective if not provided promptly). This timeframe may be extended by up to three days for any delay in receiving necessary records.

Please note: If you have a terminal illness (an incurable or irreversible condition that has a high probability of causing death within one year or less) and proposed treatment is denied because the treatment is determined to be experimental, you may also meet with our review committee to discuss your case as part of the grievance process (see GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES).

Independent Medical Review of Grievances Involving a Disputed Health Care Service

You may request an independent medical review ("IMR") of disputed health care services from the Department of Managed Health Care ("DMHC") if you believe that we have improperly denied, modified, or delayed health care services. A "disputed health care service" is any health care service eligible for coverage and payment under your plan that has been denied, modified, or delayed by us, in whole or in part because the service is not medically necessary.

The IMR process is in addition to any other procedures or remedies that may be available to you. You pay no application or processing fees of any kind for IMR. You have the right to provide information in support of the request for IMR. We must provide you with an IMR application form and an addressed envelope for you to use to request IMR with any grievance disposition letter that denies, modifies, or delays health care services. A decision not to participate in the IMR process may cause you to forfeit any statutory right to pursue legal action against us regarding the disputed health care service.
Eligibility: The DMHC will review your application for IMR to confirm that:

1. One or more of the following conditions has been met:
   
   (a) Your provider has recommended a health care service as medically necessary,
   
   (b) You have received urgent care or emergency services that a provider determined was medically necessary, or
   
   (c) You have been seen by a participating provider for the diagnosis or treatment of the medical condition for which you seek independent review;

2. The disputed health care service has been denied, modified, or delayed by us, based in whole or in part on a decision that the health care service is not medically necessary; and

3. You have filed a grievance with us and the disputed decision is upheld or the grievance remains unresolved after 30 days. If your grievance requires expedited review you need not participate in our grievance process for more than three days. The DMHC may waive the requirement that you follow our grievance process in extraordinary and compelling cases.

You must apply for IMR within six months of the date you receive a denial notice from us in response to your grievance or from the end of the 30 day or three day grievance period, whichever applies. This application deadline may be extended by the DMHC for good cause.

If your case is eligible for IMR, the dispute will be submitted to a medical specialist or specialists who will make an independent determination of whether or not the care is medically necessary. You will receive a copy of the assessment made in your case. If the IMR determines the service is medically necessary, we will provide benefits for the health care service.

For non-urgent cases, the IMR organization designated by the DMHC must provide its determination within 30 days of receipt of your application and supporting documents. For urgent cases involving an imminent and serious threat to your health, including, but not limited to, serious pain, the potential loss of life, limb, or major bodily function, or the immediate and serious deterioration of your health, the IMR organization must provide its determination within 3 days.

For more information regarding the IMR process, or to request an application form, please call us at the Member Services telephone number listed on your ID card.
Department of Managed Health Care

The California Department of Managed Health Care is responsible for regulating health care service plans. If you have a grievance against your health plan, you should first telephone your health plan at the telephone number listed on your identification card and use your health plan's grievance process before contacting the department. Utilizing this grievance procedure does not prohibit any potential legal rights or remedies that may be available to you. If you need help with a grievance involving an emergency, a grievance that has not been satisfactorily resolved by your health plan, or a grievance that has remained unresolved for more than 30 days, you may call the department for assistance. You may also be eligible for an Independent Medical Review (IMR). If you are eligible for IMR, the IMR process will provide an impartial review of medical decisions made by a health plan related to the medical necessity of a proposed service or treatment, coverage decisions for treatments that are experimental or investigational in nature and payment disputes for emergency or urgent medical services. The department also has a toll-free telephone number (1-888-HMO-2219) and a TDD line (1-877-688-9891) for the hearing and speech impaired. The department's Internet Web site (http://www.hmohelp.ca.gov) has complaint forms, IMR applications forms and instructions online.
FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Your Rights and Responsibilities as an Anthem Blue Cross Member

As a member you have rights and responsibilities when receiving health care. As your health care partner, we want to make sure your rights are respected while providing your health benefits. That means giving you access to our network health care providers and the information you need to make the best decisions for your health. As a member, you should also take an active role in your care.

These are your rights and responsibilities:

You have the right to:

- Speak freely and privately with your health care providers about all health care options and treatment needed for your condition, no matter what the cost or whether it is covered under your plan.
- Work with your doctors to make choices about your health care.
- Be treated with respect and dignity.
- Expect us to keep your personal health information private by following our privacy policies, and state and Federal laws.
- Get the information you need to help make sure you get the most from your health plan, and share your feedback. This includes information on:
  - Our company and services
  - Our network of other health care providers
  - Your rights and responsibilities
  - The rules of your health care plan
  - The way your health plan works
- Make a complaint or file an appeal about:
  - Your health plan and any care you receive
  - Any covered service or benefit decision that your health plan makes
- Say no to care, for any condition, sickness or disease, without having an effect on any care you may get in the future. This includes asking your doctor to tell you how that may affect your health now and in the future.
- Get the most up-to-date information from a health care provider about the cause of your illness, your treatment and what may result from it. You can ask for help if you do not understand this information.
You have the responsibility to:

- Read all information about your health benefits and ask for help if you have questions.
- Follow all health plan rules and policies.
- Choose any primary care physician, also called a PCP, who is in our network if your health plan requires it.
- Treat all doctors, health care providers, and staff with respect.
- Keep all scheduled appointments. Call your health care provider's office if you may be late or need to cancel.
- Understand your health problems as well as you can and work with your doctors or other health care providers to make a treatment plan that you all agree on.
- Inform your health care providers if you don't understand any type of care you're getting or what they want you to do as part of your care plan.
- Follow the health care plan that you have agreed on with your health care providers.
- Give us, your doctors and other health care providers the information needed to help you get the best possible care and all the benefits you are eligible for under your health plan. This may include information about other health insurance benefits you have along with your coverage with us.
- Inform our Member Services department if you have any changes to your name, address or family members covered under your plan.

If you would like more information, have comments, or would like to contact us, please go to www.anthem.com/ca and select “Contact Us”, or you may call the Member Services number on your Member ID card.

We want to provide high quality benefits and Member Services to our members. Benefits and coverage for services given under the plan benefit program are governed by the Evidence of Coverage and not by this Member Rights and Responsibilities statement.

If you need more information or would like to contact us, please go to www.anthem.com/ca and select “Customer Support>Customer Support” or you may call the Member Services number on your ID card.

IDENTITY PROTECTION SERVICES

Identity protection services are available with our Anthem health plans. To learn more about these services, please visit www.anthem.com/resources.
Statement of Rights Under the Newborns and Mothers Health Protection Act

Under federal law, group health plans and health insurance issuers offering group health insurance coverage generally may not restrict benefits for any hospital length of stay in connection with childbirth for the mother or newborn child to less than 48 hours following a vaginal delivery or less than 96 hours following a delivery by cesarean section. However, the plan or issuer may pay for a shorter stay if the attending physician (e.g., your physician, nurse midwife, or physician assistant), after consultation with the mother, discharges the mother or newborn earlier.

Also, under federal law, plans and issuers may not set the level of benefits or out-of-pocket costs so that any later portion of the 48 hour (or 96 hour) stay is treated in a manner less favorable to the mother or newborn than any earlier portion of the stay.

In addition, a plan or issuer may not, under federal law, require that a physician or other health care provider obtain authorization for prescribing a length of stay of up to 48 hours (or 96 hours). However, to use certain providers or facilities, or to reduce your out-of-pocket costs, you may be required to obtain pre-certification. For information on pre-certification, please call us at the Member Services telephone number listed on your ID card.

Statement of Rights Under the Women’s Health and Cancer Rights Act of 1998

This plan, as required by the Women’s Health and Cancer Rights Act of 1998, provides benefits for mastectomy-related services including all stages of reconstruction and surgery to achieve symmetry between the breasts, prostheses, and complications resulting from a mastectomy (including lymphedema). If you have any questions about this coverage, please call us at the Member Services telephone number listed on your ID card.

ORGAN DONATION

Each year, organ transplantation saves thousands of lives. The success rate for transplantation is rising but there are far more potential recipients than donors. More donations are urgently needed.

Organ donation is a singular opportunity to give the gift of life. Anyone age 18 or older and of sound mind can become a donor when he or she dies. Minors can become donors with parental or guardian consent.
Organ and tissue donations may be used for transplants and medical research. Today it is possible to transplant more than 25 different organs and tissues; this can save the lives of as many as eight people and improve the lives of another 50 people. Your decision to become a donor could someday save or prolong the life of someone you know, perhaps even a close friend or family member.

If you decide to become a donor, please discuss it with your family. Let your physician know your intentions as well. You may register as a donor by obtaining a donor card from the Department of Motor Vehicles. Be sure to sign the donor card and keep it with your driver’s license or identification card. In California, you may also register online at:

www.donatelifecalifornia.org/

While organ donation is a deeply personal decision, please consider making this profoundly meaningful and important gift.

ANTHEM BLUE CROSS WEB SITE

Information specific to your benefits and claims history are available by calling the 800 number on your identification card or on the Anthem Blue Cross web site at www.anthem.com/ca. To access benefit information, claims payment status, benefit maximum status, participating providers or to order an ID card, simply log on to the web site, select “Member”, and click the “Register” button on your first visit to establish a User ID and Password to access the personalized and secure MemberAccess Web site. Once registered, simply click the “Login” button and enter your User ID and Password to access the MemberAccess Web site. Our privacy statement can also be viewed on our website. You may also submit a grievance online or print the Plan Grievance form through the website.
LANGUAGE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Anthem introduced its Language Assistance Program to provide certain written translation and oral interpretation services to California members with limited English proficiency.

The Language Assistance Program makes it possible for you to access oral interpretation services and certain written materials vital to understanding your health coverage at no additional cost to you and in a timely manner.

Written materials available for translation include grievance and appeal letters, consent forms, claim denial letters, and explanations of benefits. These materials are available in the top 15 languages as determined by state law.

*Oral interpretation services are also available in these languages.

In addition, appropriate auxiliary aids and services, including qualified interpreters for individuals with disabilities and information in alternate formats are also available, free of charge and in a timely manner, when those aids and services are necessary to ensure an equal opportunity to participate for individuals with disabilities.

Anthem Blue Cross does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, ancestry, religion, sex, marital status, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, or disability.

For information on how to file a complaint, please see GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES. To file a discrimination complaint, please see GET HELP IN YOUR LANGUAGE at the end of this certificate.

Requesting a written or oral translation is easy. Just contact Member Services by calling the phone number on your ID card to update your language preference to receive future translated documents or to request interpretation assistance. Anthem Blue Cross also sends/receives TDD/TTY messages at 1-866-333-4823 or by using the National Relay Service through 711.

For more information about the Language Assistance Program visit www.anthem.com/ca.
IMPORTANT NOTICE

Completing a Health Risk Assessment (HRA) and receiving an applicable gift card could result in additional taxable income to you. It is your responsibility to report all gifts/prizes as taxable income. Each prize recipient is responsible for any federal, state and local taxes associated with prizes received.
Get help in your language
Language Assistance Services

Curious to know what all this says? We would be too. Here’s the English version:

IMPORTANT: Can you read this letter? If not, we can have somebody help you read it. You may also be able to get this letter written in your language. For free help, please call right away at 1-888-254-2721. (TTY/TDD: 711)

Separate from our language assistance program, we make documents available in alternate formats for members with visual impairments. If you need a copy of this document in an alternate format, please call the customer service telephone number on the back of your ID card.

Spanish
IMPORTANTE: ¿Puede leer esta carta? De lo contrario, podemos hacer que alguien lo ayude a leerla. También puede recibir esta carta escrita en su idioma. Para obtener ayuda gratuita, llame de inmediato al 1-888-254-2721. (TTY/TDD: 711)
**Arabic**

مهم: هل يمكنك قراءة هذه الرسالة؟ إذا لم تستطع، فيمكننا الاستعانة بشخص ما لمساعدتك على قراءتها. كما يمكنك أيضا الحصول على هذا الخطاب مكتوبًا بلغتك. للحصول على المساعدة المجانية، يرجى الاتصال فورًا بالرقم 2721-888-254-2721.

**Armenian**

ՈՒՇԱԴՐՈՒԹՅՈՒՆ. Կարողանո՞ւմ եք ընթերցել այս նամակը: Եթե ոչ, մենք կարող ենք տրամադրել ինչ-որ մեկին, ով կօգնի Ձեզ՝ կարդալ այն: Կարող ենք նաև այս նամակը Ձեզ գրավոր տարբերակով տրամադրել:

**Chinese**

重要事項: 您能看懂這封信函嗎？如果您看不懂，我們能夠找人協助您。您有可能可以獲得以您的語言而寫的本信函。如需免費協助，请立即撥打1-888-254-2721。 (TTY/TDD: 711)

**Farsi**

مهم: آیا می‌توانید این نامه را بخوانید؟ اگر نمی‌توانید، می‌توانیم شخصی را به شما معرفی کنیم تا در خواندن این نامه شما را کمک کند. همچنین می‌توانید این نامه را به صورت مکتوب به زبان خودتان دریافت کنید. برای دریافت کمک رایگان، همین حالا با شماره 1-888-254-2721 تماس بگیرید. (TTY/TDD: 711)

**Hindi**

महत्वपूर्ण: क्या आप यह पत्र पढ़ सकते हैं? अगर नहीं, तो हम आपको इसे पढ़ने में मदद करने के लिए किसी को उपलब्ध करा सकते हैं। आप यह पत्र अपनी भाषा में लिखवाने में भी सक्षम हो सकते हैं। नि:शुल्क मदद के लिए, कृपया 1-888-254-2721 पर तुरंत कॉल करें। (TTY/TDD: 711)

**Hmong**

TSEEM CEEB: Koj puas muaj peev xwm nyeem tau daim ntawv no? Yog hais tias koy nymex tsis tau, peb muaj peev xwm cia lwm tus pab nyeem rau koy mloog. Tsis tas li ntawd tej zaum koy kuj tssem Yuav tau txais daim ntawv no sau ua koy hom lus thiab. Txog rau kev pab dawb, thov hu tam sim no rau tus xov tooj 1-888-254-2721. (TTY/TDD: 711)
Japanese
重要: この書簡を読めますか? もし読めない場合には、内容を理解するための支援を受けることができます。また、この書簡を希望する言語で書いたものを入手することもできます。次の番号にいいますぐ電話して、無料支援を受けてください。1-888-254-2721 (TTY/TDD: 711)

Khmer
សំខាន់៖ គឺអ្នកអាចអានលិខិតនេះតើ? ខុសមើលនេះសមារប់សម្រាប់អ្នកម្រុញស៊ីម៉ូស៊ីអ៊ីនក្នុងភាពជីវិតអ្នក។ អ្នកអាចទទួលបានលិខិតអ្នកចង្កងផ្សេងៗជាមួយហើយ 1-888-254-2721 (TTY/TDD: 711)

Korean
중요: 이 서신을 읽으실 수 있으십니까? 읽으실 수 없을 경우 도움을 드릴 사람이 있습니다. 귀하가 사용하는 언어로 쓰여진 서신을 받으실 수도 있습니다. 무료 도움을 받으시려면 즉시 1-888-254-2721로 전화하십시오. (TTY/TDD: 711)

Punjabi
ਮਹੱਤਵਪੂਰਣ: ਕੀ ਇਹ ਪੰਤਕੜੀ ਖ਼ਾਸ ਬਣ ਸਕਦੇ ਹਨ? ਜੇ ਨਹੀਂ, ਤਾਂ ਵੱਧਾ ਵਿਸ਼ੇਸ਼ ਸਮਾਜਕ ਮਹੱਤਵ ਨਾਲ ਬੱਧ ਹੋ ਹੋਣ ਦੀ ਭਾਵਨਾ ਹੁੰਦੀ ਹੈ ਅਤੇ ਉਸੀ ਸਮਾਜਕ ਪੰਤਕੜੀ ਦੀ ਸਹਾਇਤਾ ਦੀਆਂ ਖੁਬ ਰਾਹਾਂ ਹਨ। ਮਹੱਤਵ ਨਾਲ ਹੋਰ ਬਹੁਤ ਬਣ ਸਕਦੇ ਹਨ। ਮਹੱਤਵਪੂਰਣ ਖ਼ਾਸ, ਬਹੁਤ ਬਣੇ ਹਨ 1-888-254-2721 ਦੇ ਲਗ ਲੜੇ। (TTY/TDD: 711)

Russian
ВАЖНО. Можете ли вы прочитать данное письмо? Если нет, наш специалист поможет вам в этом. Вы также можете получить данное письмо на вашем языке. Для получения бесплатной помощи звоните по номеру 1-888-254-2721. (TTY/TDD: 711)

Tagalog
It's important we treat you fairly

That’s why we follow federal civil rights laws in our health programs and activities. We don’t discriminate, exclude people, or treat them differently on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age or disability. For people with disabilities, we offer free aids and services. For people whose primary language isn’t English, we offer free language assistance services through interpreters and other written languages. Interested in these services? Call the Member Services number on your ID card for help (TTY/TDD: 711). If you think we failed to offer these services or discriminated based on race, color, national origin, age, disability, or sex, you can file a complaint, also known as a grievance. You can file a complaint with our Compliance Coordinator in writing to Compliance Coordinator, P.O. Box 27401, Richmond, VA 23279 or by email to compliance.coordinator@anthem.com. Or you can file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office for Civil Rights at 200 Independence Avenue, SW; Room 509F, HHH Building; Washington, D.C. 20201 or by calling 1-800-368-1019 (TDD: 1-800-537-7697) or online at https://ocrportal.hhs.gov/ocr/portal/lobby.jsf. Complaint forms are available at http://www.hhs.gov/ocr/office/file/index.html