

**LOS ANGELES CITY EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT  
SYSTEM**

*January 1, 2024*

**CA PPO – Member age 65+ with only Medicare  
Part B and Part D**

***Prudent Buyer***®







**COMBINED EVIDENCE OF COVERAGE  
AND DISCLOSURE FORM**

**Anthem Blue Cross  
21215 Burbank Blvd.  
Woodland Hills, California 91367**

**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.**



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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.anthemcom/ca](http://www.anthemcom/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.

**Connect with Us Using Our Mobile App.** As soon as you enroll in this plan, you should download our mobile app. You can find details on how to do this on our website, [www.anthem.com](http://www.anthem.com).

Our goal is to make it easy for you to find answers to your questions. You can chat with us live in the app, or contact us on our website, [www.anthem.com](http://www.anthem.com).

### 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<sup>®</sup> Program") which allows our *insured persons* 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<sup>®</sup> 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).**

**Non-Participating Providers.** *Non-participating providers* are providers which have not agreed to participate in our Prudent Buyer Plan network or the Blue Cross and/or Blue Shield Plan. They have not agreed to the reimbursement rates and other provisions of a Prudent Buyer Plan contract nor the Blue Cross and/or Blue Shield Plan.

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.

**Telehealth Provider Visits.** Seeing a *physician* by phone or video is a convenient way to get the care you need. Anthem contracts with telehealth companies to give you access to this kind of care. We want to make sure you know how your health benefits work when you see one of these providers:

- Your plan covers the telehealth visit just like an office visit with a *physician* in your *plan's participating provider* network.
- Any out-of-pocket costs you have from the telehealth visit count toward your *plan's* Deductible and Out of Pocket Maximum, just like any other care you receive.
- You have a right to review the medical records from your telehealth visit.
- You have the right to have the medical records from your telehealth visit given to or shared with your *primary care doctor*, unless you tell us not to share them.

Our top priority is making sure you can get the healthcare you need, when you need it. If you have questions about how your *plan* covers telehealth visits, log in to [www.anthem.com](http://www.anthem.com) to view your benefits. Or call us at the Member Services number on your ID Card.

**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. 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 or the Blue Cross and/or Blue Shield Plan.

**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 prospective *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.** We have established the following separate *Centers of Medical Excellence* (CME) networks. The facilities included in each of these CME networks 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's have agreed to a rate they will accept as payment in full for covered services. **These procedures are covered only at a CME.**

A *participating provider* in the Prudent Buyer Plan network is not necessarily a CME facility.

**Care Outside the United States—Blue Cross Blue Shield Global Core<sup>®</sup>**

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<sup>®</sup> 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<sup>®</sup> 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<sup>®</sup> hospitals.** In most cases, you should not have to pay upfront for inpatient care at participating Blue Cross Blue Shield Global Core<sup>®</sup> *hospitals* except for the out-of-pocket costs you normally pay (non-covered 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<sup>®</sup> *hospital*. Then you can complete a Blue Cross Blue Shield Global Core<sup>®</sup> claim form and send it with the original bill(s) to the Blue Cross Blue Shield Global Core<sup>®</sup> Service Center (the address is on the form).

#### Claim Filing

- **Participating Blue Cross Blue Shield Global Core<sup>®</sup> 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<sup>®</sup> *hospital*. You will need to pay the health care provider

and subsequently send an international claim form with the original bills to us.

#### Claim Forms

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

[www.bcbsglobalcore.com](http://www.bcbsglobalcore.com).

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 and Substance Use Disorder 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 use disorder providers who are not psychiatrists:** within ten (10) business days of the request for an appointment;
- **Non-Urgent follow up appointments with mental health and substance use disorder providers who are not psychiatrists:** within ten (10) business days of the prior appointment for those undergoing a course of treatment for an ongoing *mental health or substance use disorder* condition. This does not limit coverage to once every 10 business days;
- **Non-Urgent appointments with mental health and substance use disorder 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

THIS PLAN IS INTENDED ONLY FOR *MEMBERS* WHO HAVE *MEDICARE* PART B COVERAGE. THE BENEFITS DESCRIBED IN THIS BOOKLET ARE PAYABLE FOR COVERED SERVICES TO SUPPLEMENT *MEDICARE* PART B BENEFITS, EXCEPT AS SPECIFICALLY STATED IN THE SECTION FOR NON-MEDICARE PLAN B BENEFITS.

THE BENEFITS OF THIS *PLAN* ARE PROVIDED ONLY FOR SERVICES THAT *MEDICARE* DETERMINES TO BE ALLOWABLE AND *MEDICALLY NECESSARY*, EXCEPT AS SPECIFICALLY STATED IN THIS BOOKLET. FOR COVERED SERVICES FOR WHICH *MEDICARE* DOES NOT PROVIDE COVERAGE, THE BENEFITS OF THIS *PLAN* ARE PROVIDED ONLY FOR 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.

YOUR EMPLOYER HAS AGREED TO BE SUBJECT TO THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF ANTHEM'S PROVIDER AGREEMENTS WHICH MAY INCLUDE PRECERTIFICATION AND UTILIZATION MANAGEMENT REQUIREMENTS, TIMELY FILING LIMITS, AND OTHER REQUIREMENTS TO ADMINISTER THE BENEFITS UNDER THIS PLAN.

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 use disorder benefits with day or visit limits on medical and surgical benefits. In general, group health plans offering mental health and substance use disorder benefits cannot set day/visit limits on mental health or substance use disorder 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 use disorder 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 use disorder 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.

**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 THIRD PARTY LIABILITY AND REIMBURSEMENT section.

## MEDICARE PART B MEDICAL BENEFITS

### BENEFITS TO SUPPLEMENT MEDICARE PART B

In the following benefit sections, we provide a summary of what you pay, what *Medicare* pays, and what we pay. However, for complete information about *Medicare*, you should contact your local Social Security office or the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services, or refer to its publications.

Part B refers to the portion of the *Medicare* Program which provides benefits for *physician* services, outpatient *hospital* care, outpatient X-rays and laboratory procedures, local ground ambulance and other specified health services and supplies.

After you have met the *Medicare* Part B deductible each *year*, we pay **100%** of the difference between *Medicare's* Allowable Charge(s) and the amount *Medicare* pays for *medically necessary* Part B services and supplies, SUBJECT TO ANY MAXIMUMS STATED BELOW.

We will provide payment for our portion of the Part B benefits only when services are allowed by *Medicare* and *Medicare* has provided benefits for the same services.

The following paragraphs describe what you pay, what *Medicare* pays and what we pay:

### HOSPITAL OUTPATIENT BENEFITS

#### You Pay:

- The *Medicare* Part B deductible.

#### Medicare Pays:

- **80%** of *Medicare's* Allowable Charge amount for covered *hospital* outpatient services listed below.

#### We Pay:

- **20%** of *Medicare's* Allowable Charge amount for the covered *hospital* outpatient services listed below, after you have met the *Medicare* Part B deductible.

**Covered Services:**

- Outpatient medical care.
- Outpatient surgical treatment.
- Radiation therapy, chemotherapy and hemodialysis treatment.

**PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AND SUPPLIES****Important Information Regarding the Network (Part B Professional Services Only)**

We provide a different payment allowance for Part B Professional services described under this *plan* when you receive these services from a *physician* or other provider who is a member of the Prudent Buyer Plan network (*participating provider*). *Participating providers* have agreed to accept our *maximum allowed amount* as payment in full for covered services. A list of *participating providers* is available from us on request.

**Professional Services of a Participating Provider:**

When you receive Professional services from a *participating provider*, that provider has agreed to accept our and *Medicare's* combined payments as payment in full. You cannot be billed for any amounts exceeding the Prudent Buyer Plan *maximum allowed amount*. You will be responsible only for charges applied to the *Medicare* Part B deductible, charges in excess of the yearly maximum allowances stated in the section entitled COVERED SERVICES, and charges for services that are not covered.

**Professional Services of a Non-Participating Provider:**

When you receive Professional services from a *non-participating provider*, that provider is not obligated to accept our and *Medicare's* combined payments as payment in full, and may bill you for the balance of any unpaid charges. However, some *physicians* accept assignment of *Medicare* benefits. A *physician* who accepts *Medicare* assignment may not collect more than *Medicare's* Allowable Charge. If you use a provider who is not part of the network and who does not accept *Medicare* assignment, you will be responsible for any charges applied to the *Medicare* Part B deductible, amounts exceeding *Medicare's* Allowable Charge, charges in excess of the yearly maximum allowances stated in the section entitled COVERED SERVICES, and charges for services that are not covered.

The following describes what you pay, what *Medicare* pays and what we pay for covered Part B professional services:

### **Professional Services and Supplies (*Participating Providers*)**

#### **You Pay:**

- The *Medicare* Part B deductible.
- Amounts in excess of our yearly maximum benefits for certain services as stated in the section entitled COVERED SERVICES.

#### **Medicare Pays:**

- 80% of *Medicare's* Allowable Charge for covered professional services and supplies.

#### **We Pay:**

#### **1. When Professional Services are rendered by a *participating provider* who accepts *Medicare* assignment:**

- The difference between what *Medicare* pays and the lesser of either: (1) *Medicare's* Allowable Charge; or (2) the *maximum allowed amount* for covered professional services and supplies, subject to the stated maximums described in the section entitled COVERED SERVICES.

#### **2. When Professional Services are rendered by a *participating provider* who does not accept *Medicare* assignment:**

- The difference between what *Medicare* pays and the Prudent Buyer Plan *maximum allowed amount* for covered professional services and supplies, subject to the stated maximums described in the section entitled COVERED SERVICES.

**Note:** *Participating providers* will consider the combined *Medicare* and Anthem payments noted above as payment in full for covered services. You will be responsible for charges applied to the *Medicare* Part B deductible and charges in excess of the stated maximums in the section entitled COVERED SERVICES.

## **Professional Services and Supplies (*Non-Participating Providers*)**

### **You Pay:**

- The *Medicare* Part B deductible.
- Amounts in excess of our yearly maximum benefits for certain services as stated in the section entitled COVERED SERVICES.
- Amounts in excess of *Medicare's* Allowable Charge amount.

### **Medicare Pays:**

- 80% of *Medicare's* Allowable Charge for covered professional services and supplies.

### **We Pay:**

#### **When Professional Services are rendered by a *non-participating provider* (whether or not the *physician* or provider accepts *Medicare* assignment):**

- 20% of *Medicare's* Allowable Charge for covered professional services and supplies, subject to the stated maximums described in the section entitled COVERED SERVICES.

**Note:** *Non-participating providers* may not consider the combined *Medicare* and Anthem payments noted above to be payment in full, and may bill you for the balance of any unpaid charges. You will be responsible for charges applied to the *Medicare* Part B deductible, billed amounts in excess of *Medicare's* allowable charge, and charges in excess of the stated maximums in the section entitled COVERED SERVICES.

#### **Special Note Regarding *Participating* or *Non-Participating Providers* Who Accept *Medicare* Assignment:**

If the provider accepts *Medicare* assignment, we will not pay more than the difference between *Medicare's* allowable charge and the amount *Medicare* pays, even when services are rendered by a *participating provider*.

### **Covered Services:**

- *Physicians'* services for surgery and surgical assistance.
- Anesthesia during surgery.
- Consultations requested by the attending *physician*.
- Visits of a *physician* during a covered *hospital stay*, including a *hospital stay* for *mental health* conditions.

- Radiation therapy and chemotherapy.
- A *physician's* services for outpatient *emergency* care.
- A *physician's* services for home or office visits.
- Diagnostic radiology and laboratory services.
- Routine and diagnostic mammograms, mastectomy, complications from a mastectomy, reconstructive surgery of both breasts following mastectomy, and breast prostheses and surgical bras following mastectomy.
- Medical supplies, rental or purchase of durable medical equipment, including therapeutic shoes and inserts for the prevention and treatment of diabetes-related foot complications
- Contraceptive services and supplies, limited to injectable drugs and implants for birth control, IUDs and diaphragms dispensed by a *physician*, and the services of a *physician* in connection with the prescribing, fitting, and insertion of intrauterine contraceptive devices or diaphragms.

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*.

- Diabetes instruction program which: (1) 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; (2) 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 (3) is supervised by a *physician*.
- Ground ambulance services of a licensed ambulance company to or from the nearest *hospital* or *skilled nursing facility*. Emergency services or transportation services that are provided to you by a licensed ambulance company as a result of a "911" emergency response system request for assistance if you believe you have an *emergency* medical condition requiring such assistance.

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.

Base charge, mileage and non-reusable supplies of a licensed air ambulance company to transport you from the area where you are first disabled to the nearest *hospital* where appropriate treatment is provided if, and only if, such services are *medically necessary*, you have an *emergency* medical condition requiring such assistance, and ground ambulance service is inadequate.

- Blood and blood plasma.
- Home Health Care (limited to our maximum benefit of 60 visits per calendar year)
- The first pair of contact lenses or the first pair of eyeglasses following eye surgery.
- Physical therapy and occupational therapy.
- Chiropractic Care when approved by Medicare.
- Speech therapy.
- Temporomandibular Joint Disorders
- Outpatient care for *mental health* conditions.\*
- Outpatient care for substance use disorder.\*

**\*Exception:** Medicare will pay 50% of *Medicare's* Allowable Charge for covered professional services and supplies for *mental health* and Substance Use Disorder. We will pay 50% of *Medicare's* Allowable Charge for covered professional services and supplies for *mental health* and Substance Use Disorder. In addition, the section entitled **Important Information Regarding the Network (Part B Professional Services Only)** as stated above will also apply.



## NON-MEDICARE MEDICAL BENEFITS

### DEDUCTIBLE

- Non-Certification Deductible ..... **\$300**

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

- The Non-Certification Deductible will not apply to *emergency* admissions or services, nor to the services provided by a *participating provider*. 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* or the *reasonable and customary value* for the services of an *other health care provider* or a *non-participating provider*.

#### **\*Exceptions:**

- Office visits for chiropractic care services, to a *physician* who is a *participating provider*, will be paid at **100%** of the *maximum allowed amount* after you have made a **\$15** co-payment.

**Note:** This exception applies only to the charge for the visit itself. It does not apply to any other charges made during that visit, such as testing procedures, surgery, etc.

- Office visits for acupuncture services, provided by a *participating provider*, will be paid at **100%** of the *maximum allowed amount* after you have made a **\$10** co-payment.

**Note:** This exception applies only to the charge for the visit itself. It does not apply to any other charges made during that visit, such as testing procedures, surgery, etc.

- Your Co-Payment for inpatient hospital benefits provided by *non-participating providers* will be **20%**. You will be responsible for charges which exceed the *maximum allowed amount*.
- Your Co-Payment for the services of all providers will be **20%** of the *maximum allowed amount*, when those services are provided for home infusion therapy *drugs*.
- Your Co-Payment for the services of all providers will be **20%** of the *maximum allowed amount*, when those services are provided for private duty nursing.
- 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*;
  - c. Charges by a type of *physician* not represented in the Prudent Buyer Plan network (for example, an audiologist); or
  - 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.
- You will not be required to pay a Co-Payment for:
  - a. Preventive Care services; and
  - b. Hearing Aids.
- Your Co-Payment 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) determined to be *medically necessary* and performed at a designated *CME* will be the same as for *participating providers*. **Services for specified organ transplants are not covered when performed at other than a designated CME.** See UTILIZATION REVIEW PROGRAM.

**NOTE:** No Co-Payment will be required for the transplant travel expenses approved by us. Transplant travel expense is available when the closest *CME* is more than 250 miles from the recipient or donor’s residence.

**Out-of-Pocket Amount\***. After each *member* has made **\$5,000** in total out-of-pocket payments for covered charges incurred during a *calendar year*, each *member* will no longer be required to pay a Co-Payment for the remainder of that *year*, but will remain responsible for costs in excess of the *maximum allowed amount*.

**\*Exception:**

- Expense which is applied toward any deductible, which is incurred for non-covered services or supplies, or which is in excess of the amount of the *maximum allowed amount*, will not be applied toward your Out-of-Pocket Amount, and is always your responsibility.

**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*

**Private Duty Nursing**

- For covered private duty nursing care .....**\$1,000**  
per *calendar year*

**Hearing Aids**

- Hearing aids and all services related to making and fitting hearing aids .....**\$2,000**  
per ear, per 36 month period

**Acupuncture**

- For all covered services.....**30 visits**  
per *calendar year*

**Chiropractic Care**

- For covered outpatient services .....**30**  
combined visits per *calendar year after Medicare approved visits are exhausted*

**Christian Science Benefit**

- For services of practitioners ..... **\$25**  
per visit, for up to 70 visits  
per *calendar year*
- For nursing care..... **\$20**  
per visit, for up to 70 visits  
per *calendar year*
- Sanatorium ..... **70 days**  
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*..... **\$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 other reasonable expenses  
(excluding, tobacco, alcohol, drug  
and meal expenses)..... **\$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*..... **\$250**  
for round trip coach airfare
  - For hotel accommodations..... **\$100**  
per day, for up to 7 days
  - For other reasonable expenses  
(excluding, tobacco, alcohol, drug  
and meal expenses)..... **\$25**  
per day, up to 7 days

**Lifetime Maximum**

- For all medical benefits..... **Unlimited**

## 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 toward 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. You may be responsible for paying any difference between the *maximum allowed amount* and the provider’s actual charges. In many situations, this difference could be significant. If you receive services from a *participating hospital* or facility in California, 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 and CME.** For covered services performed by a *participating provider* or *CME* the *maximum allowed amount* for this *plan* will be the rate the *participating provider* or *CME* 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](http://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 (such as services by an anesthesiologist) 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.

Member Services is also available to assist you in determining your *plan’s maximum allowed amount* for a particular service from a *non-participating provider* or *other health care provider*. In order for Anthem to assist you, you will need to obtain from your *physician* the specific procedure code(s) and diagnosis code(s) for the services the *physician* will render. You will also need to know the *physician’s* charges to calculate your out-of-pocket responsibility. Although Member Services can assist you with this pre-service information, the final *maximum allowed amount* for your claim will be based on the actual claim submitted by the *physician*. You may call Member Services toll free at the telephone number on the back of your Identification Card for their assistance.

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](http://www.anthem.com/ca).

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* within California, 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, and you will only pay your copayment or coinsurance and any applicable deductible. As stated under "Exceptions to Co-Payments" in the SUMMARY OF BENEFITS, the cost share for *emergency services* received from *non-participating providers* is the same as *participating providers*.

For *emergency services* provided by *non-participating providers* or at *non-contracting hospitals* outside of California, reimbursement is based on the Inter-Plan Arrangements for Out-of-Area Services, and you may be responsible for charges which exceed the *reasonable and customary value*.

– **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; however, *non-participating* air ambulance providers, whether inside or outside California, may not bill you for any charges over the *plan's reasonable and customary value* or *maximum allowed amount*.

– **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.

**You will always be responsible for expense incurred which is not covered under this *plan*.**

### **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 receive covered non-emergency services at a

*participating* hospital or facility in California 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.

### **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. 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.

### **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.

### **DEDUCTIBLE, 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.

### **DEDUCTIBLE**

Each time you are admitted to a *hospital* or *residential treatment center* or have outpatient surgery at an *ambulatory surgical 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 remaining *maximum allowed amount* (or from the remaining amount of *reasonable and customary value* 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 per *member* 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*, except as specifically stated under Charges Which Do Not Apply Toward the Out-of-Pocket Amount below.

**Participating Providers, CMEs and Other Health Care Providers.** Only covered charges up to the *maximum allowed amount* for the services of a *participating provider*, *CME* or *other health care provider* will be applied to the *participating provider* and *other health care provider* Out-of-Pocket Amount.

After this Out-of-Pocket Amount per *member* 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*, *CME* or *other health care provider* for the remainder of that *year*.

**Non-Participating Providers.** Only covered charges up to the *maximum allowed amount* for the services of a *non-participating provider* will be applied to the *non-participating provider* Out-of-Pocket Amount. After this Out-of-Pocket Amount per *member* 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* 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*; and
- Any expense applied to a deductible.

## **MEDICAL BENEFIT MAXIMUMS**

We do not make benefit payments for any *member* in excess of any of the Medical Benefit Maximums.

**Prior Plan Maximum Benefits.** If you were covered under the *prior plan*, any benefits paid to you under the *prior plan* will reduce any maximum amounts you are eligible for under this *plan* which apply to the same benefit.

## **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*.

\*Including drugs and medicines (equivalent to those approved for general use by the Food and Drug Administration in the *United States*) which are supplied by the *hospital* for use during your *stay*.

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

*Hospital* services 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.

**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. The term *skilled nursing facility* services and supplies 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.

\*Including drugs and medicines (equivalent to those approved for general use by the Food and Drug Administration in the *United States*) which are supplied by the *hospital* for use during your *stay*.

**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.
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 (grief) services, including a review of the needs of the bereaved family and the development of a care plan to meet those needs, both before and after the *member's* death. Bereavement services are available to the patient and those individuals who are closely linked to the patient, including the immediate family, the primary or designated care giver and individuals with significant personal ties, for one year after the *member's* death.
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*.

This *plan's hospice* benefit will meet or exceed Medicare's *hospice* benefit. If you use a *non-participating provider*, that provider may also bill you for any charges over Medicare's *hospice* benefit.

**Home Infusion Therapy.** The following services and supplies when provided by a *home infusion therapy provider* in your home for the intravenous administration of your total daily nutritional intake or fluid requirements, 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.

Covered charges for drugs when provided by a *non-participating provider* are limited to the *reasonable and customary value*. Covered charges for *drugs* when provided by a *participating provider* are paid at the *maximum allowed amount*.

*Home infusion therapy provider* services are subject to pre-service review to determine medical necessity. See UTILIZATION REVIEW PROGRAM for details.

**Hearing Aids.** Hearing aids, including bone-anchored hearing aids, or services related to the fitting or making of a hearing aid, limited to **\$2,000** per ear, per 36 month period.

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

1. Nebulizers, including face masks and tubing, inhaler spacers, and peak flow meters. 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. Education for pediatric asthma, including education to enable the *child* to properly use the items listed above. This education will be covered under the *plan's* benefits for office visits to a *physician*.

## 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. or D.M.D.). 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, may not be covered.
3. **Dental Injury.** Coverage shall be limited to only such services that are *medically necessary* to repair the damage done by the *accidental injury* and/or restore function lost as a direct result of the *accidental 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.

**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:
  - Prenatal, postnatal and postpartum care;
  - Prenatal testing administered by the California Prenatal Screening Program, which is a statewide prenatal testing program administered by the State Department of Public Health. The *calendar year* deductible will not apply and no copayment will be required for services you receive as part of this program;
  - Ambulatory care services (including ultrasounds, fetal non-stress tests, *physician* office visits, and other *medically necessary* maternity services performed outside of a *hospital*);
  - Involuntary complications of pregnancy;
  - Diagnosis of genetic disorders in cases of high-risk pregnancy; and,
  - 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.

**Abortion Services.** Benefits include all abortion and abortion-related services, including pre-abortion and follow-up services. For outpatient abortion services, precertification is not required. Covered services are not subject to the deductible, if applicable, copayment, and/or coinsurance.

“Abortion” means a medical treatment intended to induce the termination of a pregnancy except for the purpose of producing a live birth.

**Gene Therapy Services.** Your *plan* includes benefits for gene therapy services, when Anthem approves the benefits in advance through precertification. See the “Utilization Review Program” for details on the precertification process. To be eligible for coverage, services must be *medically necessary* and performed by an approved *physician* at an

approved treatment center. Even if a *physician* is a *participating provider* for other services it may not be an approved provider for certain gene therapy services. Please call us to find out which providers are approved *physicians*. (When calling Member Services, ask for the Transplant Case Manager for further details.)

### **Services Not Eligible for Coverage**

Your *plan* does not include benefits for the following:

- Services determined to be Experimental / Investigational;
- Services provided by a non-approved provider or at a non-approved facility; or
- Services not approved in advance through precertification.

**Fertility Preservation Services.** Fertility preservation services to prevent iatrogenic infertility when *medically necessary* are covered. Iatrogenic infertility means infertility caused directly or indirectly, as a possible side effect, by surgery, chemotherapy, radiation, or other covered medical treatment. "Caused directly or indirectly" means medical treatment with a possible side effect of infertility, as established by the American Society of Clinical Oncology or the American Society for Reproductive Medicine. Note that this benefit covers fertility preservation services only, as described. Fertility preservation services under this section do not include testing or treatment of infertility.

**Organ and Tissue Transplants.** Services provided in connection with a non-investigative human solid organ or tissue transplant, if you are:

1. The organ or tissue recipient; or
2. The organ or tissue donor.

If you are the recipient, an organ or tissue donor who is not an enrolled *member* is also eligible for services as described. Benefits are reduced by any amounts paid or payable by that donor's own coverage.

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.

You must obtain our prior authorization for all services related to 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) including, but not limited to preoperative tests and postoperative care. Specified organ transplants must be performed at a *Center of Medical Excellence (CME)*. **Charges**

**for services provided for or in connection with a specified organ transplant performed at a facility other than a CME will not be considered covered charges.** See UTILIZATION REVIEW PROGRAM for details.

**Transplant Travel Expense.** The following travel expenses in connection with an approved, 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 specific CME only when the recipient or donor's home is more than 250 miles from the specific CME, provided the expenses are approved by us in advance:

1. For the recipient and a companion, per transplant episode, up to six trips per episode:
  - a. Round trip coach airfare to the CME, 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 reasonable expenses, not to exceed **\$25** per day for each person, for up to 21 days per trip. Tobacco, alcohol, drug, and meal expenses are excluded.
2. For the donor, per transplant episode, limited to one trip:
  - a. Round trip coach airfare to the CME, not to exceed **\$250**.
  - b. Hotel accommodations, not to exceed **\$100** per day for up to 7 days.
  - c. Other reasonable expenses, not to exceed **\$25** per day, for up to 7 days. Tobacco, alcohol, drug, and meal expenses are excluded.

**Preventive Care.** In addition to any services specified elsewhere in the certificate, we will pay for the following services

1. A *physician's* services for routine physical examinations.
2. Immunizations given as standard medical practice.
3. Vision and hearing screenings.
4. Radiology and laboratory services and tests ordered by the examining *physician* in connection with a routine physical examination.

**Allergy.** Allergy testing and treatment, including allergy serum.

**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. Benefits for chiropractic care is limited to 30 visits per *calendar year*.

**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 osteopaths and chiropractors within the chiropractic scope of practice. Benefits for chiropractic care is limited to 30 visits per *year* after you have exhausted your Medicare approved visits.

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 92150-9001**

**Christian Science Benefit.** Benefits for the following services will be provided when a *member* manifests symptoms of a covered illness or injury and receives Christian Science treatment for such symptoms.

Christian Science Sanatorium. Services provided by a Christian Science sanatorium, and other nursing homes which may be approved by the Commission for Accreditation of Christian Science Nursing Organizations/Facilities, Inc., if the *member* is admitted for active care of an illness or injury. Services are limited to 70 days per *calendar year*.

Christian Science Practitioner. Office visits for services of a Christian Science practitioner providing treatment for a diagnosed illness or injury according to the healing practices of Christian Science.

1. Services of a Christian Science Practitioner, other than a nurse, are limited to one visit per day, not to exceed a maximum payment of **\$25** per day and 70 visits per *calendar year*.
2. Services of a Christian Science nurse who is authorized by the Commission for Accreditation of Christian Science Nursing Organizations/Facilities, Inc. and who is not a part of the *member's* family, are limited to one visit per day, not to exceed a maximum payment of **\$20** per day and 70 visits per *calendar year*.

A Christian Science sanatorium will be considered a *hospital* under the *plan* if it is accredited by the Commission for Accreditation of Christian Science Nursing Organizations/Facilities, Inc.

The term *physician* includes a Christian science practitioner approved and accredited by the Commission for Accreditation of Christian Science Nursing Organizations/Facilities, Inc.

**NO BENEFITS ARE AVAILABLE FOR TELEPHONE CONSULTATIONS OR SPIRITUAL REFRESHMENT.** All other provisions of MEDICAL CARE THAT IS NOT COVERED apply equally to Christian Science benefits as to all other benefits and providers of care.

**HIV Testing.** Human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) testing, regardless of whether the testing is related to a primary diagnosis. This coverage is provided according to the terms and conditions of this *plan* that apply to all other medical conditions.

**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.

**Private Duty Nursing.** Inpatient or outpatient services of a private duty nurse. Our maximum payment for private duty nursing is limited to **\$1,000** per calendar year.

### **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.

This exclusion does not apply to services that are mandated by state or federal law, or listed as covered under “YOUR MEDICAL BENEFITS”, “Prescription Drugs Obtained from or Administered by a Medical Provider” and/or “Your Prescription Drug Benefits”.

**Experimental or Investigative.** Any *experimental* or *investigative* procedure or medication. But, if you are denied benefits because it is determined that the requested treatment is *experimental* or *investigative*, you may request an independent medical review as described in GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES.

**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.

**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 *mental health or substance use disorder* as required by state law.

**Non-Approved Facility.** Services from a *physician* that does not meet the definition of facility.

**Excess Amounts.** Any amounts in excess of:

1. Allowable Charges as determined by *Medicare*, for benefits provided under the sections entitled MEDICAL BENEFITS (PART B); and
2. The *maximum allowed amount*, for professional Part B services of a *participating provider* who does not accept *Medicare* assignment.

**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 THIRD PARTY LIABILITY AND REIMBURSEMENT.

**Government Treatment.** Any services you actually received that were provided by a local, state, or federal government agency, or by a public school system or school district, except when payment under this *plan* is expressly required by federal or state law. We will not cover payment for these services if you are not required to pay for them or they are given to you for free. You are not required to seek any such services prior to receiving *medically necessary* health care services that are covered by this *plan*. This will not apply to services provided by a Veterans Administration Medical Center or a Military Treatment Facility for *emergency services* or for care that is related to a non-service connected condition.

**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.



**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.

This exclusion does not apply to the *medically necessary* services to treat *mental health or substance use disorder* as required by state law.

**Wilderness.** Wilderness or other outdoor camps and/or programs. This exclusion does not apply to *medically necessary* services to treat *mental health or substance use disorder* as required by state law.

**Growth Hormone Treatment.** Any treatment, device, *drug*, service or supply (including surgical procedures, devices to stimulate growth and growth hormones), solely to increase or decrease height or alter the rate of growth.

**Orthodontia.** Braces and other orthodontic appliances or services, except as specifically stated in the "Dental Care" provisions of MEDICAL CARE THAT IS COVERED.

**Dental Services or Supplies.** For dental treatment, regardless of origin or cause, except as specified below. "Dental treatment" includes but is not limited to preventative care and fluoride treatments; dental x rays, supplies, appliances, dental implants and all associated expenses; diagnosis and treatment related to the teeth, jawbones or gums, including but not limited to:

- Extraction, restoration, and replacement of teeth;
- Services to improve dental clinical outcomes.

This exclusion does not apply to the following:

- Services which we are required by law to cover;
- Services specified as covered in this booklet;
- Dental services to prepare the mouth for radiation therapy to treat head and/or neck cancer.

**Dental Devices for Snoring.** Oral appliances for snoring.

**Hearing Tests.** Routine hearing tests, except as specifically provided under the "Preventive Care" provision. This exclusion does not apply to cochlear implants.

**Optometric Services or Supplies.** Optometric services, eye exercises including orthoptics, routine eye exams and routine eye refractions. Eyeglasses or contact lenses, except as specifically stated in the "Professional Services and Supplies" provision of MEDICAL BENEFITS (PART B).

**Outpatient Physical and Occupational Therapy.** Outpatient physical and occupational therapy, except as specifically stated in the "Professional Services and Supplies" provision of MEDICAL BENEFITS (PART B). This exclusion also does not apply to the *medically necessary* treatment of *mental health or substance use disorder*.

**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.
- Disposable supplies for use in the home such as bandages, gauze, tape, antiseptics, dressings, ace-type bandages, and any other supplies, dressings, appliances or devices that are not specifically listed as covered under the “Durable Medical Equipment” provision of MEDICAL CARE THAT IS COVERED.

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

**Outpatient Speech Therapy.** Outpatient speech therapy, except as specifically stated in the “Professional Services and Supplies” provision of MEDICAL BENEFITS (PART B). This exclusion also does not apply to the *medically necessary* treatment of *mental health or substance use disorder*.

**Cosmetic Surgery.** Cosmetic surgery or other services performed to alter or reshape normal (including aged) structures or tissues of the body to improve appearance. This exclusion does not apply to services mandated by state or federal law or listed as covered under “Medical Care That is Covered.”

**Weight Alteration Programs (Inpatient and Outpatient).** Weight loss or weight gain programs including, but not limited to, dietary evaluations and counseling, exercise programs, behavioral modification programs, surgery, laboratory tests, food and food supplements, vitamins and other nutritional supplements associated with weight loss or weight gain. Dietary evaluations and counseling, and behavioral modification programs are covered for the treatment of anorexia nervosa or bulimia nervosa. Surgical treatment for morbid obesity will be covered only when criteria are met as recommended by our Medical Policy.

**Sterilization Reversal.** Reversal of an elective sterilization.

**Infertility Treatment.** Any services or supplies furnished in connection with the treatment of infertility, including, but not limited to, diagnostic tests, medication, surgery, artificial insemination, in vitro fertilization, sterilization reversal, except as specifically stated in the "Fertility Preservation Services" or "Sterilization Services" provisions of MEDICAL CARE THAT IS COVERED.

**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).

**Orthopedic Supplies.** Orthopedic shoes and shoe inserts. This exclusion does not apply to orthopedic footwear used as an integral part of a brace, shoe inserts that are custom molded to the patient, or therapeutic shoes and inserts designed to treat foot complications due to diabetes, as specifically stated under "Covered Services" in the "Professional Services and Supplies" provision of MEDICAL BENEFITS (PART B).

**Fraud, Waste, Abuse, and Other Inappropriate Billing.** Services from a non-participating provider that are determined to be not payable as a result of fraud, waste, abuse or inappropriate billing activities. This includes a non-participating provider's failure to submit medical records required to determine the appropriateness of a claim.

**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" provision 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.

**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.

**Hospital Services Billed Separately.** Services rendered by *hospital* resident *physicians* or interns that are billed separately. This includes

separately billed charges for services rendered by employees of *hospitals*, labs or other institutions, and charges included in other duplicate billings.

**Hyperhidrosis Treatment.** Medical and surgical treatment of excessive sweating (hyperhidrosis).

**Aids for Non-verbal Communication.** Devices and computers to assist in communication and speech except for speech aid devices and tracheoesophageal voice devices approved by Anthem.

**Mobile/Wearable Devices.** Consumer wearable / personal mobile devices such as a smart phone, smart watch, or other personal tracking devices), including any software or applications.

**Autopsies.** Autopsies and post-mortem testing.

**Personal Items.** Any supplies for comfort, hygiene or beautification.

**Educational or Academic Services.** Services, supplies or room and board for teaching, vocational, or self-training purposes. This includes, but is not limited to boarding schools and/or the room and board and educational components of a residential program where the primary focus of the program is educational in nature rather than treatment based. This exclusion does not apply to the *medically necessary* treatment of *mental health or substance use disorder* as required by state law.

**Food or Dietary Supplements.** Nutritional and/or dietary supplements and counseling, 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 *mental health or substance use disorder* 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 *mental health or substance use disorder* as required by state law.

**Routine Exams or Tests.** Routine physical exams or tests which do not directly treat an actual illness, injury or condition, including those required by employment or government authority, except as specifically stated under "Covered Services" in the "Professional Services and Supplies" provision of MEDICAL BENEFITS (PART B). This exclusion does not apply to the *medically necessary* services to treat *mental health or substance use disorder* 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](http://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*, 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.

**Outpatient Prescription Drugs and Medications.** Outpatient prescription drugs or medications and insulin, except as specifically stated in the "Home Infusion Therapy" provision of MEDICAL CARE THAT IS COVERED section of this booklet. Non-prescription, over-the-counter patent or proprietary drugs or medicines. Cosmetics, health or beauty aids.

**Contraceptive Devices.** Contraceptive devices prescribed for birth control except as specifically stated under "Covered Services" in the "Professional Services and Supplies" provision of MEDICAL BENEFITS (PART B).

**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 provided in connection with a clinical trial except for routine costs associated with a clinical trial for which *Medicare* provides benefits.

**Medicare Part B Deductible.** Any charges you incur that are applied toward your *Medicare* Part B deductible.

## **BENEFITS FOR MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER**

This *plan* provides coverage for the *medically necessary* treatment of *mental health* and substance use disorder. 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* and substance use disorder 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* and substance use disorder.

### CO-PAYMENTS

***Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder 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* and substance use disorder.

### **BENEFIT MAXIMUMS**

For all other 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* and substance use disorder.

### **MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER THAT ARE COVERED**

**Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder.** Covered services shown below for the *medically necessary* treatment of *mental health* and substance use disorder, or to prevent the deterioration of chronic conditions.

- **Inpatient Services:** Inpatient *hospital* services and services from a *residential treatment center* (including crisis residential treatment) for inpatient services and supplies, and *physician* visits during a covered inpatient *stay*.
- **Outpatient Office Visits** for the following:
  - *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, and
  - Behavioral health treatment for autism spectrum disorders delivered in an office setting.
- **Other Outpatient Items and Services:**
  - *Partial hospitalization programs*, including *intensive outpatient programs* and visits to a *day treatment center*.
  - Psychological testing,

- Multidisciplinary treatment in an intensive outpatient psychiatric treatment program,
- Behavioral health treatment for autism spectrum disorders delivered at home.
- **Behavioral health treatment for autism spectrum disorders.** Inpatient services, office visits, and other outpatient items and services are covered under this section. See the section BENEFITS FOR AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDERS 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 autism spectrum disorders in order for these services to be covered by this *plan* (see UTILIZATION REVIEW PROGRAM for details). No benefits are payable for these services if pre-service review is not obtained.
- Treatment for substance use disorder 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.

If services for the *medically necessary* treatment of a *mental health or substance use disorder* are not available from *participating providers* within the geographic and timely access standards set by law or regulation, we will arrange coverage to ensure the delivery of these services, and any medically necessary follow-up care that, to the maximum extent possible, meet those geographic and timely access standards. You will pay no more than the same cost sharing that you would pay for the same covered services received from a *participating provider*.

Examples of providers from whom you can receive covered services include the following:

- Psychiatrist,
- Psychologist,
- Registered psychological assistant, as described in the CA Business and Professions Code,
- Psychology trainee or person supervised as set forth in the CA Business and Professions Code,
- Licensed clinical social worker (L.C.S.W.),
- Associate clinical social worker functioning pursuant to the CA Business and Professions Code,

- Mental health clinical nurse specialist,
- Licensed marriage and family therapist (L.M.F.T.),
- Associate marriage and family therapist or marriage and family therapist trainee functioning pursuant to the CA Business and Professions Code,
- Licensed professional counselor (L.P.C.),
- Associate professional clinical counselor or professional clinical counselor trainee functioning pursuant to the CA Business and Professions Code, and

Qualified Autism Service Providers, Qualified Autism Service Professionals, and Qualified Autism Service Paraprofessionals. See the definitions of these in the “Benefits for Autism Spectrum Disorder” section below.

#### **MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER 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* and substance use disorder.

#### **BENEFITS FOR AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDERS**

This *plan* provides coverage for behavioral health treatment for autism spectrum disorders. 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 BENEFITS FOR MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER.

You must obtain pre-service review for all behavioral health treatment services for the treatment of autism spectrum disorders 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

**Autism Spectrum Disorders** 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 autism spectrum disorders, 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 autism spectrum disorders, 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 autism spectrum disorders 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 autism spectrum disorders 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 autism spectrum disorders 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 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 autism spectrum disorders,
  - ◆ 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.

### **THIRD PARTY LIABILITY AND REIMBURSEMENT**

Under some circumstances, a third party may be liable or legally responsible by reason of negligence, an intentional act, or the breach of a legal obligation of such third party for an injury, disease, or other condition for which a *member* receives covered services. As a result, a *member* may receive a Recovery, which includes, but is not limited to, payment received from any person or party, any person's or party's liability insurance coverage, uninsured motorist coverage, underinsured motorist coverage, personal umbrella coverage, workers' compensation insurance or fund, premises medical payments coverage, restitution, "no-fault" or personal injury protection insurance and/or automobile medical payments coverage, or any other first or third party insurance coverage. In that event, any benefits we pay under this booklet for such covered services will be subject to the following:

- We will automatically have a lien upon any amount you receive from any third party, insurer, or other source of monetary compensation by judgment, award, settlement or otherwise. Our lien will be in the amount of the benefits we pay for treatment of the illness, injury, disease, or condition for which a third party is alleged to be liable or financially responsible. Our lien will not exceed the amount we actually paid for those services if we paid the provider other than on a capitated basis. If we paid the provider on a capitated basis, our lien will not exceed 80% of the usual and customary charges for those services in the geographic area in which they were rendered.
- We will be entitled to collect on the full amount of our lien, except that our recovery is limited to the lesser of:
  - The total lien minus a pro rata reduction for reasonable attorney fees and costs, or
  - One-third of the moneys due to the enrollee or insured under any final judgment, compromise or settlement agreement if you have an attorney, or
  - One-half of the moneys due to the enrollee or insured under any final judgment, compromise, or settlement agreement if you do not have an attorney.

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

- You agree to advise us in writing of your claim against a third party within sixty (60) days of making such claim, and that you will take such action, furnish such information and assistance, and execute such papers as we may require to facilitate enforcement of our lien rights. You agree not to take any action that may prejudice our rights or interests under the *agreement*. You agree also that failing to give us such notice, or failing to cooperate with us, or taking action that prejudices our rights will be a material breach of the *agreement*. In the event of such material breach, you will be personally responsible and liable for reimbursing to us the amount of benefits we paid.

We will be entitled to collect on our lien as a first priority even if the Member is not made whole by the Recovery and the amount recovered by or for the *member* (or his or her estate, parent or legal guardian) of such third party as compensation for the injury, illness or condition is less than the actual loss suffered by the *member*.

## 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 coverages;
3. Group coverage under labor-management trustee plans, union benefit organization plans, employer organization plans, employee benefit organization plans or self-insured employee benefit plans.

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 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.
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, Medicare will pay second and the plan which covers you as a retired *subscriber* will pay last, after Medicare.

3. 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 5 applies.

4. 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.
5. 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.

#### **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:

**Note:** The appropriate utilization reviews must be performed in accordance with this *plan*. When pre-service review is not performed as required for the services listed below, the benefits to which you would have been otherwise entitled will be subject to the Co-payment when you are admitted to a *hospital* without properly obtaining certification shown in the SUMMARY OF BENEFITS.

- All inpatient *hospital* admissions.
- Specific non-emergency outpatient services, including diagnostic treatment, genetic tests and other services.
- Surgical procedures, wherever performed.
- Organ and tissue transplants, peripheral stem cell replacement and similar procedures
- 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.
- Infusion therapy or home infusion therapy, if the attending physician has submitted both a prescription and a plan of treatment before services are rendered.
- Admissions to a *skilled nursing facility*, if you require daily skilled nursing or rehabilitation, as certified by your attending *physician*.
- Specific diagnostic procedures, including advanced imaging procedures, wherever performed.
- Behavioral health treatment for autism spectrum disorders, as specified in the section BENEFITS FOR AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDERS.
- All interventional spine pain, elective hip, knee, and shoulder arthroscopic/open sports medicine, and outpatient spine surgery procedures must be authorized in advance.
- *Partial hospitalization programs*, intensive outpatient programs, transcranial magnetic stimulation (TMS).

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.

Provider Network Status	Responsibility to Get Precertification	Comments
<i>Participating Providers</i>	Provider	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The provider must get precertification when required.</li> </ul>
<i>Non-Participating Providers</i>	<i>Member</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Member</i> must get precertification when required. (Call Member Services.)</li> <li>• <i>Member</i> 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 <i>medically necessary</i>.</li> </ul>
Blue Card Provider	<i>Member</i> <b>(Except for Inpatient Admissions)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Member</i> must get precertification when required. (Call Member Services.)</li> <li>• <i>Member</i> may be financially responsible</li> </ul>

Provider Network Status	Responsibility to Get Precertification	Comments
		<p>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 <i>medically necessary</i>.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Blue Card Providers must obtain pre-certification for all Inpatient Admissions.</b></li> </ul>
<p><b>NOTE:</b> For an <i>emergency</i> admission, precertification is not required. However, you, your authorized representative or <i>physician</i> must tell us within 24 hours of the admission or as soon as possible within a reasonable period of time.</p>		

### 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. You can also find our medical policies on our website at [www.anthem.com](http://www.anthem.com).

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.

<b>Request Category</b>	<b>Timeframe Requirement for Decision</b>
Urgent Pre-Service Review	72 hours from the receipt of the request
Non-Urgent Pre-Service Review	5 business days from the receipt of the request
Urgent Continued Stay / Concurrent Review when hospitalized at the time of the request and no previous authorization exists	24 hours from the receipt of the request. We may request additional information within the first 24 hours and then extend to 72 hours
Urgent Continued Stay / Concurrent Review when request is received at least 24 hours before the end of the previous authorization	24 hours from the receipt of the request
Urgent Continued Stay / Concurrent Review when request is received less than 24 hours before the end of the previous authorization	72 hours from the receipt of the request
Non-Urgent Continued Stay / Concurrent Review	5 business days from the receipt of the request
Post-Service Review	30 calendar days from the receipt of the request

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*, including treatment of *mental health or substance use disorder*, 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.

### **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 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.

## HOW COVERAGE BEGINS AND ENDS

### HOW COVERAGE BEGINS

#### ELIGIBLE STATUS

1. **Subscribers.** You are eligible to enroll if you are a *retired employee* who is over age 65 and actively enrolled under Part B of *Medicare*. A *retired employee* is retired from active full-time or part time employment, and eligible to receive health plan benefits as part of the *group's* pension plan.
2. **Family Members.** The following are eligible to enroll as *family members*: (a) Either the *subscriber's spouse* or *domestic partner*; and (b) An unmarried *child*, provided that the *spouse, domestic partner* or *child* is entitled to Part A or actively enrolled in Part B of *Medicare*.

#### Definition of Family Member

1. **Spouse** is the *subscriber's* spouse as recognized under state or federal law. This includes same sex spouses when legally married in a state that recognizes same-sex marriages. Spouse does not include any person who is: (a) covered as a *subscriber* or *domestic partner*; or (b) in active service in the armed forces.
2. **Domestic partner** is the *subscriber's* domestic partner under a legally registered and valid domestic partnership. Domestic partner does not include any person who is: (a) covered as a *subscriber*; or (b) in active service in the armed forces.

For a domestic partnership, other than one that is legally registered and valid, in order for the *subscriber* to include their domestic partner as a *family member*, the *subscriber* and domestic partner must provide the *group* with a signed, LACERS domestic partnership affidavit.

3. **Child** is the *subscriber's, spouse's* or *domestic partner's* natural child, stepchild, legally adopted child, grandchild or a child for whom the *subscriber, 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) is chiefly dependent on the *subscriber, spouse or domestic partner* for support and maintenance, and (ii) is incapable of self-sustaining employment due to a physical or mental condition. 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 *subscriber, 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 *subscriber's, the spouse's or domestic partner's* right to control the health care of the child.

- d. A child for whom the *subscriber, spouse or domestic partner* is a legal guardian is considered eligible on the date of the court decree (the "eligibility date"). We must receive legal evidence of the decree.
- e. If both parents are covered as *subscribers*, their children may be covered as the *family members* of either, but not of both.

#### **ELIGIBILITY DATE**

1. For *subscribers*, you become eligible for coverage on the first day of the month coinciding with or following the date you retire.
2. For *family members*, you become eligible for coverage on the later of: (a) the date the *subscriber* becomes eligible for coverage; or, (b) the date you meet the *family member* definition.

## ENROLLMENT

To enroll as a *subscriber*, or to enroll *family members*, the *subscriber* must properly file an application. An application is considered properly filed, only if it is personally signed, dated, and given to the *group* within 60 days from your eligibility date. We must receive this application from the *group* within 90 days. If any of these steps are not followed, your coverage may be denied.

## EFFECTIVE DATE

Subject to the timely payment of subscription charges on your behalf, your coverage will begin as follows:

1. **Timely Enrollment.** If you enroll for coverage before, on, or within 60 days after your eligibility date, then your coverage will begin as follows: (a) for *subscribers*, on your eligibility date; and (b) for *family members*, on the later of (i) the date the *subscriber's* coverage begins, or (ii) the first day of the month after the *family member* becomes eligible. If you become eligible before the *agreement* takes effect, coverage begins on the effective date of the *agreement*.
2. **Late Enrollment.** If you fail to enroll within 60 days after your eligibility date, you must wait until the *group's* next Open Enrollment Period to enroll.
3. **Disenrollment.** If you voluntarily choose to disenroll from coverage under this *plan*, you must wait until the *group's* next Open Enrollment Period to enroll.

For late enrollees and disenrollees: You may enroll earlier than the *group's* next Open Enrollment Period if you meet any of the conditions listed under SPECIAL ENROLLMENT PERIODS.

**Important Note for Newborn and Newly-Adopted Children.** If the *subscriber* (or *spouse* or *domestic partner*, if the *spouse* or *domestic partner* is enrolled) is already covered: (1) any *child* born to the *subscriber*, *spouse* or *domestic partner* will be enrolled from the moment of birth; and (2) any *child* being adopted by the *subscriber*, *spouse* or *domestic partner* will be enrolled from the date on which either: (a) the adoptive *child's* birth parent, or other appropriate legal authority, signs a written document granting the *subscriber*, *spouse* or *domestic partner* the right to control the health care of the *child* (in the absence of a written document, other evidence of the *subscriber's*, *spouse's* or *domestic partner's* right to control the health care of the *child* may be used); or (b) the *subscriber*, *spouse* or *domestic partner* assumed a legal obligation for full or partial financial responsibility for the *child* in anticipation of the *child's* adoption. The written document referred to above includes, but is not limited to, a health

facility minor release report, a medical authorization form, or relinquishment form.

In both cases, coverage will be in effect for 31 days. For the *child's* enrollment to continue beyond this 31-day period, the *subscriber* or *domestic partner* must submit a membership change form to the *group* within the 31-day period. We must then receive the form from the *group* within 90 days.

### **SPECIAL ENROLLMENT PERIODS**

You may enroll without waiting for the *group's* next open enrollment period if you are otherwise eligible under any one of the circumstances set forth below:

1. You have met all of the following requirements:
  - a. You were covered as an individual or dependent under either:
    - i. Another employer group health plan or health insurance coverage, including coverage under a COBRA or CalCOBRA continuation; or
    - ii. A state Medicaid plan or under a state child health insurance program (SCHIP), including the Healthy Families Program or the Access for Infants and Mothers (AIM) Program.
  - b. You certified in writing at the time you became eligible for coverage under this *plan* that you were declining coverage under this *plan* or disenrolling because you were covered under another health plan as stated above and you were given written notice that if you choose to enroll later, you may be required to wait until the *group's* next open enrollment period to do so.
  - c. Your coverage under the other health plan wherein you were covered as an individual or dependent ended as follows:
    - i. If the other health plan was another employer group health plan or health insurance coverage, including coverage under a COBRA or CalCOBRA continuation, coverage ended because you lost eligibility under the other plan, your coverage under a COBRA or CalCOBRA continuation was exhausted, or employer contributions toward coverage under the other plan terminated. You must properly file an application with the *group* within 60 days after the date your coverage ends or the date employer contributions toward coverage under the other plan terminate.

Loss of eligibility for coverage under an employer group health plan or health insurance includes loss of eligibility due to termination of employment or change in employment status, reduction in the number of hours worked, loss of dependent status under the terms of the *plan*, termination of the other plan, legal separation, divorce, death of the person through whom you were covered, and any loss of eligibility for coverage after a period of time that is measured by reference to any of the foregoing.

- ii. 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 60 days after the date your coverage ended.
2. A court has ordered coverage be provided for a *spouse*, *domestic partner* or dependent *child* under your employee health plan and an application is filed within 60 days from the date the court order is issued.
  3. We do not have a written statement from the *group* stating that prior to declining coverage or disenrolling, you received and signed acknowledgment of a written notice specifying that if you do not enroll for coverage within 60 days after your eligibility date, or if you disenroll, and later file an enrollment application, your coverage may not begin until the first day of the month following the end of the *group's* next open enrollment period.
  4. You have a change in family status through either marriage or domestic partnership, or the birth, adoption, or placement for adoption of a *child*:
    - a. If you are enrolling following marriage or domestic partnership, you and your new *spouse* or *domestic partner* must enroll within 31 days of the date of marriage or domestic partnership. Your *domestic partner* must meet the *plan's* eligibility requirements for *domestic partners* as outlined under HOW COVERAGE BEGINS AND ENDS: HOW COVERAGE BEGINS. Your new *spouse* or *domestic partner's* children may also enroll at that time. Other children may not enroll at that time unless they qualify under another of these circumstances listed above.
    - b. If you are enrolling following the birth, adoption, or placement for adoption of a *child*, your *spouse* (if you are already married) or *domestic partner*, who is eligible but not enrolled, may also enroll at that time. Other children may not enroll at that time unless they



qualify under another of these circumstances listed above. Application must be made within 31 days of the birth or date of adoption or placement for adoption.

5. You meet or exceed a lifetime limit on all benefits under another health plan. Application must be made within 60 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.
6. The date the *subscriber* reaches the age of 65.
7. 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 60 days after the date you are determined to be eligible for this assistance.

**Effective date of coverage.** For enrollments during a special enrollment period as described above, coverage will be effective on the first day of the month following the date you file the enrollment application, except as specified below:

1. If a court has ordered that coverage be provided for a dependent *child*, coverage will become effective for that *child* on the earlier of (a) the first day of the month following the date you file the enrollment application or (b) within 30 days after we receive a copy of the court order or of a request from the district attorney, either parent or the person having custody of the *child*, the employer, or the *group* administrator.
2. For enrollments following the birth, adoption, or placement for adoption of a *child*, coverage will be effective as of the date of birth, adoption, or placement for adoption.

#### **OPEN ENROLLMENT PERIOD**

The *group* has an open enrollment period once each *year*, during the month of October. During that time, an individual who meets the eligibility requirements as a *subscriber* under this *plan* may enroll. A *subscriber* may also enroll any eligible *family members* at that time. Persons eligible to enroll as *family members* may enroll only under the *subscriber's plan*.

For anyone so enrolling, coverage under this *plan* will begin on the first of January following your Open Enrollment. Coverage under the former plan ends when coverage under this *plan* begins.

## HOW COVERAGE ENDS

Your coverage ends without notice from us as provided below:

1. If the *agreement* terminates, your coverage ends at the same time. This *agreement* may be canceled or changed without notice to you.
2. If the *group* no longer provides coverage for the class of *members* to which you belong, your coverage ends on the effective date of that change. If this *agreement* is amended to delete coverage for *family members*, a *family member's* coverage ends on the effective date of that change.
3. Coverage for *family members* ends when *subscriber's* coverage ends.
4. Coverage ends at the end of the period for which subscription charges have been paid to us on your behalf when the required subscription charges for the next period are not paid.
5. If you voluntarily cancel coverage at any time, coverage ends on the subscription charge due date coinciding with or following the date of voluntary cancellation, as provided by written notice to us.
6. If you no longer meet the requirements set forth in the "Eligible Status" provision of HOW COVERAGE BEGINS, your coverage ends as of the subscription charge due date coinciding with or following the date you cease to meet such requirements.

### Exceptions to item 6:

- a. **Handicapped Children:** If a *child* reaches the age limits shown in the "Eligible Status" provision of this section, the *child* will continue to qualify as a *family member* if he or she is (i) covered under this *plan*, (ii) still chiefly dependent on the *subscriber*, *spouse* or *domestic partner* for support and maintenance, and (iii) incapable of self-sustaining employment due to a physical or mental condition. A *physician* must certify in writing that the *child* has a physical or mental condition that makes the *child* incapable of obtaining self-sustaining employment. We will notify the *subscriber* that the *child's* coverage will end when the *child* reaches the *plan's* upper age limit at least 90-days prior to the date the *child* reaches that age. The *subscriber* must send proof of the *child's* physical or mental condition within 60-days of the date the *subscriber* receives our request. If we do not complete our determination of the *child's* continuing eligibility by the date the *child* reaches the *plan's* upper age limit, the *child* will remain covered pending our determination. When a period of two years has passed, we may request proof of continuing dependency due

to a continuing physical or mental condition, but not more often than once each year. This exception will last until the *child* is no longer chiefly dependent on the *subscriber*, *spouse* or *domestic partner* for support and maintenance or a physical or mental condition no longer exists. A *child* is considered chiefly dependent for support and maintenance if he or she qualifies as a dependent for federal income tax purposes.

**Note:** If a marriage or domestic partnership terminates, the *subscriber* must give or send to the *group* written notice of the termination. Coverage for a former *spouse* or *domestic partners*, and their dependent *children*, if any, ends according to the “Eligible Status” provisions. If Anthem suffers a loss because of the *subscriber* failing to notify the *group* of the termination of their marriage or domestic partnership, Anthem may seek recovery from the *subscriber* for any actual loss resulting thereby. Failure to provide written notice to the *group* will not delay or prevent termination of the marriage or domestic partnership. If the *subscriber* notifies the *group* in writing to cancel coverage for a former *spouse* or *domestic partner* and the children of the *spouse* or *domestic partner*, if any, immediately upon termination of the *subscriber’s* marriage or domestic partnership, such notice will be considered compliance with the requirements of this provision.

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

**Improper Cancellation, Rescission, or Non-renewal of Coverage.** If you believe that your coverage has been or will be improperly cancelled, rescinded, or not renewed, 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 send a grievance to 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 grievance 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 a period of continuation of coverage. Check with your employer for details. Your employer must provide you with the name of your Health Plan Administrator. Your Health Plan Administrator will give you notice of your right to continue coverage after certain "Qualifying Events". You must notify your health Plan Administrator of the occurrence of any subsequent Qualifying Events. (See the "Terms of COBRA Continuation" provision 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 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 Retired Employees and 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.
2. **For Family Members:**
  - a. The death of the *subscriber*;
  - b. The *spouse's* divorce or legal separation from the *subscriber*;

- c. The end of a *domestic partner's* partnership with the *subscriber*, or
- d. The end of a *child's* status as a dependent *child*, as defined by the *agreement*; or

### 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 Health Plan 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 above, the *subscriber* will be notified of the continuation right.
2. For Qualifying Events 2(a) or 2(d) above, a *family member* will be notified of the continuation right.
3. For Qualifying Events 2(b) or 2(c) above, you must inform the Health Plan Administrator within 60 days of the Qualifying Event if you wish to continue coverage. The Health Plan Administrator, in turn, will promptly give you official notice of the continuation right.

If you choose to continue coverage, you must notify us within 60 days of the date you receive notice of your COBRA continuation right from your Health Plan Administrator. 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.

You must remit the initial subscription charge to us 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*, provided that the *spouse*, *domestic partner* or *child* meets the eligibility requirements specified in HOW COVERAGE BEGINS. 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 "subscription charge") to us each month during the COBRA continuation period. In addition to the subscription charge, we will add a monthly administrative

fee equal to two percent of that charge. We must receive payment of the subscription charge 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 subscription charge 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.

**Payment Dates.** The first payment is due along with your enrollment form within 45 days after you elect continuation coverage. We will bill you for any retroactive charges which may be due. Succeeding subscription charges are due on the first day of each following month (the Subscription Charge Due Date).

**Grace Period.** For every Subscription Charge Due Date, except the first, there is a 31-day grace period in which to pay subscription charges. If subscription charges are not received by the end of the grace period, your coverage will be canceled at the end of the period for which subscription charges are last paid.

**Change of Subscription Charge.** The amounts of the subscription charges may be changed by us as of any Subscription Charge Due Date. Your Health Plan Administrator agrees to provide you with written notice at least 60 days prior to the date any subscription charge 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.

**When COBRA Continuation Coverage Begins.** When COBRA continuation coverage is elected during the Initial Enrollment Period and the subscription charge 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 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;\*
2. 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;
3. The date the *agreement* terminates;
4. The end of the period for which subscription charges are last paid;
5. The date, following the election of COBRA, the *member* first becomes covered under any other group health plan, unless the other group health plan contains an exclusion or limitation relating to a pre-existing condition of the *member*, in which case this COBRA continuation will end at the end of the period for which the pre-existing condition exclusion or limitation applied.

\*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*.

Subject to the *agreement* remaining in effect, a retired *subscriber* whose COBRA continuation coverage began due to Qualifying Event 1 may be covered for the remainder of his or her life; that person's enrolled *family member* may continue coverage for 36 months after the *subscriber's* death. But coverage could terminate prior to such time for the *subscriber*, *spouse* or *domestic partner* in accordance with any of the items above.

## 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 State of California, 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 California, 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<sup>®</sup> Program

Under the BlueCard<sup>®</sup> 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 of California and the claim is processed through the BlueCard<sup>®</sup> 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<sup>®</sup> Program) Arrangements**

With respect to one or more Host Blues, instead of using the BlueCard<sup>®</sup> 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<sup>®</sup> Program made available to Anthem Blue Cross by the Host Blue.

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

### *BlueCard<sup>®</sup> 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<sup>®</sup>) 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<sup>®</sup> 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 California**

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

When covered services are provided outside of California 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 California, 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.

Member Services is also available to assist you in determining your allowed amount for a particular service from a non-participating provider. In order for Anthem to assist you, you will need to obtain from the non-participating provider the specific procedure code(s) and diagnosis code(s) for the services the provider will render. You will also need to know the provider's charges to calculate your out-of-pocket responsibility. Although Member Services can assist you with

this information, the final allowed amount for your claim will be based on the actual claim submitted by the provider. You may call Member Services toll free at the telephone number on the back of your Identification Card for their assistance.

#### **F. Blue Cross Blue Shield Global Core<sup>®</sup> Program**

If you plan to travel outside the United States, call Member Services to find out your Blue Cross Blue Shield Global Core<sup>®</sup> 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<sup>®</sup> 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<sup>®</sup>**

In most cases, when you arrange inpatient hospital care with Blue Cross Blue Shield Global Core<sup>®</sup>, 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<sup>®</sup>; 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<sup>®</sup> claim forms you can get international claims forms in the following ways:

- Call the Blue Cross Blue Shield Global Core<sup>®</sup> Service Center at the numbers above; or
- Online at [www.bcbsglobalcore.com](http://www.bcbsglobalcore.com).

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, or previous medical information.

In addition, 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.

**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*.

**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.

Other forms of payment arrangement are Payment Innovation Programs. These programs may include financial incentives to help improve quality of care and promote the delivery of health care services in a cost-efficient manner. The programs may vary in methodology and subject area of focus and may be modified by us from time to time, but they will be generally designed to tie a certain portion of a *participating provider's* total compensation to pre-defined quality, cost, efficiency or service standards or metrics. In some instances, *participating providers* may be required to make payment to us under the program as a consequence of failing to meet these pre-defined standards. The programs are not intended to affect the *member's* access to health care. The program payments are not made as payment for specific covered services provided to the *member*, but instead, are based on the *participating provider's* achievement of these pre-defined standards. The *member* is not responsible for any co-payment amounts related to payments made by us or to us under the programs and the member does not share in any payments made by *participating providers* to us under the programs.

**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.** After you get covered services, we must receive written notice of your claim in order for benefits to be paid.

- *Participating providers* will submit claims for you. They are responsible for ensuring that claims have the information we need to determine benefits. If the claim does not include enough information, we will ask them for more details, and they will be required to supply those details within certain timeframes.
- *Non-participating provider* claims can be submitted by the *physician* if the *physician* is willing to file on your behalf. However, if the *physician* is not submitting on your behalf, you will be required to submit the claim. Claim forms are usually available from the Provider. If they do not have a claims form, you can send a written request to us, or contact Member Services and ask for a claims form to be sent to you. If you do not receive the claims form, you can still submit written notice of the claim without the claim form. The same information that would be given on the claim form must be included in the written notice of claim, including:
  - Name of patient.
  - Patient's relationship with the *member*.
  - Identification number.
  - Date, type, and place of service.
  - Your signature and the *physician's* signature.

*Non-participating provider* claims must be submitted within 180 days after the date of service. In certain cases, state or federal law may allow additional time to file a claim, if you could not reasonably file within the 180-day period. The claim must have the information we need to determine benefits. If the claim does not include enough information, we will ask you for more details and inform you of the time by which we need to receive that information. Once we receive the required information, we will process the claim according to the terms of your *plan*.

Claims submitted by a public (government operated) hospital or clinic will be paid by us directly, as long as you have not already received benefit under that claim. We will pay all claims within 30 days after we receive proof of loss. If you are dissatisfied with our denial or amount of payment, you may request that we review the claim a second time, and you may submit any additional relevant information.

**Please note that failure to submit the information we need by the time listed in our request could result in the denial of your claim, unless state or federal law requires an extension.** Please contact Member Services if you have any questions or concerns about how to submit claims.

**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, you will be responsible for any charge for services.

**Payment of Benefits.** You authorize us to make payments directly to providers for covered services. In no event, however, shall our right to make payments directly to a provider be deemed to suggest that any provider is a beneficiary with independent claims and appeal rights under the *plan*. We reserve the right to make payments directly to you as opposed to any provider for covered service. In the event that payment is made directly to you, you have the responsibility to apply this payment to the claim from the *non-participating provider*. Payments and notice regarding the receipt and/or adjudication of claims may also be sent to, an Alternate Recipient (which is defined herein as any child of a *member* who is recognized, under a "Qualified Medical Child Support Order", as having a right to enrollment under the *group's plan*), or that person's custodial parent or designated representative. Any payments made by us (whether to any provider for covered service or you) will discharge our obligation to pay for covered services. You cannot assign your right to receive payment to anyone, except as required by a "Qualified Medical Child Support Order" as defined by, and if subject to, ERISA or any applicable state law.

We will pay *non-participating providers* and other providers of service directly when *emergency services* and care are provided to you or one of your *family members*. We will continue such direct payment until the *emergency care* results in stabilization. If the *emergency care* is rendered within California by a *non-participating provider*, you will not be responsible for any amount in excess of the *reasonable and customary value*. However, you are responsible for any charges in excess of the *reasonable and customary value* that may be billed by an ambulance provider that is a *non-participating provider* (*non-participating air ambulance providers* may not bill you for any charges over the *plan's reasonable and customary value*).

If you receive services from a facility that is a *participating provider* in California, 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*. You will not have to pay the *non-participating provider* more than the *participating provider* cost sharing for such non-emergency covered services. Please see "Member Cost Share" above for more information.

Once a provider performs a covered service, we will not honor a request to withhold payment of the claims submitted.



The coverage, rights, and benefits under the *plan* are not assignable by any *member* without the written consent of the *plan*, except as provided above. This prohibition against assignment includes rights to receive payment, claim benefits under the *plan* and/or law, sue or otherwise begin legal action, or request *plan* documents or any other information that a participant or beneficiary may request under ERISA. Any assignment made without written consent from the *plan* will be void and unenforceable.

**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.** When the amount we paid exceeds our liability under this *plan*, we have the right to make appropriate adjustment to claims or recover the excess amount. This amount may be recovered from you, the person to whom payment was made or any other plan.

In most instances such recovery or adjustment activity shall be limited to the *calendar year* in which the error is discovered.

We reserve the right to deduct or offset, including cross plan offsetting on *participating provider* claims and on *non-participating providers* claims where the *non-participating providers* agrees to cross plan offsetting, any amounts paid in error from any pending or future claim.

**Plan Administrator - COBRA and ERISA.** In no event will we be plan administrator for the purposes of compliance with the Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act (COBRA) or the Employee Retirement Income Security Act (ERISA). The term "plan administrator" refers either to the *group* or to a person or entity other than us, engaged by the *group* to perform or assist in performing administrative tasks in connection with the *group's* health plan. The *group* is responsible for satisfaction of notice, disclosure and other obligations of administrators under ERISA. In providing notices and otherwise performing under the CONTINUATION OF COVERAGE section of this booklet, the *group* is fulfilling statutory obligations imposed on it by federal law and, where applicable, acting as your agent.

**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.

**Entitlement to Medicare Benefits.** We have the right to require that you furnish information concerning your entitlement to *Medicare* benefits. We may need this information to determine your eligibility under the *agreement* and to process your claims.

**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.

**Conformity with Laws.** Any provision of the *agreement* which, on its effective date, is in conflict with the laws of the governing jurisdiction, is hereby amended to conform to the minimum requirements of such laws.

**Financial Arrangements with Providers.** Anthem 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 Anthem or an affiliate is a party, including all persons covered under the *agreement*.

Under the above-referenced contracts between Providers and Anthem 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 Anthem or an affiliate for the same medical services. In negotiating the terms of the *agreement*, the *group* was aware that Anthem 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 Anthem 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 Anthem or an affiliate in respect to all health care services rendered to all persons who have coverage through a program provided or administered by Anthem 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 Anthem or an affiliate in determining its fees or subscription charges or premiums.

**Confidentiality and Release of Information.** Applicable state and federal law requires us to undertake efforts to safeguard your medical information.

For informational purposes only, please be advised that a statement describing our policies and procedures regarding the protection, use and disclosure of your medical information is available on our website and can be furnished to you upon request by contacting our Member Services department.

Obligations that arise under state and federal law and policies and procedures relating to privacy that are referenced but not included in this booklet are not part of the contract between the parties and do not give rise to contractual obligations.

**Medical Policy and Technology Assessment.** Anthem 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 Anthem's medical policy is provided by the Medical Policy and Technology Assessment Committee (MPTAC) which consists of approximately 20 physicians from various medical specialties including Anthem's 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 Anthem 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 Anthem.
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. For purposes of an individual who presents written documentation of being diagnosed with a maternal mental health condition from the individual's treating health care provider, completion of covered services for the maternal mental health condition shall not exceed twelve (12) months from the diagnosis or from the end of pregnancy, whichever occurs later. A maternal mental health condition is a mental health condition that can impact a woman during pregnancy, peri or postpartum, or that arises during pregnancy, in the peri or postpartum period, up to one year after delivery.

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 Anthem.
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 Anthem.

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, Anthem 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). If your *physician* leaves our network for any reason other than termination of cause, or if coverage under this *plan* ends because your *group's agreement* ends, or because your *group* changes plans, and you are in active treatment, you may be able to continue seeing that provider for a limited period of time and still get the *participating provider* benefits.

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 Anthem prior to termination. The provider must also agree in writing to accept the terms and reimbursement rates under his or her agreement with Anthem 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.

Anthem 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 Anthem 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. For purposes of an individual who presents written documentation of being diagnosed with a maternal mental health condition from the individual's treating health care provider, completion of covered services for the maternal mental health condition shall not exceed twelve (12) months from the diagnosis or from the end of pregnancy, whichever occurs later. A maternal mental health condition is a mental health condition that can impact a woman during pregnancy, peri or postpartum, or that arises during pregnancy, in the peri or postpartum period, up to one year after delivery.
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.

**Program Incentives.** We may offer incentives from time to time 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**

**ALL DISPUTES BETWEEN YOU AND ANTHEM BLUE CROSS INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO DISPUTES RELATING TO THE**

**DELIVERY OF SERVICE UNDER THE PLAN OR ANY OTHER ISSUES RELATED TO THE PLAN AND CLAIMS OF MEDICAL MALPRACTICE MUST BE RESOLVED BY BINDING ARBITRATION, IF THE AMOUNT IN DISPUTE EXCEEDS THE JURISDICTIONAL LIMIT OF SMALL CLAIMS COURT AND THE DISPUTE CAN BE SUBMITTED TO BINDING ARBITRATION UNDER APPLICABLE FEDERAL AND STATE LAW, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO, THE PATIENT PROTECTION AND AFFORDABLE CARE ACT. For claims that exceed the jurisdiction of the small claims court that are subject to binding arbitration under this agreement, California Health and Safety Code Section 1363.1 require specified disclosures in this regard: It is understood that any dispute as to medical malpractice, that is as to 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 permitted and provided by federal and California law, including but not limited to, the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, and not by a lawsuit or resort to court process except as California law provides for judicial review of arbitration proceedings. Both parties to this contract, by entering into it, are giving up their constitutional right to have any such dispute decided in a court of law before a jury, and instead are accepting the use of arbitration. YOU AND ANTHEM BLUE CROSS AGREE TO BE BOUND BY THIS ARBITRATION PROVISION. YOU ACKNOWLEDGE THAT FOR DISPUTES THAT ARE SUBJECT TO ARBITRATION UNDER STATE OR FEDERAL LAW THE RIGHT TO A JURY TRIAL, THE RIGHT TO A BENCH TRIAL UNDER CALIFORNIA BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONS CODE SECTION 17200, AND/OR THE RIGHT TO ASSERT AND/OR PARTICIPATE IN A CLASS ACTION ARE ALL WAIVED BY YOU. If your *plan* is subject to 45 CFR 147.136, this agreement does not limit your rights to internal and external review of adverse benefit determinations as required by that law. Enforcement of this arbitration clause, including the waiver of class actions, shall be determined under the Federal Arbitration Act ("FAA"), including the FAA's preemptive effect on state law.**

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 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 Anthem 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 Anthem Blue Cross, or by order of the court, if the Member and Anthem 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, Anthem Blue Cross will assume all or a portion of the *member’s* costs of the arbitration. Unless you and Anthem Blue Cross agree otherwise, the arbitrator may not consolidate more than one person’s claims, and may not otherwise preside over any form of a representative or class proceeding. Anthem Blue Cross will provide *members*, upon request, with an application, or information on how to obtain an application from the neutral arbitration entity, for relief of all or a portion of their share of the fees and expenses of the neutral arbitration entity. Approval or denial of an application in the case of extreme financial hardship will be determined by the neutral arbitration entity.

Please send all binding arbitration demands in writing to:

Anthem Blue Cross  
21215 Burbank Blvd  
Woodland Hills, CA 91365-4310

## 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 *facility* licensed as an *ambulatory surgery center* as required by law that satisfies our accreditation requirements and is approved by us.

**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*.

**Centers of Medical Excellence (CME)** are health care providers designated by us as a selected facility for specified medical services. A provider participating in a CME 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. CME agree to accept the *maximum allowed amount* as payment in full for covered services.

Benefits for services performed at a designated *CME* will be the same as for *participating providers*. A *participating provider* in the Prudent Buyer Plan network or the Blue Cross and/or Blue Shield Plan is not necessarily a *CME* facility.

**Child** meets the *plan's* eligibility requirements for children as outlined under HOW COVERAGE BEGINS AND ENDS.

**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.

**Controlled Substances** are *drugs* and other substances that are considered controlled substances under the Controlled Substances Act (CSA) which are divided into five schedules.

**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 by utensil, tube or gastrostomy; suctioning and 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* or substance use disorder 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)** is a substance, that under the Federal Food, Drug & Cosmetic Act, must bear a message on their original packing label that says, "Caution: Federal law prohibits dispensing without a prescription." This includes the following:

- Compound (combination) medications, when all of the ingredients are FDA-approved in the form in which they are used in the *compound drug*, require a prescription to dispense and are not essentially the same as an FDA-approved product from a drug manufacturer.
- Insulin, diabetic supplies, and syringes.

**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.

**Facility** is a *facility* including but not limited to, a *hospital*, freestanding *ambulatory surgery center*, chemical dependency treatment *facility*, *residential treatment center*, *skilled nursing facility*, or mental health *facility*, as defined in this booklet. The *facility* must be licensed as required by law, satisfy our accreditation requirements, and be approved by us.

**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.

**Generally Accepted Standards of Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder Care** are standards of care and clinical practice that are generally recognized by health care *providers* practicing in relevant clinical specialties such as psychiatry, psychology, clinical sociology, addiction medicine and counseling, and behavioral health treatment pursuant to state law. Valid, evidence-based sources establishing *generally accepted standards of mental health and substance use disorder care* include peer-reviewed scientific studies and medical literature, clinical practice guidelines and recommendations of nonprofit health care *provider* professional associations, specialty societies and federal government agencies, and drug labeling approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration.

**Group** refers to the business entity to which we have issued this *agreement*. The name of the group is LOS ANGELES CITY EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM (LACERS).

**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.

**Home 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* licensed as a *hospital* as required by law that satisfies our accreditation requirements and is approved by us. The term *hospital* does not include a provider, or that part of a provider, used mainly for:

- Nursing care
- Rest care
- Convalescent care
- Care of the aged
- Custodial Care

- Educational care
- Subacute care

**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* or substance use 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.

**Investigative** or **Investigational** procedures, treatments, supplies, devices, equipment, facilities, or drugs (all services) that do not meet one (1) or more of the following criteria:

- have final approval from the appropriate government regulatory body; or
- have the credible scientific evidence published in peer-reviewed medical literature generally recognized by the relevant medical community which permits reasonable conclusions concerning the effect of the procedure, treatment, supply, device, equipment, facility or drug (all services) on health outcomes; or
- be proven materially to improve the net health outcome; or
- be as beneficial as any established alternative; or
- show improvement outside the investigational settings.

Recommendations of national *physician* specialty societies, nationally recognized professional healthcare organizations and public health agencies, as well as information from the practicing community, may also be considered.

**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 considered 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.

**NOTE:** We will accept *Medicare's* determination of medical necessity.

For purposes of treatment of *mental health and substance use disorder*, *medically necessary* means a service or product addressing the specific needs of that patient, for the purpose of preventing, diagnosing, or treating an illness, injury, condition, or its symptoms, including minimizing the progression of an illness, injury, condition, or its symptoms, in a manner that is all of the following:

- (i) In accordance with the *generally accepted standards of mental health and substance use disorder care*,
- (ii) Clinically appropriate in terms of type, frequency, extent, site, and duration, and

(iii) Not primarily for the economic benefit of Anthem and the *member* or for the convenience of the patient, treating *physician*, or other health care *provider*.

**Medicare** is the name commonly used to describe "Health Insurance Benefits for the Aged and Disabled" provided under Public Law 89-97 and its amendments.

**Medicare co-payment** is that portion of the Medicare approved amount not paid by Medicare for Professional (Part B) services, not including amounts applied to Part B deductibles. Medicare may increase the co-payment amounts for certain services.

**Member** is the *subscriber* or *family member*.

**Mental health and substance use disorder** include conditions that fall under any of the diagnostic categories listed in the mental and behavioral disorders chapter of the most recent edition of the International Classification of Diseases or that is listed in the most recent version of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders. Changes in terminology, organization, or classification of *mental health and substance use disorders* in future versions of the American Psychiatric Association's Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders or the World Health Organization's International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems shall not affect the conditions covered by this Plan as long as a condition is commonly understood to be a mental health condition or substance use disorder by health care *providers* practicing in relevant clinical specialties. .

**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 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:

1. A *hospital*;
2. A *physician*;
3. An *ambulatory surgical center*;
4. A *home health agency*;
5. A facility which provides diagnostic imaging services;
6. A durable medical equipment outlet;
7. A *skilled nursing facility*;
8. A clinical laboratory;
9. A *home infusion therapy provider*; or
10. A licensed qualified autism service provider.



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:

1. A certified registered nurse anesthetist;
2. A blood bank;
3. A Christian Science practitioner/sanatorium;
4. A licensed ambulance company; or
5. A *hospice*.

The provider must be licensed according to state and local laws to provide covered medical services.

**Part time employee** meets the *plan's* eligibility requirements for part time employees as outlined under HOW COVERAGE BEGINS AND ENDS.

**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 provider** is one of the following providers or other licensed health care professionals who have a Prudent Buyer Plan Participating Provider Agreement in effect with us at the time services are rendered:

1. A *hospital*;
2. A *physician*;
3. An *ambulatory surgical center*;
4. A *home health agency*;
5. A facility which provides diagnostic imaging services;
6. A durable medical equipment outlet;
7. A *skilled nursing facility*;
8. A clinical laboratory;
9. A *home infusion therapy provider*; or
10. 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.

**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 and such license is required to render that service, and is providing a service for which benefits are specified in this booklet:

- 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 autism spectrum disorders 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 autism spectrum disorders 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.)

**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.

**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 *facility* that treats *mental health or substance use disorder* conditions. The *facility* must be licensed as a treatment center pursuant to state and local laws. 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).

The term *residential treatment center/facility* does not include a provider, or that part of a provider, used mainly for:

- Nursing care
- Rest care
- Convalescent care
- Care of the aged
- *Custodial care*
- Educational care

**Retired employee** is a former *full-time employee* or *part time employee* who meets the eligibility requirements described in the "Eligible Status" provision in HOW COVERAGE BEGINS AND ENDS.

**Skilled nursing facility** is a *facility* licensed as a *skilled nursing facility* in the state in which it is located that satisfies our accreditation requirements and is approved by us.

A *skilled nursing facility* is not a place mainly for care of the aged, *custodial care* or domiciliary care, or a place for rest, educational, or similar services.

**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.

**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.

**Totally disabled family member** is a *family member* who is unable to perform all activities usual for persons of that age.

**Totally disabled retired employee** is a *retired employee* 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.

**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 or complaint about your eligibility, (including if you believe your coverage under this *plan* has been or will be improperly terminated), your benefits under this *plan*, a *participating provider*, concerning a claim, or about us, 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](http://www.anthem.com/ca). You must submit your grievance to us no later than 180 days following the date of the notice from us that you allege to be improper. 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, or you believe this *plan* has been or will be improperly cancelled, rescinded, or not renewed, 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.

**Prescription Drug List Exceptions.** Please refer to the “Exception Request for a Drug not on the Prescription Drug Formulary” section in HOW TO USE YOUR PRESCRIPTION DRUG BENEFITS for the process to submit an exception request for drugs not on the prescription drug formulary.

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 **1-800-365-0609** or at the TDD line **1-866-333-4823** for the hearing and speech impaired 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 **(1-888-466-2219)** and a TDD line **(1-877-688-9891)** for the hearing and speech impaired. The department's internet website [www.dmh.ca.gov](http://www.dmh.ca.gov) has complaint forms, IMR applications forms and instructions online.

## **FOR YOUR INFORMATION**

### **Member Rights and Responsibilities**

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 of *physicians* and other healthcare professionals, who will help make the best decisions for your health.

#### **You have the right to:**

- Speak freely and privately with your *physicians* and other healthcare professionals about 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 *physicians* and other healthcare professionals 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.
- Receive information you need to fully engage with your health *plan* and share your feedback. This includes:
  - Our company and services.
  - Our network of *physicians* and other of health care professionals.
  - Your rights and responsibilities.
  - 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 receive in the future. This includes asking your *physicians* and other healthcare professionals to tell you how that may affect your health now and in the future.
- Get the most up-to-date information from a *physician* 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 benefits under the *plan* and ask for help if you have questions.
- Follow all *plan* rules and policies.
- Choose a *participating provider primary care physician*, also called a PCP, if your health *plan* requires it.
- Treat all healthcare professionals 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 challenges as well as you can and work with your *physicians* and other healthcare professionals to create an agreed upon treatment plan.
- Inform your *physicians* and other health care professionals if you don't understand the type of care you're getting or what they want you to do as part of your care plan.
- Follow the treatment plan that you have agreed upon with your *physicians* and other healthcare professionals.
- Share the information needed with us, your *physicians*, and other healthcare professionals to help you get the best possible care. This may include information about other health insurance benefits you have in addition to your coverage with us.
- Inform Member Services 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](http://www.anthem.com) and select Customer Support > Contact Us. Or call the Member Services number on your ID card.

***We are here to provide high-quality benefits and service to our members. Benefits and coverage for services given under the plan***

***are governed by the booklet and not by this Member Rights and Responsibilities statement.***

## **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/](http://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](http://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 for individuals with disabilities to effectively communicate with us.

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](http://www.anthem.com/ca).

## **IDENTITY PROTECTION SERVICES**

Identity protection services are available with our Anthem health plans. To learn more about these services, please visit <https://anthemcares.allclearid.com/>.

## **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.





# 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 member services 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 ليساعدك على قراءتها. كما يمكنك أيضًا الحصول على هذا الخطاب مكتوبًا بلغتك. للحصول على المساعدة المجانية، يُرجى الاتصال فورًا بالرقم 1-888-254-2721 (TTY/TDD: 711).

## Armenian

ՈՒՇԱԴԴՈՒԹՅՈՒՆ. 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: Անվճար օգնություն ստանալու համար կարող եք անհապաղ զանգահարել 1-888-254-2721 հեռախոսահամարով: (TTY/TDD: 711)

## 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。您可能可以獲得以您的語言而寫的本信函。如需免費協助，請立即撥打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। निःशुल्क 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 koj nyeem tsis tau, peb muaj peev xwm cia lwm tus pab nyeem rau koj mloog. Tsis tas li ntawd tej zaum koj kuj tseem yuav tau txais daim ntawv no sau ua koj hom lus thiab. Txog rau kev pab dawb, thov hu tam sim no rau tus xov tooj 1-888-254-2721. (TTY/TDD: 711)

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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៖ តើអ្នកអាចអានលិខិតនេះទេ? បើមិនអាចទេ យើងអាចឲ្យនរណាម្នាក់អានវាជូនអ្នក។ អ្នកក៏អាចទទួលបានលិខិតនេះដោយសរសេរជាភាសារបស់អ្នកផងដែរ។ ដើម្បីទទួលបានជំនួយឥតគិតថ្លៃ សូមហៅទូរស័ព្ទភ្លាមៗទៅលេខ 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

ਮਹੱਤਵਪੂਰਨ: ਕੀ ਤੁਸੀਂ ਇਹ ਪੱਤਰ ਪੜ੍ਹ ਸਕਦੇ ਹੋ? ਜੇ ਨਹੀਂ, ਤਾਂ ਅਸੀਂ ਇਸ ਨੂੰ ਪੜ੍ਹਨ ਵਿੱਚ ਤੁਹਾਡੀ ਮਦਦ ਲਈ ਕਿਸੇ ਨੂੰ ਬੁਲਾ ਸਕਦਾ ਹਾਂ ਤੁਸੀਂ ਸ਼ਾਇਦ ਪੱਤਰ ਨੂੰ ਆਪਣੀ ਭਾਸ਼ਾ ਵਿੱਚ ਲਿਖਿਆ ਹੋਇਆ ਵਥੀ ਪ੍ਰਾਪਤ ਕਰ ਸਕਦੇ ਹੋ। ਮੁਫਤ ਮਦਦ ਲਈ, ਕਿਰਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਫੌਰਨ 1-888-254-2721 ਤੇ ਕਾਲ ਕਰੋ। (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)

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Tagalog

MAHALAGA: Nababasa ba ninyo ang liham na ito? Kung hindi, may taong maaaring tumulong sa inyo sa pagbasa nito. Maaari ninyo ring makuha ang liham na ito nang nakasulat sa ginagamit ninyong wika. Para sa libreng tulong, mangyaring tumawag kaagad sa 1-888-254-2721. (TTY/TDD: 711)

Thai

หมายเหตุสำคัญ: ท่านสามารถอ่านจดหมายฉบับนี้หรือไม่ หากท่านไม่สามารถอ่านจดหมายฉบับนี้ เราสามารถจัดหาเจ้าหน้าที่มาอ่านให้ท่านฟังได้ ท่านยังอาจให้เจ้าหน้าที่ช่วยเขียนจดหมายในภาษาของท่านอีกด้วย หากต้องการความช่วยเหลือโดยไม่มีค่าใช้จ่าย โปรดโทรติดต่อที่หมายเลข 1-888-254-2721 (TTY/TDD: 711)

Vietnamese

QUAN TRỌNG: Quý vị có thể đọc thư này hay không? Nếu không, chúng tôi có thể bố trí người giúp quý vị đọc thư này. Quý vị cũng có thể nhận thư này bằng ngôn ngữ của quý vị. Để được giúp đỡ miễn phí, vui lòng gọi ngay số 1-888-254-2721. (TTY/TDD: 711)

### **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, Mail Drop VA2002-N160, Richmond, VA 23279. 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>.