



An Independent Licensee of the  
Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association

CITY OF ST. PETE BEACH  
ATTN KERI FERENC NELSON  
155 COREY AVE  
ST PETE BEACH FL 33706-1839

**Thanks for choosing Florida Blue!** See the enclosed **Welcome brochure** for everything you need to get the most value from your health plan. For plan info on the go, download the Florida Blue app or log in to your account at [floridablue.com](http://floridablue.com).

Health Insurance is offered by Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Florida, Inc., D/B/A Florida Blue. HMO coverage is offered by Health Options, Inc., D/B/A Florida Blue HMO, an HMO affiliate of Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Florida, Inc. These companies are Independent Licensees of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association.



## **Section 1557 Notification: Discrimination is Against the Law**

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

We provide:

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

If you need these services, contact:

- Health and vision coverage: 1-800-352-2583
- Dental, life, and disability coverage: 1-888-223-4892
- Federal Employee Program: 1-800-333-2227

If you believe that we have failed to provide these services or discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, disability, age, sex, gender identity or sexual orientation, you can file a grievance with:

### **Health and vision coverage (including FEP members):**

Section 1557 Coordinator  
4800 Deerwood Campus Parkway, DCC 1-7  
Jacksonville, FL 32246  
1-800-477-3736 x29070  
1-800-955-8770 (TTY)  
Fax: 1-904-301-1580  
section1557coordinator@floridablue.com

### **Dental, life, and disability coverage:**

Civil Rights Coordinator  
17500 Chenal Parkway  
Little Rock, AR 72223  
1-800-260-0331  
1-800-955-8770 (TTY)  
civilrightscordinator@fclife.com

You can file a grievance in person or by mail, fax, or email. If you need help filing a grievance, the Section 1557 Coordinator is available to help you. You can also file a civil rights complaint with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office for Civil Rights, electronically through the Office for Civil Rights Complaint Portal, available at <https://ocrportal.hhs.gov/ocr/portal/lobby.jsf>, by mail or phone at:

### **U.S. Department of Health and Human Services**

200 Independence Avenue, SW  
Room 509F, HHH Building  
Washington, D.C. 20201  
1-800-368-1019  
1-800-537-7697 (TDD)  
Complaint forms are available at <http://www.hhs.gov/ocr/office/file/index.html>

**ATENCIÓN:** Si habla español, tiene a su disposición servicios gratuitos de asistencia lingüística. Llame al 1-800-352-2583 (TTY: 1-877-955-8773). FEP: Llame al 1-800-333-2227

**ATANSYON:** Si w pale Kreyòl ayisyen, ou ka resevwa yon èd gratis nan lang pa w. Rele 1-800-352-2583 (pou moun ki pa tande byen: 1-800-955-8770). FEP: Rele 1-800-333-2227

**CHÚ Ý:** Nếu bạn nói Tiếng Việt, có dịch vụ trợ giúp ngôn ngữ miễn phí dành cho bạn. Hãy gọi số 1-800-352-2583 (TTY: 1-800-955-8770). FEP: Gọi số 1-800-333-2227

**ATENÇÃO:** Se você fala português, utilize os serviços linguísticos gratuitos disponíveis. Ligue para 1-800-352-2583 (TTY: 1-800-955-8770). FEP: Ligue para 1-800-333-2227

**注意:** 如果您使用繁體中文，您可以免費獲得語言援助服務。請致電 1-800-352-2583 (TTY: 1-800-955-8770)。FEP: 請致電 1-800-333-2227

**ATTENTION:** Si vous parlez français, des services d'aide linguistique vous sont proposés gratuitement. Appelez le 1-800-352-2583 (ATS : 1-800-955-8770). FEP : Appelez le 1-800-333-2227

**PAUNAWA:** Kung nagsasalita ka ng Tagalog, maaari kang gumamit ng mga serbisyo ng tulong sa wika nang walang bayad. Tumawag sa 1-800-352-2583 (TTY: 1-800-955-8770). FEP: Tumawag sa 1-800-333-2227

**ВНИМАНИЕ:** Если вы говорите на русском языке, то вам доступны бесплатные услуги перевода. Звоните 1-800-352-2583 (телетайп: 1-800-955-8770). FEP: Звоните 1-800-333-2227

ملحوظة: إذا كنت تتحدث اذكر اللغة، فإن خدمات المساعدة اللغوية تتوافر لك بالمجان. اتصل برقم 1-800-352-2583 (رقم هاتف الصم والبكم: 1-800-955-8770). اتصل برقم 1-800-333-2227.

**ATTENZIONE:** Qualora fosse l'italiano la lingua parlata, sono disponibili dei servizi di assistenza linguistica gratuiti. Chiamare il numero 1-800-352-2583 (TTY: 1-800-955-8770). FEP: chiamare il numero 1-800-333-2227

**ACHTUNG:** Wenn Sie Deutsch sprechen, stehen Ihnen kostenlos sprachliche Hilfsdienstleistungen zur Verfügung. Rufnummer: +1-800-352-2583 (TTY: +1-800-955-8770). FEP: Rufnummer +1-800-333-2227

**주의:** 한국어 사용을 원하시는 경우, 언어 지원 서비스를 무료로 이용하실 수 있습니다. 1-800-352-2583 (TTY: 1-800-955-8770) 로 전화하십시오. FEP: 1-800-333-2227 로 연락하십시오.

**UWAGA:** Jeżeli mówisz po polsku, możesz skorzystać z bezpłatnej pomocy językowej. Zadzwoń pod numer 1-800-352-2583 (TTY: 1-800-955-8770). FEP: Zadzwoń pod numer 1-800-333-2227.

**સુચના:** જો તમે ગુજરાતી બોલતા હો, તો નિ:શુલ્ક ભાષા સહાય સેવા તમારા માટે ઉપલબ્ધ છે. ફોન કરો **1-800-352-2583 (TTY: 1-800-955-8770)**. FEP: ફોન કરો **1-800-333-2227**

ประกาศ: ถ้าคุณพูดภาษาไทย คุณสามารถใช้บริการช่วยเหลือทางภาษาได้ฟรี โดยติดต่อหมายเลขโทรศัพท์ 1-800-352-2583 (TTY: 1-800-955-8770) หรือ FEP โทร 1-800-333-2227

**注意事項:** 日本語を話される場合、無料の言語支援をご利用いただけます。1-800-352-2583 (TTY: 1-800-955-8770) まで、お電話にてご連絡ください。FEP: 1-800-333-2227

**وجه:** اگر به زبان فارسی صحبت می کنید، تسهیلات زبانی رایگان در دسترس شما خواهد بود. با شماره 1-800-352-2583 (TTY: 1-800-955-8770) تماس بگیرید. FEP: با شماره 1-800-333-2227 تماس بگیرید.

**Baa ákonínzin:** Diné bizaad bee yáníłti'go, saad bee áká anáwo', t'áá jíík'eh, ná hóló. Kojí' hodíílnih 1-800-352-2583 (TTY: 1-800-955-8770). FEP ígíí éí kojí' hodíílnih 1-800-333-2227.

# BlueCare

## Schedule Of Benefits

### Plan 126 with Integrated Prescription Drug Coverage - Single Coverage

Important things to keep in mind while reviewing this Schedule of Benefits:

- This Schedule of Benefits is part of the Benefit Booklet, where more detailed information about benefits can be found.
- Copayments listed in this Schedule of Benefits appear as a dollar amount, apply only after the Deductible is met and apply per visit.
- Your Cost Share will vary depending upon the medical Service you receive, the setting of the Services and the Provider you choose to see.
- References to Deductible are abbreviated as “DED” and references to Benefit Period are abbreviated as “BP”.

Your Benefit Period (BP).....01/01 - 12/31

DEDUCTIBLE AND MAXIMUM OUT-OF-POCKET	YOU PAY
<b>Deductible (DED)</b>	
Per person per BP	\$1,500
Per family per BP	Not Applicable
<b>Per Admission Deductible (PAD)</b>	Not Applicable
<b>Coinsurance</b> (The percentage of the Allowed Amount <b>you pay</b> for Covered Services)	10%
<b>Maximum Out-of-Pocket</b>	
Per person per BP	\$3,000
Per family per BP	Not Applicable

\*Refer to the YOUR SHARE OF HEALTH CARE EXPENSES section of your Benefit Booklet for information on how Embedded and Shared Deductibles and Embedded and Shared Maximum Out-of-Pocket amounts are satisfied.

What **applies** to the maximum out-of-pocket? What **does not apply** to the maximum out-of-pocket?

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Copayments</li> <li>• Coinsurance (if applicable)</li> <li>• DED</li> <li>• PAD (if applicable)</li> <li>• BlueCare Rx Cost Share</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Charges for non-covered Services</li> </ul> |
|---|--|

OFFICE SERVICES	YOU PAY	
	PCP	Specialist
<b>Office Visit Cost Share</b>	DED + 10%	DED + 10%
Advanced Imaging Services (CT/CAT Scans, MRAs, MRIs, PET Scans and nuclear medicine)	DED + 10%	DED + 10%
All other diagnostic Services (e.g., x-rays)	DED + 10%	DED + 10%
Allergy Injections	DED + 10%	DED + 10%
Allergy Testing	DED + 10%	DED + 10%
Maternity	DED + 10%	DED + 10%
Therapy and Spinal Manipulation (e.g., Physical, Speech, Cardiac or Occupational)	DED + 10%	DED + 10%

VIRTUAL HEALTH	YOU PAY
<b>Virtual Visits</b>	
General Medicine and Urgent Care rendered by a designated Virtual Care Provider	DED + 10%
Specialized Care rendered by a designated Virtual Care Provider	DED + 10%

Please visit <https://floridablue.com/docview/virtualhealth> for more information on Virtual Visits.

MEDICAL PHARMACY	YOU PAY
<b>Medication**</b>	
Preferred Medications	DED + 10%
Non-Preferred Medications	DED + 30%
<b>Maximum Out-of-Pocket per person per Month***</b>	
Preferred Medications	\$200
Non-Preferred Medications	\$700

**\*\*Important** – The Cost Share for Medical Pharmacy Services applies to the Prescription Drug only and is in addition to the office visit Cost Share. Immunizations, allergy injections as well as Services covered through a pharmacy program are not considered Medical Pharmacy. Please refer to your Benefit Booklet for a description of Medical Pharmacy. Refer to the most current Medication Guide at [www.floridablue.com](http://www.floridablue.com) to determine whether the medication is a Preferred or Non-Preferred medication.

\*\*\*The Preferred Medication Maximum Out-of-Pocket and the Non-Preferred Medication Maximum Out-of-Pocket are separate, and as such, accumulate separately. Therefore, amounts incurred for Preferred Medications shall be applied only to the Preferred Medication Maximum Out-of-Pocket and the Non-Preferred Medication amounts incurred shall be applied only to the Non-Preferred Maximum Out-of-Pocket.

<b>PREVENTIVE HEALTH SERVICES</b>	<b>YOU PAY</b>
<b>Adult Wellness Services</b> Physician's office and all other locations	\$0
<b>Adult Well Woman Services</b> Physician's office and all other locations	\$0
<b>Child Health Supervision Services</b> Physician's office and all other locations	\$0
<b>Colonoscopies (Routine)</b>	\$0
<b>Mammograms</b>	\$0

<b>OUTPATIENT DIAGNOSTIC SERVICES</b>	<b>YOU PAY</b>
<b>Independent Clinical Lab</b>	DED + 10%
<b>Independent Diagnostic Testing Center</b> Advanced Imaging Services (CT/CAT Scans, MRAs, MRIs, PET Scans and nuclear medicine)	DED + 10%
All other diagnostic Services (e.g., x-rays)	DED + 10%
<b>Outpatient Hospital Facility</b>	See <b>Hospital Services</b>

<b>EMERGENCY AND URGENT CARE SERVICES</b>	<b>YOU PAY</b>
<b>Ambulance Services</b>	DED + 10%
<b>Emergency Room Visits</b>	See <b>Hospital Services</b>
<b>Urgent Care Center</b>	DED + 10%



<b>OUTPATIENT SURGICAL SERVICES</b>	<b>YOU PAY</b>
<b>Ambulatory Surgical Center</b>	
Facility	DED + 10%
PCP	DED + 10%
Radiologists, Anesthesiologists, and Pathologists	DED + 10%
Other health care professional Services rendered by all other Providers	DED + 10%
<b>Outpatient Hospital Facility</b>	See <b>Hospital Services</b>

<b>HOSPITAL SERVICES</b>	<b>YOU PAY</b>
<b>Inpatient</b>	
Facility	DED + 10%
Physician and other health care professional Services	DED + 10%
<b>Outpatient</b>	
Facility	DED + 10%
Physician and other health care professional Services	DED + 10%
Therapies and Spinal Manipulation	DED + 10%
Advanced Imaging Services (CT/CAT Scans, MRAs, MRIs, PET Scans and nuclear medicine)	DED + 10%
All other diagnostic Services (e.g., x-rays)	DED + 10%
<b>Emergency Room Visits</b>	
In-Network Hospital Facility	DED + 10%
Out-of-Network Hospital Facility	DED + 10%
Physician and other health care professional Services	DED + 10%

<b>SPECIAL SERVICES</b>	<b>YOU PAY</b>
<b>Birth Center</b>	DED + 10%
<b>Convenient Care Center</b>	DED + 10%
<b>Diabetic Equipment</b>	DED + 10%
<b>Dialysis Center</b>	DED + 10%
<b>Durable Medical Equipment</b> Motorized wheelchairs	DED + 10%
All other Durable Medical Equipment	DED + 10%
<b>Enteral Formula</b>	DED + 10%
<b>Home Health Care</b>	DED + 10%
<b>Hospice Services</b>	DED + 10%
<b>Outpatient Rehabilitation Facility</b>	DED + 10%
<b>Physician Services</b> (rendered at locations not otherwise noted in this schedule) PCP	DED + 10%
Specialist	DED + 10%
<b>Prosthetic and Orthotic Devices</b>	DED + 10%
<b>Second Medical Opinion</b> In-Network Provider	DED + 10%
Out-of-Network Provider	DED + 40%
<b>Skilled Nursing Facility</b>	DED + 10%

<b>BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES</b>	<b>YOU PAY</b>
<b>Mental Health and Substance Dependency Treatment Services</b>	
<b>Outpatient Facility</b> Emergency Room	DED + 10%
Hospital	DED + 10%
Physician Services at a Hospital and ER PCP	DED + 10%
Specialist	DED + 10%
Physician and other health care professionals licensed to perform such Services rendered at: PCP Office	DED + 10%
Specialist Office	DED + 10%
All other locations PCP	DED + 10%
Specialist	DED + 10%
<b>Inpatient</b> Facility	DED + 10%
Physician and other health care professional Services	DED + 10%

## **BENEFIT MAXIMUMS**

Unless specifically noted otherwise, benefit maximums apply per person and accumulate on a Benefit Period basis.

**Home Health Care** visits..... 60

**Inpatient Rehabilitation** days ..... 30

**Outpatient Therapies and Spinal Manipulation** visits ..... 30

**Note:** Spinal Manipulations are limited to 30 per Benefit Period and accumulate towards the Outpatient Therapies and Spinal Manipulation combined visit maximum.

**Skilled Nursing Facility** days ..... 45

## BlueCare Rx Pharmacy Program

All Covered Drugs and Supplies purchased from a Pharmacy are subject to the **DED**, which must be satisfied by you before any payment will be made by us.

COVERED DRUGS AND SUPPLIES	YOU PAY
<p><b>Preferred Generic Prescription Drugs and Covered OTC Drugs purchased from:</b></p> <p>Retail Pharmacy – For up to a One-Month Supply</p> <p>Specialty Pharmacy - For up to a One-Month Supply</p> <p>Mail Order Pharmacy – For up to a Three-Month Supply</p>	<p>DED + \$10</p> <p>DED + \$10</p> <p>DED + \$25</p>
<p><b>Preferred Brand Name Prescription Drugs or Supplies purchased from:</b></p> <p>Retail Pharmacy – For up to a One-Month Supply</p> <p>Specialty Pharmacy - For up to a One-Month Supply</p> <p>Mail Order Pharmacy – For up to a Three-Month Supply</p>	<p>DED + \$50</p> <p>DED + \$50</p> <p>DED + \$125</p>
<p><b>Non-Preferred Prescription Drugs or Supplies purchased from:</b></p> <p>Retail Pharmacy – For up to a One-Month Supply</p> <p>Specialty Pharmacy - For up to a One-Month Supply</p> <p>Mail Order Pharmacy – For up to a Three-Month Supply</p>	<p>DED + \$80</p> <p>DED + \$80</p> <p>DED + \$200</p>

### Important information affecting what you will pay for Covered Drugs and Supplies:

- If you or your Provider request a Brand Name Prescription Drug when there is a Generic Prescription Drug available; you will be responsible for:
  1. the Cost Share amount that applies to the Brand Name Prescription Drug you received, or in the case of a Non-Preferred Prescription Drug, the Cost Share amount that applies to Non-Preferred Prescription Drugs, as indicated in this Schedule of Benefits; **and**
  2. the difference in cost between the Generic Prescription Drug and the Brand Name Prescription Drug or Non-Preferred Prescription Drug you received, unless the Provider has indicated on the Prescription that the Brand Name Prescription Drug or Non-Preferred Drug is Medically Necessary.
- The Specialty Pharmacies designated, solely by us, are the only “participating” suppliers for Specialty Drugs.
- Some Specialty medications may be dispensed in lesser quantities due to manufacturer package size or course of therapy and certain Specialty Pharmacy products may have additional quantity limits.
- You can also get up to a Three-Month Supply of a Covered Prescription Drug or Covered Prescription Supply (except Specialty Drugs) purchased at a retail Participating Pharmacy. Specialty Drugs are covered only up to a One-Month Supply.

- Specialty Drugs, as designated in the Medication Guide, are not covered when purchased through the Mail Order Pharmacy.

# BlueCare

for Large Groups  
**Group Master Policy**



**BlueCross BlueShield  
of Florida  
Health Options®**

Health Options and its Parent, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Florida, are Independent Licensees of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association.

BlueCare LG Master Policy

BCR.LG.POL 0618





# BlueCare

for Large Groups  
**Group Master Policy**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jon Urbanek". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Jon Urbanek  
Chief Executive Officer

For Customer Service Assistance: 800-FLA-BLUE



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# ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

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## Introduction

Thank you for choosing Health Options, Inc. ("HOI"), a wholly-owned subsidiary of Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Florida, Inc., a leader in health care financing solutions for over 50 years. HOI is a Florida-based Health Maintenance Organization ("HMO") providing comprehensive HMO-type coverage for groups. By purchasing coverage for your employees, and their dependents, you have established an employee welfare benefit plan ("Group Plan"). This Group Master Policy (herein "Policy") is evidence of the existence of the Group Plan and describes the rights and obligations which you and HOI have with respect to the coverage and or benefits to be provided by us.

References to "we", "us", and "our" throughout this Policy refer to Health Options, Inc. We may also refer to ourselves from time to time as "HOI".

In exchange for your payment of the Premium, we agree to provide the coverage and/or benefits specified in the Benefit Booklet, a copy of which is made part of this Policy. The comprehensive health care coverage to be provided by us under the Group Plan which you have established is subject to all the requirements set forth in this Policy including the Benefit Booklet and any amendments or Endorsements issued by us.

The Policy is divided into two parts. The first part generally contains various administrative and other provisions relating to your agreement with us. You should make sure that you read and understand these provisions as they describe important obligations applicable to you and us. The second part is the Benefit Booklet which describes the coverage, benefits limitations and exclusions under this Policy. The Benefit Booklet includes the Schedule of Benefits, any applicable Enrollment Forms, and any Endorsements to the Benefit Booklet or the Policy. Any Endorsements issued by us to the Benefit Booklet or the first part of this Policy are also part of the Policy.

## Definitions

Certain terms defined in the first part of the Policy are also used and defined (for the convenience of Covered Persons) in the Benefit Booklet. If a word or phrase starts with a capital letter, it is either the first word in a sentence, a proper name, a title, or a defined term. In addition to the definitions set forth in the Benefit Booklet, the following terms apply to this Policy:

**Anniversary Date** means the date one year after the Effective Date stated on the Group Application, and subsequent annual anniversaries or such other date as mutually agreed to in writing by the parties.

**Covered Dependent** means an Eligible Dependent who continues to meet all applicable eligibility requirements described in the ELIGIBILITY FOR COVERAGE section of the Benefit Booklet and who is enrolled, and actually covered, under the Policy other than as a Covered Employee.

**Covered Employee** means an Eligible Employee, or other individual, who continues to meet all applicable eligibility requirements described in the ELIGIBILITY FOR COVERAGE section of the Benefit Booklet and who is enrolled, and actually covered, under the Policy other than as a Covered Dependent.

**Covered Person** means a Covered Employee or a Covered Dependent.

**Effective Date for the Group** means 12:01 a.m. on the date specified on the Group Application and for Covered Persons means 12:01 a.m. on the date coverage will begin as specified in the ENROLLMENT AND EFFECTIVE DATE OF COVERAGE section of the Benefit Booklet.

**Eligible Dependent** means an individual who meets and continues to meet all of the eligibility requirements described in the ELIGIBILITY FOR COVERAGE section in the Benefit Booklet.

**Eligible Employee** means an individual who meets and continues to meet all of the eligibility requirements set forth in the ELIGIBILITY FOR COVERAGE section in the Benefit Booklet and is eligible to enroll as a Covered Employee. An eligible employee is not a Covered Employee until actually enrolled and accepted for coverage as a Covered Employee by us.

**Enrollment Forms** means those forms, electronic or paper, which are approved by us and used to maintain accurate enrollment files under the Policy.

**Grace Period** means the ten-day period beginning on the date the Premium is due.

**Group** means the employer, labor union, association, partnership, corporation, department, other organization or entity through which coverage and benefits are issued by us.

**Note:** References to "you" or "your" throughout the first part of this Policy also refer to the Group. References to "you" or "your" in the Benefit Booklet refer to Eligible Employees, Eligible Dependents, Covered Employees and/or Covered Dependents depending on the context and intent of the specific provision.

**Group Master Policy or Policy** means the written document which is evidence of the entire agreement between the Group and HOI whereby coverage and benefits are provided to Covered Persons. The Policy includes the Benefit Booklet, the Schedule of Benefits, the Group Application, Enrollment Forms and any Endorsements to the Benefit Booklet or this Policy.

**Premium** means the amount required to be paid by the Group to us in order for there to be coverage under this Policy.

**Waiting Period** means the period of time specified on the Group Application, if any, which must be met by an individual before that individual is eligible to enroll for coverage under this Policy.

## **Term of Policy**

This Policy shall become effective as of the Effective Date provided that:

1. we accept your Group Application, and
2. that you pay the required initial Premium specified by us.

This Policy shall continue in effect until the first Anniversary Date following the Effective Date unless terminated earlier as permitted by its terms. After the initial term, this Policy shall automatically renew each succeeding year on the Anniversary Date for an additional one-year period unless:

1. at least 45 days prior to such Anniversary Date, you notify us that you do not want the Policy to automatically renew; or
2. it is terminated as permitted by its terms.

If this Policy renews as specified above, all of its terms and provisions (including the Premium due) shall govern coverage as of the Anniversary Date, unless we give written notice of a modification or revision to you at least 45 days prior to the Anniversary Date. In the event we give such written notification, you may elect not to renew this Policy effective as of the Anniversary Date by giving us written notice prior to the Anniversary Date. If you do not give us written notice as required, this Policy shall renew on the Anniversary Date with the modified or revised terms. Nothing in this subsection shall prohibit us from amending, at the time of renewal, the coverage and/or benefits to be provided by us. We may modify the Premium at any time in accordance with the applicable provisions of this Policy.

## **Prior Carrier Responsibilities under an Extension of Benefits**

Your prior carrier, if any, may be required to provide certain benefits to certain individuals covered by this Policy under an extension of benefits provision. We are not responsible for the payment of any claims which are payable under any extension of benefits provision in the prior carrier's plan.

## **Commencement of Coverage**

Our coverage in accordance with the terms of this Policy begins on the Effective Date (see ENROLLMENT AND EFFECTIVE DATE section in the Benefit Booklet). We are not required to pay for health care expenses incurred prior to the Effective Date.

## **Voluntary Termination by the Group**

You may terminate this Policy at any time by giving us at least 45 days prior written notice. Coverage will not be provided on or after such termination date. Nothing in this subsection shall affect a Covered Person's right to an extension of benefits, if applicable, in accordance with the Extension of Benefits subsection in the CONTINUING COVERAGE section of the Benefit Booklet.

## **Conditions of Renewal and Termination**

This Policy is conditionally renewable. This means that it automatically renews each year on your Anniversary Date unless terminated earlier in accordance with its terms. We may terminate this Policy or refuse to renew it if:

1. You do not pay Premiums in accordance with its terms or we have not received timely Premium payments.
2. You perform an act, or engage in any practice, that constitutes fraud or make an intentional misrepresentation of material fact.
3. You do not comply with a material provision which relates to rules for Group contributions or Covered Person participation.
4. There is no longer any Covered Person who lives, resides, or works in the Service Area.

If we decide to terminate or not renew it based on one or more of the circumstances mentioned above, we will give you at least 45 days advance written notice, except in the case of failure to pay Premiums. Refer to the Termination by Us for Non-Payment of Premium subsection.

## **Termination Based on Discontinuation of Form**

We may decide to discontinue this form, which means this Policy is terminated, but may do so only if:

1. we cease to offer this form in the large group market in accordance with 641.31074 Florida Statutes;
2. we provide notice to all groups having coverage under this form of the discontinuation of this form at least 90 days prior to the date of non-renewal; and
3. we offer to all groups having coverage under this form the option to purchase any other health maintenance form currently being offered by us in the large group market.

## **Termination Based on Discontinuation of all Policies in Large Group Market**

We may terminate this Policy if we elect to terminate all of the policies we have issued in the large group market in this state. In that case, we will provide notice, at least 180 days prior to the date of non-renewal, to the Office of Insurance Regulation and to all large groups and each Covered Employee. If we terminate coverage pursuant to this provision, any unused Premium will be returned to you.

## **Termination by us for Non-payment of Premium**

This Policy will automatically terminate as of the applicable Premium due date if we do not receive the Premium payment prior to the end of the Grace Period.

In the event of such termination, you are obligated to pay the following:

1. any portion of the Premium due for coverage provided by us prior to termination;
2. the amount of any payments made by us for health care expenses incurred by persons who were covered under the Policy, as of the termination date; and
3. any amounts otherwise due us.

We will mail to you a written notification within 45 days after the date the Premium is due that this Policy has terminated. This notification will tell you the reasons for termination.

## **Notification of Termination to Covered Employees**

It is your obligation to immediately notify each Covered Person of any such termination of this Policy for any reason.

## **Representations Made By, and Obligations of, the Group**

In agreeing to provide coverage in accordance with the terms of this Policy, we rely on the representations you made when you applied for coverage with us and your representation that you have authority to act on behalf of all Covered Persons with respect to this Policy. Consequently, every act by, agreement with, or notice given to, you will be binding on all Covered Persons. You agree that you shall offer to all Eligible Employees the opportunity to become a Covered Person under this Policy. You must notify persons considering enrollment with us under the Policy that HOI is an HMO and that, in order to obtain HMO-type coverage under the Policy, certain coverage access rules must be followed. (See the COVERAGE ACCESS RULES section of the Benefit Booklet). While you may require a Covered Employee to pay a portion of the Premium due us, you agree that you will contribute toward the cost of coverage which you purchased.

You agree that, if requested by us, you will distribute the Benefit Booklet (and any Endorsements to it) and other coverage materials to Covered Persons.

## **Your Obligation to Report Contribution Rate and Changes**

If one or more of your plans is considered a "grandfathered health plan" as that term is used under the federal law known as the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA), you agree to provide us with the following information regarding each plan:

1. Your current contribution rates by tier of coverage;
2. Your contribution rates by tier of coverage that were effective on March 23, 2010; and
3. Any changes you make to your contribution rates by tier at any time during the term of this Policy. You must report any such contribution rate change to us with at least 30 days advance written notice.

This information is required by PPACA so that we can verify that you continue to maintain grandfathered status. Remember, any change that results in a reduction in contribution by tier of greater than 5 percentage points will cause a loss in grandfathered health plan status.

## **Employer agreement to transfer upon termination of grandfathered health plan status**

You understand and agree that upon loss of grandfathered health plan status HOI shall, at our sole discretion, either, 1) modify your current health plan to comply with the provisions of PPACA applicable to non-grandfathered health plans; or 2) transfer your health plan to a comparable health plan that is already

non-grandfathered. Such modification or transfer shall take place at the date specified by HOI and may include modified rates.

You agree that any action you take that causes a loss in grandfathered health plan status constitutes automatic consent for HOI to modify your coverage or transfer your group health plan to a comparable group health plan, as described in the paragraph above. You further agree to any rate change associated with the change in your coverage as a result of the loss of grandfathered health plan status.

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## PAYMENT PROVISIONS

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### Monthly Invoice

We will prepare a monthly invoice of the Premium due on or before the due date. This monthly invoice will also reflect any pro-rated charges and credits resulting from changes in the number of Covered Persons and changes in the types of coverage that took place in the previous or current month.

If you become aware that a Covered Person will become ineligible, you must provide us with written notice of such ineligibility on or before the date that the individual is, or will become, ineligible. If a Covered Person becomes ineligible for coverage for any reason, you are specifically required to provide written notice to us of such ineligibility no later than 10 days after such ineligibility. In the event that you do not comply with the notice requirements, you shall be liable to us for the Premium due for any individual for which we make claims payments under this Policy.

You must pay the total amount of the invoice, minus any deletions for Covered Employees who became ineligible for coverage during the current month. Do not add names to an invoice, change coverage or pay for an employee whose name does not appear on the invoice. No changes can be made to a Group invoice unless a signed application form is on file and submitted to HOI. Payment shall be for the total amount of the Group invoice, minus any employee deletions for the current month only.

**Other than as specifically set forth in this Policy, we are not obligated to provide coverage or benefits for any individual for whom Premium has not been received by us in advance. In addition, we are not obligated to refund Premiums paid on behalf of any individual who was then listed on our enrollment records as a Covered Person.**

### Payment Due Date

The first Premium payment is due before the Effective Date of the Policy. Each following Premium payment is due monthly unless you agree with us on some other method and/or frequency of payment. The Premium is due and payable on or before the first day of each succeeding calendar month to which such payments apply, unless you agree with us to have the 15th day of each month as the payment due date.

### Grace Period

This Policy has a ten-day Premium payment Grace Period, which begins on the date the Premium payment is due. If we do not receive the required Premium payment on or before the date it is due, it may be paid during this Grace Period. Coverage will stay in force during the Grace Period. If Premium payments are not received by the end of the Grace Period, coverage will automatically terminate effective as of the applicable due date.

### Changes in Premium

We may modify the amount of Premium at any time after the initial term. However, if the benefits or the composition of the Group are changed, we may modify the Rates during the initial 12-month period. We shall provide at least 45 days prior written notice to you of any such change. Premium payments submitted to us following receipt of any such written notice of change constitutes your acceptance of such



change. You must immediately notify each Covered Employee of any such change that affects his or her financial contribution requirement.

If an increase in Premium takes place on a date other than the Premium payment due date, a pro-rated increase will be applied from the date of the increase to the next payment due date. If a decrease in Premium takes place on a date other than the Premium payment due date, a pro-rated credit will be applied from the date of the decrease to the next Premium payment due date.

### **Incorrect Premium Payment**

Any Premium adjustment made due to the correction of an error in the Premium payments will be made without interest after the facts are made known to us.

### **Other Rules Regarding the Payment of Premiums**

1. In the event we do not receive Premium payment prior to the applicable due date, we reserve the right to suspend payment of claims for Health Care Services rendered to a Covered Person, on or after the applicable Premium due date.
2. We are not required to retroactively terminate this Policy or coverage for any Covered Person.
3. If full payment of the Premium is not paid when due, this Policy will automatically terminate as of the applicable Premium payment due date provided notification is sent to you within 45 days after the date the Premium is due.

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## **GENERAL PROVISIONS**

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### **Administration**

You must provide us with any information we need to administer the coverage and/or benefits to be provided or needed to compute the Premium due. While this coverage is in force, we have the right, at any reasonable time, to examine your records on any issues necessary to verify information provided by you.

### **Assignment and Delegation**

You may not assign, delegate or otherwise transfer this Policy and the obligations hereunder without our written consent. Any assignment, delegation, or transfer made in violation of this provision shall be void. We may assign, delegate or otherwise transfer this Policy to our successor in interest or an affiliated entity without your consent at any time.

### **Authorization**

Where this Policy requires that an act involving the administration of coverage and/or benefits be authorized or approved by us, such authorization or approval shall be considered given when provided in writing by a duly authorized officer of HOI or his or her designee.

### **Benefit Booklet**

We will provide a Benefit Booklet and ID Card for each Covered Employee. The Benefit Booklet will describe the coverage and benefits to be provided to Covered Persons by us.

You agree that, if requested by us, you will distribute the Benefit Booklet (and any Endorsements to it) and other coverage materials to Covered Persons.

## **Complaint and Grievance Process**

We have established and will maintain a process for hearing and resolving Complaints and Grievances raised by Covered Persons. Details regarding the Complaint and Grievance process are provided in the Benefit Booklet.

## **Changes to the Policy**

No person may change, modify, or revise the written terms or provisions of this Policy unless such change is made by a written Endorsement signed by one of our duly authorized officers. This is the only manner in which a change may be made to this Policy. For example, no employee or agent of HOI or the Group can change or waive the written terms or provisions of this Policy except as stated in the first sentence of this paragraph.

## **Enrollment Records**

### **Furnishing and Maintaining Enrollment Records**

You must provide any information required by us for the purpose of creating and maintaining enrollment records, processing terminations, and recording changes in family status. In addition, you and each Eligible Employee must submit accurate and complete Enrollment Forms on a timely basis. You are responsible for collecting the Enrollment Forms, reviewing them for accuracy and completeness, and forwarding them to us, along with the applicable Premium payment. All enrollment record information which is relevant to the eligibility or coverage status of any individual must be made available to us for inspection and copying upon request.

### **Errors or Delays**

Clerical errors or delays by us in maintaining enrollment records regarding Covered Persons will not invalidate coverage which would otherwise be validly in force or continue coverage which would otherwise be validly terminated, provided you have furnished us with timely and accurate enrollment information. Errors or delays by you in furnishing accurate enrollment information to us will not affect our right to strictly enforce any and all eligibility requirements. You are liable to us for any claims payments made by us on behalf of any individual who was not eligible for coverage at the time the Health Care Service was rendered.

## **Entire Agreement**

This Policy sets forth the exclusive and entire understanding and agreement between the parties and shall be binding upon the Covered Persons, the parties, and any of their subsidiaries, affiliates, successors, heirs, and permitted assigns. All prior negotiations, agreements, and understandings are superseded hereby. No oral statements, representations, or understanding by any person can change, alter, delete, add or otherwise modify the express written terms of this Policy, which includes the terms of coverage and/or benefits set forth in the Benefit Booklet, the Schedule of Benefits, and any Endorsements.

## **Financial Responsibilities of the Group**

We reserve the right to recover any benefit payments made to or on behalf of any individual whose coverage has been terminated. Our recovery efforts may relate to benefit payments made for Health Care Services rendered subsequent to the Covered Person's termination date and prior to the date notice of coverage termination is required to be made by you. Your cooperation with and support such recovery efforts is required.

In the event that you do not comply with the notice requirements set forth in the Monthly Invoice subsection, you shall be solely liable to us, to the extent of any payment made on behalf of such individual, for Health Care Services rendered subsequent to the date notice of a Covered Person's termination was due.

## **Grandfathered Health Plan Indemnification**

There are certain actions that are solely within your control, as the employer, that can cause a loss in grandfathered health plan status. As such, if you wish to retain grandfathered health plan status, please recognize that we make no representations that your group health plan will retain grandfathered health plan status where you take unilateral action that may cause a loss in grandfathered health plan status. For example, if you:

1. Reduce your contribution percentage by more than 5%;
2. Acquire another corporation, or merge another corporation into your health plan solely to add enrollees to your health plans; and/or
3. Transfer employees from one health plan to another with no bona fide employment-based reason for the transfer;

you will likely lose your grandfathered health plan status. Since we have no control over the above actions and other such unilateral actions identified in the grandfathering health plan interim final regulations found at 75 FR 34537 (June 17, 2010), as may be amended from time to time, we disclaim all responsibility for compliance with grandfathering health plan rules for such unilateral actions.

You agree to indemnify HOI for any and all penalties and/or fines and costs associated therewith for such unilateral actions taken by you that cause a loss in grandfathered health plan status. We encourage you to read the grandfathering health plan rules and work with your attorney to ensure compliance with such rules.

## **Indemnification**

You shall hold harmless and indemnify HOI against all claims, demands, liabilities, or expenses (including reasonable attorney fees and court costs), which are related to, arise out of, or are in connection with any of your acts or omissions, or acts or omissions of any of your employees or agents, in the performance of your obligations under this Policy. We are not your agent, nor are you our agent, for any purpose.

## **Medical Loss Ratio Rebates**

Federal law requires that HOI return that portion of premiums where HOI's claims and quality improvement costs fall below a specified minimum Medical Loss Ratio (MLR) for the entire large group market. This return of premium is known as a "rebate". MLR is determined by the federal government and sets a minimum percentage of total premiums that must be attributed to claims and quality improvement expenses. This is calculated in accordance with Section 2718 of the Public Health Services Act ("PHSA"), as added by the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (the "ACA" or the "Act") and any promulgated regulations. While we make every effort to meet such MLR, there may be times when we will rebate a portion of the Premium amount to you and/or your Covered Employees in accordance with federal law. Currently, such rebates, if any, are payable by the date specified by the federal government of the year following the Calendar Year in which our MLR exceeds the then current federal threshold required by Section 2718 of the Act.

In order to properly rebate that portion of Premiums due under federal law you and/or your Covered Employees agree to the following:

1. You, or your authorized representative (e.g., agent, broker, etc.), shall timely cooperate with us in determining that portion of rebate due you and provide all required information for determining your employer size under federal law. This may require you, or your authorized representative, to complete written or electronic questionnaires and report on amounts you may be required to rebate to Covered Employees under paragraph 3, below. Required information may include, but is not limited

to, your employee and former employee addresses, whether Premium contributions are collected pre or post tax, and employee social security numbers.

2. You agree that we have the sole right to determine to whom rebates are due and how such rebates shall be provided, e.g., in the form of future Premium credits, by check, or debit card.
3. You agree that HOI has the sole right to choose to whom the rebate will be paid. As such, we may rebate the entire amount due to you or choose to rebate the entire amount to your Covered Employees, including your portion of the rebate based upon your contribution toward coverage. Should we choose to rebate the entire amount due to you, you agree to the following:
  - a. If the Group Plan is subject to the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1972 ("ERISA"), then you will use the rebate in accordance with the terms of your Plan Document as that term is defined in ERISA, and treat the rebated amount as a Plan Asset as that term is defined in ERISA;
  - b. If the Group Plan is not subject to ERISA, you attest, acknowledge and agree that you shall use the rebates for the benefit of the Covered Employees of your Group Plan. You agree to use the rebates in one of the following three ways:
    - i. To reduce subscribers' portion of the annual premium for the subsequent policy year for all subscribers covered under any group health plan offered by the group;
    - ii. To reduce subscribers' portion of the annual premium for the subsequent policy year for only those subscribers covered by the group health plan on which the rebate was based; or
    - iii. To provide a cash refund only to subscribers that were covered by the group health plan on which the rebate is based.
  - c. You shall timely cooperate with any data reporting requirements that we may have for reporting to the federal government the amounts rebated to you and your employees.
4. If we choose to rebate to your Covered Employees directly, you agree that you shall not contest in any formal way, e.g. litigation, our choice to rebate to employees directly. Furthermore, you agree that HOI may, in its sole discretion, choose to treat amounts that may be due you as "unclaimed" as that term is defined under any promulgated regulations related to Section 2718 of the Act. If we choose to treat the amount due as "unclaimed", you shall have the right, at any time prior to escheat to the state, to provide the information in paragraph 1 to allow for proper return of such amounts as required by Section 2718 of the Act.
5. You acknowledge and agree that you, or your authorized representative, shall certify all information as true and correct as may be required by us on any forms provided for provision of the requested information in paragraphs 1 through 4 above.

You recognize and agree that this section shall apply to all rebates returned to you on or after June 1, 2012, regardless of which Calendar Year the rebate reflects.

You recognize that appropriately rebating amounts due you and your employees under this section is both complex and requires significant support from you. Failure to correctly rebate may result in fines and/or other penalties being imposed on us. If we are fined for failure to provide rebates, failure to provide rebates in a timely fashion, or failure to provide the appropriate rebates and such fines and/or penalties result from your failure to comply with the provisions of paragraphs 1 through 4, above, you agree to indemnify HOI for any such fines, penalties, interest or other amounts due, including any additional rebates due as a result of improper rebating based upon information you provided or failed to provide in accordance with this process. You agree to provide such amounts to us in accordance with any required timeframe imposed upon us by the government for such failure.

## **Representations on the Group Application and the Enrollment Forms**

We rely on the information you and your Eligible Employees provide to determine whether to issue coverage; the appropriate Rate and financing method; and eligibility for coverage. All such information

must be accurate, truthful, and complete. Statements made on the Group Application and the Enrollment Forms are representations and not warranties.

We may cancel, terminate, or void this Policy if the information which you provide is fraudulent, or if you make an intentional misrepresentation.

## **Rescissions**

You represent that any eligibility and status changes you request are compliant with and permissible under applicable state and federal law, including the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act ("ACA") and subsequent regulations. For example, Section 2712 of the Public Health Services Act ("PHSA"), as added by the ACA prohibits canceling the policy of an employee and/or their dependent(s) for any period during which a premium was collected from the employee and/or their dependent.

You hereby agree not to collect any premium from an employee and/or their dependent(s) for a coverage period occurring after the date their policy terminates. When submitting cancellation requests to us, you represent that you have not collected any premium from the canceled employee(s) and/or their dependent(s) for coverage after the requested termination date.

## **Reservation of Right to Contract**

We reserve the right to contract with any individuals, corporations, associations, partnerships, or other entities for assistance with the servicing of coverage and benefits to be provided by us or obligations due, under this Policy.

## **Service Mark**

You, on behalf of the Group and its Covered Employees, hereby expressly acknowledge your understanding that this Policy constitutes a contract solely between you and HOI. We are an independent corporation operating under a license with the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association, an association of independent Blue Cross and Blue Shield Plans, (the "Association") permitting us to use the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Service Mark in the state of Florida and that we are not contracting as the agent of the Association. You further acknowledge and agree that you have not entered into this contract based upon representations by any person other than us and that no person, entity, or organization other than us shall be held accountable or liable to you for any of our obligations created under this Policy. This paragraph shall not create any additional obligations whatsoever on our part other than those obligations created under other provisions of this Policy.

## **Summary of Benefits and Coverage**

Section 2715 of the Public Health Services Act ("PHSA"), as added by the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and any promulgated regulations and guidance ("SBC Rules") require group health plans, group health plan administrators, and health insurers offering group health coverage to provide a Summary of Benefits and Coverage ("SBC"). An SBC must be provided to your employees and their dependents, at the following times, and under the following circumstances:

1. upon application for coverage;
2. by the first day of coverage (if there are changes to the SBC after application);
3. to special enrollees;
4. upon renewal; or
5. upon request for an SBC or summary information about health coverage.

Additionally, when a material modification (as defined under section 102 of ERISA) is made to the terms of a plan or coverage occurring outside a renewal or reissuance that would affect the most recently

provided SBC, notice must be provided to each person covered under such plan 60 days in advance of the change.

HOI will provide you or your designated representative or agent with an SBC for each HOI benefit plan you offer for you to distribute to your Eligible Employees and their dependents in accordance with the following:

1. You agree to provide an SBC to your Eligible Employees and their dependents as required by the SBC Rules, within the required time frames, and in compliance with the delivery rules including electronic delivery requirements. The SBC Rules only require providing an SBC to dependents if they live at a different address than the employee.
2. You agree to distribute the SBC in the manner and appearance as specified in the SBC Rules. For example, the SBC must be provided either (1) as a stand-alone document; or (2) in combination with other summary materials (such as a Summary Plan Description (SPD)). The SBC must be intact and prominently displayed at the beginning of any other summary materials (such as immediately after the table of contents in an SPD).
3. You agree to provide a complete and accurate SBC with respect to each benefit plan you offer to your Eligible Employees and their dependents. For example, you are responsible for creating an SBC for any benefits not covered by HOI. To the extent the SBC Rules require you to incorporate such information into a single SBC document you are responsible for incorporating all such information into a single SBC and providing it to your Covered and Eligible Employees and their dependents.
4. You agree to provide notice to your Covered Employees and their dependents 60 days prior to a material modification that affects the most recently provided SBC.
5. You agree to retain records related to the delivery of the SBCs and compliance with the SBC Rules. These records must be made available to HOI for inspection and copying upon request.
6. You agree to indemnify and hold HOI harmless from any damages, loss, action, claim or suit, including court costs and attorney's fees, arising from, or related to, your failure to provide a complete, accurate and timely SBC to your covered and Eligible Employees and their dependents in accordance with the SBC Rules.

### **Third Party Beneficiary**

This Policy was entered into solely and specifically for the benefit of HOI and the Group. The terms and provisions of the Policy shall be binding solely upon, and inure solely to the benefit of, HOI and the Group, and no other person shall have any rights, interest or claims under this Policy, including the Benefit Booklet, or be entitled to sue for a breach thereof as a third-party beneficiary or otherwise. HOI and the Group hereby specifically express their intent that health care Providers that have not entered into contracts with HOI to participate in HOI's Provider networks shall not be third-party beneficiaries under this Policy, including the Benefit Booklet.

### **Time Limit on Certain Defenses**

Relative to a misstatement in the application, after 2 years from the issue date, only fraudulent misstatements in the application may be used to void the policy or deny any claim for loss incurred or disability starting after the 2-year period.

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## **MEDICARE SECONDARY PAYER PROVISIONS**

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In order to ensure compliance with the applicable Medicare laws, you are required to advise us, without delay, of any Covered Person who will be, or is, covered under Medicare prior to or immediately following the date such Covered Person becomes so covered (e.g., prior to the Covered Person's 65th birthday). Additionally, you are required to advise us, without delay, of the Medicare status of any Medicare

beneficiary who applies for coverage, prior to such individual's Effective Date. **You shall indemnify and hold us harmless to the extent of any liability, including attorney fees and costs, that results directly or indirectly from your failure to so advise us.**

In any circumstances under which the Medicare statute requires that the Covered Services under this Policy be primary for any Covered Person, you MAY NOT offer, subsidize, procure or provide a Medicare supplement policy to such Covered Person. Also, you MAY NOT induce such Covered Person to decline or terminate his or her group health coverage and elect Medicare as primary payer.

**Note:** You are subject to the federal laws described in this section. Individuals with questions regarding their rights under those laws should direct their questions to you.

## **Working Elderly**

If you employ 20 or more persons for 20 or more weeks of the current or preceding Calendar Year, or if you are a member of a multi-employer group health plan that includes at least one employer with 20 or more employees, the Policy provides primary coverage for employees and/or their spouses, age 65 or older, who are covered under the Policy, you agree to the following terms:

1. You shall provide us, without delay, the names of employees, age 65 or older:
  - a. who are covered under this Policy;
  - b. who are employed (not retired);
  - c. who have not elected Medicare as primary payer of their health insurance claims; and
2. Who are not eligible for Medicare due to end stage renal disease (ESRD). You shall provide us, without delay, the names of spouses, age 65 or older, of current employees of any age:
  - a. who are covered under this Policy;
  - b. who have not elected Medicare as primary payer of their health insurance claims; and
  - c. who are not eligible for Medicare due to ESRD.

The names required to be provided as set forth above, along with any other identifying information requested by us, shall be provided to us on or before the 65th birthday of the employee or spouse or on or before such later date when the individual enrolls with us.

3. For an enrolled individual who meets one of the descriptions set out in paragraphs 1 or 2 above, we will provide group health coverage, as set forth in the Booklet, on a primary basis beginning with the first day of the month in which the individual attains age 65 or the date of enrollment, if the individual is 65 or over at the time of enrollment.
4. Individual entitlement to primary coverage under this subsection will terminate automatically:
  - a. for a current employee, age 65 or older, when he or she elects Medicare as the primary payer or when he or she becomes eligible for Medicare due to ESRD;
  - b. for the spouse, age 65 or older, of a current employee of any age, when the spouse elects Medicare as the primary payer or when the spouse becomes eligible for Medicare due to ESRD.

You are required to provide us, without delay, the names of any current employees or spouses of such employees, age 65 or older, who choose Medicare as primary payer of their health insurance claims or who become eligible for Medicare due to ESRD.

Under Medicare, you MAY NOT offer, subsidize, procure or provide a Medicare supplement insurance policy to such individual. Also, you MAY NOT induce such individual to decline or terminate his or her group health coverage and elect Medicare as his or her primary payer.

5. Entitlement of the employee and/or spouse to primary coverage under this subsection will terminate automatically when:
  - a. the employee retires; or
  - b. the employee no longer meets the employer eligibility requirements.

You are required to notify us, without delay, of the retirement or reduction to a part-time schedule of any employee who has received primary coverage pursuant to this subsection or whose spouse has received primary coverage pursuant to this subsection.

6. The primary coverage described in this subsection will not be provided in the case of a group who is a member of a multi-employer group health plan where that group has fewer than 20 employees and the plan has elected treatment of that group's employees under the exception for Small Employers described at 42 U.S.C. §1395y(b)(1) (A)(iii).

**Note:** You must immediately report changes in the number of employees to fewer than 20 employees any time the number of employees goes below or above 20, including pertinent changes in multi-employer group health plans.

### **Individuals with End Stage Renal Disease**

Primary coverage is provided for your current and former employees and/or their dependents who are covered under this Policy and who are entitled to Medicare coverage because of end stage renal disease (ESRD), pursuant to the following terms:

1. You are required to provide us, without delay, information, including, but not limited to, the following:
  - a. the names of any individuals who are or will be undergoing a regular course of renal dialysis;
  - b. the names of any individuals who will receive or already have received a kidney transplant;
  - c. the beginning date of such dialysis or the date of such transplant;
  - d. the individual's date of birth, gender, and social security number;
  - e. health insurance claim number;
  - f. relationship of each covered individual to the employee (i.e., employee, employee's spouse, or employee's dependent child);
  - g. reason for Medicare entitlement;
  - h. Medicare Part A effective date;
  - i. employee's social security number;
  - j. employee's contract number;
  - k. current employment status;
  - l. coverage effective date;
  - m. coverage termination date;
  - n. group number;
  - o. benefits provided (i.e., hospital benefits only, medical benefits only, or all other); and,
  - p. type of coverage provided (i.e., self, family, etc.).
2. For an enrolled individual who is entitled to Medicare coverage because of ESRD, we will provide group health coverage, as set forth in the Booklet, on a primary basis for 30 months beginning with the earlier of:
  - a. the month in which the individual became entitled to Medicare Part A ESRD benefits; or



- b. the first month in which the individual would have been entitled to Medicare Part A ESRD benefits if a timely application had been made.

If Medicare was primary prior to the individual becoming eligible due to ESRD, then Medicare will remain primary (i.e., persons entitled due to disability whose employer has less than 100 employees, retirees and/or their spouses over the age of 65). If group health coverage was primary prior to ESRD entitlement, group health coverage will remain primary for the ESRD coordination period. For individuals eligible for Medicare due to ESRD, we will provide group health coverage, as set forth in the Booklet, on a primary basis for 30 months.

Under Medicare, you MAY NOT offer, subsidize, procure or provide a Medicare supplement policy to such individual or induce such individual to decline or terminate his or her group health coverage and elect Medicare as his or her primary payer.

### **Disabled Active Individuals**

HOI provides primary coverage to Covered Persons who are covered under this Policy if:

1. You are a part of a health plan that has covered employees of at least one employer of 100 or more full-time or part-time employees on 50% or more of its regular business days during the previous Calendar Year; and
2. The Covered Persons are entitled to Medicare coverage because of disability (unless they have ESRD).

Primary coverage, if any, under this subsection of this Policy is also subject to the following terms:

1. You are required to provide us, without delay, the names of any Covered Persons covered under this Policy, who are entitled to Medicare coverage because of disability (other than those with ESRD), and who have not elected Medicare as primary payer of their health insurance claims, along with any other identifying information requested.
2. For such Covered Person, we will provide group health coverage, as set forth in the Benefit Booklet, on a primary basis during any month in which that individual meets the description set out in paragraph 1 above.
3. Individual entitlement to primary coverage under this subsection will terminate automatically when:
  - a. the individual turns 65 years of age; or
  - b. the individual no longer qualifies for Medicare coverage because of disability; or
  - c. the individual elects Medicare as the primary payer; coverage will terminate as of the day of such election.

Under Medicare, you MAY NOT offer, subsidize, procure or provide a Medicare supplement policy to such individual or induce such individual to decline or terminate his or her group health coverage and elect Medicare as his or her primary payer.

You are required to notify HOI, without delay, of the occurrence of any of the above events.

Entitlement of the Covered Person to primary coverage under this subsection will terminate automatically if the Covered Employee no longer qualifies as such under applicable Medicare regulations and instructions. You are required to notify us, without delay, of any such change in status.

**Note:** You must immediately report to us changes in the number of employees to fewer than 100 employees any time the number of employees goes below or above 100.

## Miscellaneous

1. This section shall be subject to and modified if necessary, to conform to or comply with, and interpreted with reference to, the requirements of federal statutory and regulatory Medicare Secondary Payer provisions as those provisions relate to Medicare beneficiaries who are covered under this Policy.
2. We will not be liable to you or to any individual covered under this Policy due to any nonpayment of primary benefits resulting from any failure of performance of your obligations as set forth in this section.
3. If we should elect to make primary payments covering Services rendered to Covered Persons described in this section in a period prior to receipt of the information required by the terms of this section, we may require you to reimburse us for such payments. Alternatively, we may require you to pay the rate differential that resulted from your failure to provide us with the required information in a timely manner.
4. You shall indemnify and hold us harmless to the extent of any liability that we may be charged with on account of improper primary Medicare payments that were made as a result of any failure of performance of your obligations as set forth in this section.

**Note:** You are subject to the federal laws described in this section. Individuals with questions regarding their rights under those laws should direct their questions to you.

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## COBRA ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES PROVISIONS

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The following rules apply if the Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1985 (COBRA), as amended, applies to Groups who employed 20 or more employees in the preceding Calendar Year.

### Your Obligations

1. You are responsible for all aspects of the administration of COBRA with respect to the group health coverage provided by the Group Plan.
2. You specifically delegate to us the right to perform COBRA administration responsibilities as provided in the Our Obligations subsection set out below.
3. **You retain responsibility for the following COBRA administrative duties:**
  - a. You will provide a general notice of COBRA Continuation Coverage Rights or a similar notice you created to all new enrollees; and
  - b. You will be required to provide us with the notices of qualifying events.
4. By entering into the Policy, you agree to indemnify and hold us, including any directors, officers, employees, and agents harmless against any and all claims, lawsuits, settlement, judgments, costs, taxes, and expenses, including reasonable attorneys' fees directly resulting from or arising out of your failure to perform COBRA administration responsibilities not specifically delegated to us.
5. Upon receipt of notice from us that we are no longer the COBRA Administrator performing COBRA administration for the Group, you shall resume responsibility for all COBRA administration.

### Our Obligations

1. We, or the person or entity designated by us to be the COBRA Administrator pursuant to Paragraph two of the Your Obligations subsection, shall be responsible for the following functions:
  - a. Determining application of COBRA to the Group;
  - b. Receiving COBRA election forms from beneficiaries;
  - c. Maintaining records of COBRA continuation coverage Premiums;

- d. Billing and collecting Premiums from COBRA beneficiaries;
  - e. Providing notification of nonpayment of COBRA continuation coverage Premiums;
  - f. Providing notification of conversion rights, if any, on termination of COBRA coverage;
  - g. Remitting COBRA continuation coverage Premiums to the Group for policies other than the health coverage under this Policy;
  - h. Establishing and maintaining records of COBRA continuation coverage;
  - i. Providing necessary forms, materials, and manuals to the Group;
  - j. Establishing procedures to verify eligibility for COBRA coverage;
  - k. Developing all correspondence and notices to COBRA beneficiaries;
  - l. Retaining and maintaining confidentiality of records, as required by law, providing an adequate disaster recovery program, and allowing the Group reasonable access to the records;
  - m. On termination of its responsibilities as COBRA Administrator for the Group, furnishing to the Group or its agent upon request, all records reasonably necessary for continued administration of the Group's COBRA responsibilities.
2. On behalf of the Group, we may designate a COBRA Administrator to perform the COBRA administration responsibilities as specified in this subsection and may enter into a contract with the COBRA Administrator. We may designate ourselves as the COBRA Administrator.
  3. We are not the plan sponsor for purposes of COBRA and have no responsibility for the COBRA administration obligations not specified in this Policy.
  4. If you or the Covered Person fails to meet any obligations under the Group Plan and COBRA, we will not be liable for any claims of the Covered Person after his/her termination of coverage.

### **Obligations of the Covered Person**

1. A Covered Person must contact you to determine if he or she is entitled to COBRA continuation of coverage.
2. If COBRA applies to the Group, Covered Persons may elect to continue their group health coverage if they qualify under one of the circumstances specified in COBRA and satisfy all of the requirements for such coverage including payment of required Premiums.
3. The Covered Person must provide you with all required notices, in the form and within the time period required by COBRA, the Group, and the COBRA Administrator, including but not limited to, notice of:
  - a. Medicare entitlement, divorce or legal separation, or the failure of a dependent child to meet eligibility requirements of the Group Plan;
  - b. Coverage under another group health plan; and
  - c. With respect to the Covered Person's ability to receive additional periods of coverage under COBRA in the event that the Covered Person is disabled, a determination by the Social Security Administration that the Covered Person is disabled, or a determination by the Social Security Administration that the Covered Person has ceased to be disabled.

This section shall not be interpreted to grant to any Covered Person any continuation rights in excess of those required by COBRA. Additionally, this section shall be interpreted, so as to comply with COBRA and any changes to COBRA that are mandatory with respect to the Group.

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# BLUECARD® PROGRAM

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## Out-of-Area Services

### Overview

We have a variety of relationships with other Blue Cross and/or Blue Shield Licensees referred to generally as “Inter-Plan Arrangements.” These Inter-Plan Arrangements operate under rules and procedures issued by the Blue Cross Blue Shield Association (“Association”). Whenever Covered Persons access Health Care Services outside Florida, the claim for those Services may be processed through one of these Inter-Plan Arrangements. The Inter-Plan Arrangements are described generally below.

Typically, when accessing care outside Florida, Covered Persons obtain care from Providers that have a contractual agreement (“Participating Providers”) with the local Blue Cross and/or Blue Shield Licensee in that geographic area (“Host Blue”). In some instances, Covered Persons may obtain care from Providers in the Host Blue geographic area that do not have a contractual agreement (“Nonparticipating Providers”) with the Host Blue. We remain responsible for fulfilling our contractual obligations to you. Our payment practices in both instances are described below.

We cover only limited Services received outside of Florida. As used in this section “Out-of-Area Covered Services” only include Emergency Services for treatment of an Emergency Medical Condition obtained outside of Florida. Any other Services will not be covered even when processed through any Inter-Plan Arrangements.

### Inter-Plan Arrangements Eligibility – Claim Types

All claim types are eligible to be processed through Inter-Plan Arrangements, as described above, except for all dental care benefits except when paid as medical claims/benefits, and those prescription drug benefits or vision care benefits that may be administered by a third party contracted by us to provide the specific Service or Services.

### BlueCard Program

The BlueCard Program is an Inter-Plan Arrangement. Under this Arrangement, when Covered Persons access Out-of-Area Covered Services within the geographic area served by a Host Blue, the Host Blue will be responsible for contracting and handling all interactions with its Participating Providers.

The financial terms of the BlueCard Program are described generally below.

### Liability Calculation Method Per Claim

Unless subject to a fixed dollar Copayment, the calculation of the Covered Person’s liability on claims for Out-of-Area Covered Services processed through the BlueCard Program will be based on the lower of the Provider’s billed charges for Out-of-Area Covered Services or the negotiated price made available to us by the Host Blue.

Host Blues determine a negotiated price, which is reflected in the terms of each Host Blue’s Provider contracts. The negotiated price made available to us by the Host Blue may be represented by one of the following:

1. **An actual price.** An actual price is a negotiated rate of payment in effect at the time a claim is processed without any other increases or decreases; or
2. **An estimated price.** An estimated price is a negotiated rate of payment in effect at the time a claim is processed, reduced or increased by a percentage to take into account certain payments negotiated with the Provider and other claim- and non-claim-related transactions. Such transactions may

include, but are not limited to, anti-fraud and abuse recoveries, Provider refunds not applied on a claim-specific basis, retrospective settlements and performance-related bonuses or incentives; or

3. **An average price.** An average price is a percentage of billed charges for Out-of-Area Covered Services in effect at the time a claim is processed representing the aggregate payments negotiated by the Host Blue with all of its Providers or a similar classification of its Providers and other claim- and non-claim-related transactions. Such transactions may include the same ones as noted above for an estimated price.

The Host Blue determines whether or not it will use an actual price, an estimated price or an average price. The use of estimated or average pricing may result in a difference (positive or negative) between the price Covered Persons pay on a specific claim and the actual amount the Host Blue pays to the Provider. However, the BlueCard Program requires that the amount paid by the Covered Person is a final price; no future price adjustment will result in increases or decreases to the pricing of past claims.

In some instances federal or state laws or regulations may impose a surcharge, tax or other fee that applies to insured accounts. If applicable, we will include any such surcharge, tax or other fee as part of the claim charge passed on to the Covered Person.

### **Return of Overpayments**

Recoveries from a Host Blue or its Participating and Nonparticipating Providers can arise in several ways, including, but not limited to, anti-fraud and abuse recoveries, Provider/Hospital bill audits, credit balance audits, utilization review refunds and unsolicited refunds. Recoveries will be applied so that corrections will be made, in general, on a claim-by-claim or prospective basis. If recovery amounts are passed on a claim-by-claim basis from a Host Blue to us, they will be credited to your account. In some cases, the Host Blue will engage a third party to assist in identification or collection of recovery amounts. The fees of such a third party may be charged to you as a percentage of the recovery.

### **Nonparticipating Providers Outside Florida**

When Covered Services are provided outside of Florida by Nonparticipating Providers, our payment will be based on the Allowed Amount, as defined in the DEFINITIONS section of the Benefit Booklet.

### **Blue Cross Blue Shield Global® Core Program General Information**

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

### **Inpatient Services**

In most cases, if Covered Persons contact the Blue Cross Blue Shield Global Core Service Center for assistance, hospitals will not require Covered Persons to pay for covered inpatient Out-of-Area Covered Services, except for their Cost Share amounts. In such cases, the Blue Cross Blue Shield Global Core Program contracting hospital will submit Covered Person claims to the Blue Cross Blue Shield Global Core Service Center to initiate claims processing. However, if the Covered Person paid in full at the time of Service, the Covered Person must submit a claim to obtain reimbursement for Out-of-Area Covered Services.

### **Outpatient Services**

Physicians, Urgent Care Centers and other outpatient Providers located outside the BlueCard Service Area will typically require Covered Persons to pay in full at the time of Service. Covered Persons must submit a claim to obtain reimbursement for Covered Out-of-Area Services.

### **Submitting a Blue Cross Blue Shield Global Core Claim**

When Covered Persons pay for Covered Out-of-Area Services outside the BlueCard Service Area, they must submit a claim to obtain reimbursement. For institutional and professional claims, Covered Persons should complete a Blue Cross Blue Shield Global Core International claim form and send the claim form with the Provider's itemized bill(s) to the Blue Cross Blue Shield Global Core Service Center (the address is on the form) to initiate claims processing. The claim form is available from the Blue Cross Blue Shield Global Core Service Center or online at [www.bcbsglobalcore.com](http://www.bcbsglobalcore.com). If Covered Persons need assistance with their claim submissions, they should call the Blue Cross Blue Shield Global Core Service Center at 800-810-BLUE (2583) or call collect at 804-673-1177, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

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## **BENEFIT BOOKLET PROVISIONS**

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The remainder of this Policy consists of the Benefit Booklet and any attachments, amendments, or Endorsements issued by us under this Policy. These provisions are made a part of the Policy. Attachments, amendments and Endorsements, if any, changing the provisions of the Benefit Booklet are also made a part of this Policy.

# BlueCare

Benefit Booklet for Large Groups with Balanced Funding

**This Booklet Contains a Deductible Provision**

Florida Blue HMO is a trade name of Health Options, Inc., an HMO affiliate of Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Florida, Inc., D/B/A Florida Blue. These companies are Independent Licensees of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association.





# BlueCare

Benefit Booklet for Large Groups with Balanced Funding

For Customer Service Assistance: 1-800-352-2583

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## HOW TO USE YOUR BENEFIT BOOKLET

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This is your Benefit Booklet (“Booklet”). It describes your coverage, benefits, limitations and exclusions for the self-funded Group Health Plan (“Plan”) established and maintained by the Group. Your Plan is self-funded; this means that benefits for Covered Services under the Plan will be paid either directly from the Group’s general assets or a combination of its general assets and contributions made by Covered Plan Participants. The benefits provided under the Plan are not guaranteed or insured by an insurance company or by Florida Blue HMO.

The sponsor of your Group Health Plan has contracted with Florida Blue HMO, under an Administrative Services Agreement (“ASA”), to provide certain third party administrative services, including claims processing, customer service, and other services, and access to certain of its Provider networks. Florida Blue HMO provides certain administrative services only and does not assume any financial risk or obligation with respect to Health Care Services rendered to you or claims submitted for processing under this Booklet for such Services. The payment of claims under the Plan depends exclusively upon the funding provided by the Group.

You should read this Booklet carefully before you need Health Care Services. It contains valuable information about:

- your BlueCare benefits;
- what is covered;
- what is not covered;
- coverage and payment rules;
- how and when to file a claim and under what circumstances the Plan will pay;
- what you will have to pay as your share; and
- other important information including when benefits may change; how and when coverage stops; how to continue coverage if you are no longer eligible; how benefits will be coordinated with other policies or plans; the Group Health Plan’s subrogation rights; and right of reimbursement.

If your benefits under this Plan are subject to the Plan Participant Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA), you should also read the Group’s Summary Plan Description (SPD) for further important details concerning your rights and responsibilities under the Plan.

Refer to the Schedule of Benefits to determine how much you have to pay for particular Health Care Services.

### **When reading your Booklet, please remember:**

1. You should read this Booklet in its entirety in order to determine if a particular Health Care Service is covered. Sometimes it may be necessary to change the standard language in this Booklet. If changes are needed, we will create an Endorsement to this Booklet, which will either be inserted after the section that it modifies, or at the end of the Booklet. Be sure to always check for these additional documents before making benefit decisions.
2. The headings of sections contained in this Booklet are for reference purposes only and shall not affect in any way the meaning or interpretation of particular provisions.
3. References to “you” or “your” throughout refer to you as the Covered Plan Participant and to your Covered Dependents, unless expressly stated otherwise or unless, in the context in which the term is used, it is clearly intended otherwise. Any references, which refer solely to you as the Covered Plan Participant or solely to your Covered Dependents will be noted as such.
4. References to “we”, “us”, and “our” and “Florida Blue HMO” throughout refer to Health Options, Inc.

5. If a word or phrase starts with a capital letter, it is either the first word in a sentence, a proper name, a title, or a defined term. If the word or phrase has a special meaning, it will either be defined in the DEFINITIONS section or within the particular section where it is used.

**Where do I find information on...**

**...go to:**

What is **covered**?

The **WHAT IS COVERED?** section.

What is **not covered**?

The **WHAT IS NOT COVERED?** section, along with the **WHAT IS COVERED?** section.

How do I know what **Providers** I can use, and how the Providers I use will affect my **Cost Share** amount?

The **HEALTH CARE PROVIDER OPTIONS** section, along with the current **BlueCare Provider Directory**.

**How much do I pay** for Health Care Services?

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How do I access Services when I'm **out-of-state**?

The **BLUECARD® PROGRAM** section.

How do I **add or remove a Dependent**?

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What if I am covered under **BlueCare** and **another health plan**?

The **COORDINATION OF BENEFITS** section.

What happens when my **coverage ends**?

The **TERMINATION OF COVERAGE** section, along with the **CONTINUING COVERAGE** section.

What do the **terms used** throughout this Booklet **mean**?

The **DEFINITIONS** section.

Who do I call if I have **questions or complaints**?

Call our **customer service** department at 1-800-352-2583 (this phone number can also be found on your **ID Card**).

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# WHAT IS COVERED?

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## Introduction

This section describes the Health Care Services that are covered under this Booklet. All benefits for Covered Services are subject to: (1) your share of the cost and the benefit maximums listed on your Schedule of Benefits, (2) the applicable Allowed Amount, (3) any limitations and exclusions, as well as any other provisions contained in this Booklet including any Endorsements that are part of your Booklet, and (4) our Medical Necessity guidelines and Coverage Access Rules then in effect (see the MEDICAL NECESSITY and COVERAGE ACCESS RULES sections).

Remember that exclusions and limitations also apply to your coverage. Exclusions and limitations that are specific to a type of Service are included along with the benefit description in this section. Additional exclusions and limitations that may apply can be found in the WHAT IS NOT COVERED? section and in any Endorsements that are part of this Booklet. More than one limitation or exclusion may apply to a specific Service or a particular situation.

Expenses for the Health Care Services listed in this section will be covered under this Booklet only if the Services are:

1. Provided, prescribed or ordered by an **In-Network Provider**;
2. Authorized in advance by us, if prior coverage authorization is required (see the COVERAGE ACCESS RULES section);
3. within the Covered Services Categories in this section;
4. actually rendered to you (not just proposed or recommended) by an appropriately licensed health care Provider who is recognized for payment under this Booklet and for which we receive an itemized statement or description of the procedure or Service which was rendered, including any applicable procedure code, diagnosis code and other information we require in order to process a claim for the Service;
5. Medically Necessary, as defined in this Booklet and determined by us or the Group in accordance with our Medical Necessity coverage criteria then in effect;
6. provided in accordance with the COVERAGE ACCESS RULES section;
7. rendered while your coverage is in force; and
8. not specifically or generally limited or excluded under this Booklet.

We or the Group will determine whether Services are Covered Services under this Booklet after you have obtained them and we have received a claim for them. In some cases we or the Group may decide if Services are Covered Services under this Booklet before they are rendered to you. For example, we or the Group may determine if a transplant would be a Covered Service under this Booklet before you have the transplant.

Neither Florida Blue HMO nor the Group are obligated to determine if a Service that has not been provided to you will be covered unless we have designated that the Service must be authorized in advance in the COVERAGE ACCESS RULES section. Neither Florida Blue HMO nor the Group are obligated to cover or pay for any Service that has not actually been rendered to you.

In determining whether Health Care Services are Covered Services under this Booklet, no written or verbal representation by any employee or agent of Florida Blue HMO or the Group or by any other person shall waive or otherwise modify the terms of this Booklet and, therefore, neither you, the Group, nor any health care Provider or other person should rely on any such written or verbal representation.

## Covered Services Categories

### Allergy Testing and Treatments

Testing and desensitization therapy (e.g., injections) and the cost of hyposensitization serum may be covered. The Allowed Amount for allergy testing is based upon the type and number of tests performed by the Physician. The Allowed Amount for allergy immunotherapy treatment is based on the type and number of doses.

### Ambulance Services

#### Ground Ambulance

Ground Ambulance Services for Emergency Medical Conditions and limited to non-emergency ground transport may be covered only when:

1. For Emergency Medical Conditions – it is Medically Necessary to transport you from the place an Emergency Medical Condition occurs to the nearest Hospital that can provide the Medically Necessary level of care. If it is determined that the nearest Hospital is unable to provide the Medically Necessary level of care for the Emergency Medical Condition, then coverage for Ambulance Services shall extend to the next nearest Hospital that can provide Medically Necessary care; or
2. For limited non-emergency ground Ambulance transport – it is Medically Necessary to transport you by ground:
  - a. from an Out-of-Network Hospital to the nearest In-Network Hospital that can provide care;
  - b. to the nearest In-Network or Out-of-Network Hospital for a Condition that requires a higher level of care that was not available at the original Hospital;
  - c. to the nearest more cost-effective acute care facility as determined solely by us; or
  - d. from an acute facility to the nearest cost-effective sub-acute setting.

**Note:** Non-emergency Ambulance transportation meets the definition of Medical Necessity only when the patient's Condition requires treatment at another facility and when another mode of transportation, whether by Ambulance or otherwise (regardless of whether covered by us or not) would endanger the patient's medical Condition. If another mode of transportation could be used safely and effectively, regardless of time, or mode (e.g. air, ground, water) then Ambulance transportation is not Medically Necessary.

#### Air and Water Ambulance

Air and water Ambulance coverage is specifically limited to transport due to an Emergency Medical Condition when the patient's destination is an acute care Hospital, and:

1. the pick-up point is not accessible by ground Ambulance, or
2. speed in excess of the ground vehicle is critical for your health or safety.

Air and water Ambulance transport for non-emergency transport is excluded unless it is specifically approved by us in advance of the transport.

### **Exclusion**

Ground, air and water Ambulance Services for situations that are not Medically Necessary because they do not require Ambulance transportation including but not limited to:

1. Ambulance Services for a patient who is legally pronounced dead before the Ambulance is summoned.
2. Aid rendered by an Ambulance crew without transport. Examples include, but are not limited to situations when an Ambulance is dispatched and:
  - a. the crew renders aid until a helicopter can be sent;

- b. the patient refuses care or transport; or
  - c. only basic first aid is rendered.
3. Non-emergency transport to or from a patient's home or a residential, domiciliary or custodial facility.
  4. Transfers by medical vans or commercial transportation (such as Physician owned limousines, public transportation, cab, etc.).
  5. Ambulance transport for patient convenience or patient and/or family preference. Examples include but are not limited to:
    - a. patient wants to be at a certain Hospital or facility for personal/preference reasons;
    - b. patient is in a foreign country, or out-of-state, and wants to return home for a surgical procedure or treatment (or for continued treatment), or after being discharged from inpatient care; or
    - c. patient is going for a routine Service and is medically able to use another mode of transportation but can't pay for, find and/or prefers not to use such transportation.
  6. Air and water Ambulance Services in the absence of an Emergency Medical Condition, unless such Services are authorized by us in advance.

### **Ambulatory Surgical Center**

Health Care Services provided at an Ambulatory Surgical Center may be covered and include:

1. use of operating and recovery rooms;
2. respiratory therapy such as oxygen;
3. drugs and medicines administered at the Ambulatory Surgical Center (except for take home drugs);
4. intravenous solutions;
5. dressings, including ordinary casts;
6. anesthetics and their administration;
7. administration and cost of whole blood or blood products (except as outlined in the Drugs exclusion of the WHAT IS NOT COVERED? section);
8. transfusion supplies and equipment;
9. diagnostic Services, including radiology, ultrasound, laboratory, pathology and approved machine testing, such as EKG;
10. chemotherapy treatment for proven malignant disease; and
11. other Medically Necessary Services.

### **Anesthesia Administration Services**

Administration of anesthesia by a Physician or Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist ("CRNA") may be covered. In those instances where the CRNA is actively directed by a Physician other than the Physician who performed the surgical procedure, our payment for Covered Services will include both the CRNA and the Physician's Services charges.

### **Exclusion**

Coverage does not include anesthesia Services by an operating Physician, his or her partner or associate.

### **Autism Spectrum Disorder**

Autism Spectrum Disorder Services provided to a Covered Dependent who is under the age of 18, or if 18 years of age or older, is attending high school and was diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder prior to



his or her 9th birthday consisting of:

1. well-baby and well-child screening for the presence of Autism Spectrum Disorder;
2. Applied Behavior Analysis, when rendered by an individual certified per Section 393.17 of the Florida Statutes; and
3. Physical Therapy by a Physical Therapist, Occupational Therapy by an Occupational Therapist, and Speech Therapy by a Speech Therapist. Covered therapies provided in the treatment of Autism Spectrum Disorder are covered even though they may be habilitative in nature (provided to teach a function) and are not necessarily limited to restoration of a function or skill that has been lost.

#### Coverage Access Rules for Autism Spectrum Disorder

Applied Behavior Analysis Services for Autism Spectrum Disorder must be authorized in accordance with criteria established by us, before such Services are rendered. Services performed without authorization will be denied. Authorization for coverage is not required for Emergency Services provided for the treatment of an Emergency Medical Condition.

**Note:** In order to determine whether such Services are covered under this Booklet, we reserve the right to request a formal written treatment plan signed by the treating Physician to include the diagnosis, the proposed treatment type, the frequency and duration of treatment, the anticipated outcomes stated as goals, and the frequency with which the treatment plan will be updated, but no less than every 6 months.

#### **Behavioral Health Services**

##### Mental Health Services

Diagnostic evaluation, psychiatric treatment, individual therapy, and group therapy rendered to you by a Physician, Psychologist or Mental Health Professional for the treatment of a Mental and Nervous Disorder may be covered. Covered Services may include:

1. Physician office visits;
2. Intensive Outpatient Treatment (rendered in a facility), as defined in this Booklet; and
3. Partial Hospitalization, as defined in this Booklet, when provided under the direction of a Physician; and
4. Residential Treatment Services, as defined in this Booklet.

#### **Exclusion**

1. Services rendered for a Condition that is not a Mental and Nervous Disorder as defined in this Booklet, regardless of the underlying cause, or effect, of the disorder;
2. Services for psychological testing associated with the evaluation and diagnosis of learning disabilities or intellectual disability;
3. Services beyond the period necessary for evaluation and diagnosis of learning disabilities or intellectual disability;
4. Services for educational purposes;
5. Services for marriage counseling unless related to a Mental and Nervous Disorder as defined in this Booklet, regardless of the underlying cause, or effect, of the disorder;
6. Services for pre-marital counseling;
7. Services for court-ordered care or testing, or required as a condition of parole or probation;
8. Services to test aptitude, ability, intelligence or interest;
9. Services required to maintain employment;
10. Services for cognitive remediation; and
11. inpatient stays that are primarily intended as a change of environment.

## Substance Dependency Treatment Services

When there is a sudden drop in consumption after prolonged heavy use of a substance a person may experience withdrawal, often causing both physiologic and cognitive symptoms. The symptoms of withdrawal vary greatly, ranging from minimal changes to potentially life threatening states. Detoxification Services can be rendered in different types of locations, depending on the severity of the withdrawal symptoms.

Care and treatment for Substance Dependency includes the following:

1. Inpatient and outpatient Health Care Services rendered by a Physician, Psychologist or Mental Health Professional in a program accredited by The Joint Commission or approved by the state of Florida for Detoxification or Substance Dependency.
2. Physician, Psychologist and Mental Health Professional outpatient visits for the care and treatment of Substance Dependency.

We may provide you with information on resources available to you for non-medical ancillary services like vocational rehabilitation or employment counseling, when we are able to. The Plan does not pay for any services that are provided to you by any of these resources; they are to be provided solely at your expense.

### **Exclusion**

Long term Services for alcoholism or drug addiction, including specialized inpatient units or inpatient stays that are primarily intended as a change of environment.

### **Breast Reconstructive Surgery**

Breast Reconstructive Surgery and implanted prostheses incident to Mastectomy are Covered Services. Surgery must be provided in a manner chosen by you and your Physician when consistent with prevailing medical standards.

### **Casts, Splints and Trusses**

Casts, splints and trusses are covered when part of treatment in a facility, office or in a Hospital emergency room. This does not include the replacement of dental splints or trusses.

### **Child Cleft Lip and Cleft Palate Treatment**

Health Care Services which are prescribed by your Physician including medical, dental, Speech Therapy, audiology, and nutrition Services for treatment of a child under the age of 18 who has cleft lip or cleft palate are covered. In order to be covered, Services must be prescribed by a Provider who must certify in writing that the Services are Medically Necessary.

### **Clinical Trials**

Clinical trials are research studies in which Physicians and other researchers work to find ways to improve care. Each study tries to answer scientific questions and to find better ways to prevent, diagnose, or treat patients. Each trial has a protocol which explains the purpose of the trial, how the trial will be performed, who may participate in the trial, and the beginning and end points of the trial.

If you are eligible to participate in an Approved Clinical Trial, routine patient care for Services furnished in connection with your participation in the Approved Clinical Trial may be covered when:

1. An In-Network Provider has indicated such trial is appropriate for you, or
2. you provide us with medical and scientific information establishing that your participation in such trial is appropriate.

Routine patient care includes all Medically Necessary Services that would otherwise be covered under this Booklet, such as doctor visits, lab tests, x-rays and scans and Hospital stays related to treatment of your Condition and is subject to the applicable Cost Share(s) on the Schedule of Benefits.

Even though benefits may be available under this Booklet for routine patient care related to an Approved

Clinical Trial you may not be eligible for inclusion in these trials or there may not be any trials available to treat your Condition at the time you want to be included in a clinical trial.

### **Exclusion**

1. Costs that are generally covered by the clinical trial, including, but not limited to:
  - a. Research costs related to conducting the clinical trial such as research Physician and nurse time, analysis of results, and clinical tests performed only for research purposes.
  - b. The investigational item, device or Service itself.
  - c. Services inconsistent with widely accepted and established standards of care for a particular diagnosis.
2. Services related to an Approved Clinical Trial received outside of the United States.

### **Dental Services**

Dental Services are limited to the following:

1. Care and stabilization treatment rendered within 62 days of an Accidental Dental Injury provided such Services are for the treatment of damage to Sound Natural Teeth.
2. Extraction of teeth required prior to radiation therapy when you have a diagnosis of cancer of the head and/or neck.
3. Anesthesia Services for dental care including general anesthesia and hospitalization Services necessary to assure the safe delivery of necessary dental care provided to you in a Hospital or Ambulatory Surgical Center if:
  - a. a Covered Dependent is under eight years of age and it is determined by a dentist and the Covered Dependent's Physician that:
    - 1) dental treatment is necessary due to a dental Condition that is significantly complex; or
    - 2) the Covered Dependent has a developmental disability in which patient management in the dental office has proven to be ineffective; or
  - b. you or your Covered Dependent has one or more medical Conditions that would create significant or undue medical risk for you in the course of delivery of any necessary dental treatment or surgery if not rendered in a Hospital or Ambulatory Surgical Center.

### **Exclusion**

1. Dental Services provided more than 62 days after the date of an Accidental Dental Injury regardless of whether or not such Services could have been rendered within 62 days.
2. Except as described above and in the Child Cleft Lip and Cleft Palate Treatment category, any care or treatment of the teeth or their supporting structures or gums, or dental procedures, including but not limited to: extraction of teeth, restoration of teeth with fillings, crowns or other materials, bridges, cleaning of teeth, dentures, dental implants, periodontal or endodontic procedures, orthodontic treatment, intraoral prosthetic devices, palatal expansion devices, bruxism appliances, and dental x-rays.

### **Diabetes Treatment Services**

Services related to the treatment and management of diabetes may be covered when the treating Physician or a Physician who specializes in the treatment of diabetes certifies that such Services are Medically Necessary and include the following:

1. outpatient self-management training and educational Services when provided under the direct supervision of a certified Diabetes Educator or a board-certified Physician specializing in endocrinology;
2. nutrition counseling provided by a licensed dietitian;

3. equipment and supplies, such as insulin pump and tubing to treat diabetes; and

**Note:** Blood glucose meters, lancets and test strips are covered under your pharmacy benefit (see the PRESCRIPTION DRUG PROGRAM section).

4. trimming of toenails, corns, calluses, and therapeutic shoes (including inserts and/or modifications) for the treatment of severe diabetic foot disease.

### **Diagnostic Services**

Diagnostic Services are covered and include the following:

1. radiology and ultrasound;
2. advanced imaging Services such as nuclear medicine, CT/CAT Scans, MRAs, MRIs and PET Scans;
3. laboratory and pathology Services;
4. Services involving bones or joints of the jaw, such as Services to treat temporomandibular joint (TMJ) dysfunction, or facial region if, under accepted medical standards, such diagnostic Services are necessary to treat Conditions caused by congenital or developmental deformity, disease, or injury;
5. approved machine testing such as electrocardiogram (EKG), electroencephalograph (EEG), and other electronic diagnostic medical procedures; and
6. genetic testing for the purpose of explaining current signs and symptoms of a possible hereditary disease and/or for other purposes in accordance with our Medical Necessity criteria then in effect.

### **Exclusion**

Oversight of a medical laboratory by a Physician or other health care Provider, as described in the WHAT IS NOT COVERED? section.

### **Dialysis Services**

Coverage includes equipment, training, and medical supplies, when provided at any location by a Provider licensed to perform dialysis, including a Dialysis Center.

### **Down Syndrome**

Down syndrome Services provided to a Covered Dependent who is under the age of 18, or if 18 years of age or older is attending high school, consisting of:

1. Applied Behavior Analysis, when rendered by an individual certified per Section 393.17 or licensed per Florida Statutes, Chapters 490 or 491; and
2. Physical Therapy by a Physical Therapist, Occupational Therapy by an Occupational Therapist, and Speech Therapy by a Speech Therapist. Covered therapies provided in the treatment of Down syndrome are covered even though they may be habilitative in nature (provided to teach a function) and are not necessarily limited to restoration of a function or skill that has been lost.

### **Coverage Access Rules for Down Syndrome**

Applied Behavior Analysis Services for Down syndrome must be authorized in accordance with criteria established by us, before such Services are rendered. Services performed without authorization will be denied. Authorization for coverage is not required for Emergency Services provided for the treatment of an Emergency Medical Condition.

**Note:** In order to determine whether such Services are covered under this Booklet, we reserve the right to request a formal written treatment plan signed by the treating Physician to include the diagnosis, the proposed treatment type, the frequency and duration of treatment, the anticipated outcomes stated as goals, and the frequency with which the treatment plan will be updated, but no less than every 6 months.

### **Durable Medical Equipment**

Durable Medical Equipment may be covered when provided by a Durable Medical Equipment Provider and when prescribed by a Physician and is limited to the most cost effective equipment as determined by

us. Replacement of Durable Medical Equipment due to growth of a child or significant change in functional status and repair of equipment you own or are buying are also Covered Services.

Examples of Durable Medical Equipment include: wheelchairs, crutches, canes, walkers, hospital beds, and oxygen equipment.

#### Payment Rules for Durable Medical Equipment

Benefits for Durable Medical Equipment will be based on the lowest of the following:

1. the purchase price;
2. the lease/purchase price;
3. the rental rate; or
4. our Allowed Amount. Our Allowed Amount for rental equipment will not exceed the total purchase price.

**Note:** Remember that your Cost Share is applied as claims are received and paid. This is important because if you are leasing to purchase Durable Medical Equipment, your Cost Share will apply throughout the lease period and continue until the equipment has been completely paid for in full.

For example, you may lease to purchase a piece of equipment in the last month of your Benefit Period after you have met your Deductible for that Benefit Period, but if the lease continues into the next Benefit Period, or if the purchase is made in the next Benefit Period, the Plan will not make any more payments until you have met your Deductible again.

#### **Exclusion**

Durable Medical Equipment which is primarily for convenience and/or comfort; modifications to motor vehicles and/or homes, including but not limited to, wheelchair lifts or ramps; water therapy devices such as Jacuzzis, hot tubs, swimming pools or whirlpools; exercise and massage equipment, electric scooters, hearing aids, air conditioners, humidifiers, water softeners and/or purifiers, pillows, mattresses or waterbeds, escalators, elevators, stair glides, emergency alert equipment, handrails and grab bars, heat appliances, dehumidifiers, and the replacement of Durable Medical Equipment just because it is old or used.

#### **Emergency Services and Urgent Care Services**

##### Emergency Services

Emergency Services in or out of the Service Area for treatment of an Emergency Medical Condition are covered without the need for any prior authorization from us.

You must notify us as soon as possible, concerning the receipt of Emergency Services and/or any admission which results from an Emergency Medical Condition.

##### Special Payment Rules for Non-Grandfathered Plans

The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA) requires that non-grandfathered health plans apply a specific method for determining the allowed amount for Emergency Services rendered for an Emergency Medical Condition by Providers who do not have a contract with us.

Payment for Emergency Services rendered by an Out-of-Network Provider that has not entered into an agreement with us to provide access to a discount from the billed amount of that Provider will be the greater of:

1. the amount equal to the median amount negotiated with all Florida Blue HMO In-Network Providers for the same Services;
2. the Allowed Amount as defined in this Booklet;
3. the usual and customary Provider charges for similar Services in the community where the Services were provided; or

4. what Medicare would have paid for the Services rendered.

In no event will Out-of-Network Providers be paid more than their charges for the Services rendered. If your plan is a grandfathered health plan under PPACA, these payment guidelines do not apply to your plan. If you are not sure whether or not your health plan is grandfathered, please contact the Group. If your plan is not grandfathered, payment will be based on the Allowed Amount as defined in the DEFINITIONS section.

**Exclusion**

Follow-up care must be rendered by an In-Network PCP or In-Network Specialist. If you are told you need follow-up care after your emergency room visit, be sure to contact your PCP or an In-Network Specialist first. Any follow-up care you receive that is provided by a Provider other than your PCP or an In-Network Specialist may not be covered.

Urgent Care Services

For non-critical but urgent care needs, you can reduce your out-of-pocket expenses and, in many cases, your wait time for care by using an Urgent Care Center. All urgent care centers maintain extended weekday and weekend hours. Urgent Care Centers treat non-emergency conditions such as:

- Animal bites
- Cuts, scrapes and minor wounds
- Minor burns
- Minor eye irritations or infections
- Rash, poison ivy
- Sprains, strains, dislocations and minor fractures

**Enteral Formulas**

Prescription and non-prescription enteral formulas for home use may be covered when prescribed by a Physician as necessary to treat inherited diseases of amino acid, organic acid, carbohydrate or fat metabolism as well as malabsorption originating from congenital defects present at birth or acquired during the neonatal period.

Coverage to treat inherited diseases of amino acid and organic acids shall include food products modified to be low protein, up to your 25th birthday.

**Eye Care**

Coverage includes the following Services:

1. Physician Services, soft lenses or sclera shells, for the treatment of aphakic patients;
2. initial glasses or contact lenses following cataract surgery; and
3. Physician Services to treat an injury to or disease of the eyes.

**Exclusion**

1. Health Care Services to diagnose or treat vision problems that are not a direct consequence of trauma or prior eye surgery;
2. vision examinations;
3. eye exercises or visual training;
4. eye glasses and contact lenses and their fitting; and
5. any surgical procedure performed primarily to correct or improve myopia or other refractive disorders, such as LASIK.

**Family Planning**

Family planning Services are covered and include:

1. family planning counseling and Services, including counseling and information on birth control; sex education, including prevention of venereal disease; and fitting of diaphragms;

2. contraceptive medication by injection provided and administered by a Physician;
3. intra-uterine devices indicated as covered in the Preventive Services Guide located on our website at [www.floridablue.com/healthresources](http://www.floridablue.com/healthresources), coverage includes insertion and removal; and
4. surgical sterilization (tubal ligations and vasectomies).

**Note:** Some family planning Services are covered under the Preventive Health Services category, please refer to that category for more information.

### **Exclusion**

Contraceptive medications, devices and appliances, other than as noted above and reversal of surgical sterilization procedures are not covered. Elective abortions are also excluded.

### **Home Health Care**

Home Health Care Services are covered when all the following criteria are met:

1. you are unable to leave your home without considerable effort and assistance because you are bedridden or chairbound or because you are restricted in ambulation, whether or not you use assistive devices; or you are significantly limited in physical activities due to a Condition;
2. the Home Health Care Services rendered have been prescribed by a Physician by way of a formal written treatment plan to us and we approve the treatment plan;
3. the treatment plan has been reviewed and renewed by the prescribing Physician at least every 30 days until benefits are exhausted. (We reserve the right to request a copy of any written treatment plan in order to determine whether such Services are covered under this Booklet);
4. the Home Health Care Services are provided by or through a Home Health Agency within the Service Area; and
5. you are meeting or achieving the desired treatment goals set forth in the treatment plan as documented in the clinical progress notes.

Home Health Care Services are limited to:

1. part-time or intermittent nursing care, by a Registered Nurse or Licensed Practical Nurse and/or home health aide Services; (part-time is defined as less than eight hours per day and less than 40 hours a week and an intermittent visit will not exceed two hours per day);
2. home health aide Services must be consistent with the plan of treatment, ordered by a Physician, and provided under the supervision of a Registered Nurse;
3. medical social Services;
4. nutritional guidance;
5. respiratory or inhalation therapy, such as oxygen; and
6. Physical Therapy, by a Physical Therapist, Occupational Therapy, by an Occupational Therapist, and Speech Therapy, by a Speech Therapist.

### **Exclusion**

1. homemaker or domestic maid services;
2. sitter or companion services;
3. Services rendered by an employee or operator of an adult congregate living facility; an adult foster home; an adult day care center, or a nursing home facility;
4. Speech Therapy provided for diagnosis of developmental delay;
5. Custodial Care;
6. Food, housing and home-delivered meals; and

7. Services rendered in a Hospital, nursing home, or intermediate care facility.

### **Hospice Services**

Health Care Services provided in connection with a Hospice treatment program may be Covered Services, provided the Hospice treatment program is:

1. approved by your Physician; and
2. certified to us in writing by your Physician that your life expectancy is 12 months or less.

Recertification is required every six months.

### **Hospital Services**

Covered Hospital Services include:

1. room and board in a semi-private room when confined as an inpatient, unless the patient must be isolated from others for documented clinical reasons;
2. intensive care units, including cardiac, progressive and neonatal care;
3. use of operating and recovery rooms;
4. use of emergency rooms;
5. respiratory, pulmonary or inhalation therapy, such as oxygen;
6. drugs and medicines administered by the Hospital (except for take-home drugs);
7. intravenous solutions;
8. administration and cost of whole blood or blood products (except as outlined in the Drugs exclusion of the WHAT IS NOT COVERED? section);
9. dressings, including ordinary casts;
10. anesthetics and their administration;
11. transfusion supplies and equipment;
12. diagnostic Services, including radiology, ultrasound, laboratory, pathology and approved machine testing, such as EKG;
13. chemotherapy and radiation treatment for proven malignant disease;
14. Physical, Speech, Occupational and Cardiac Therapies;
15. other Medically Necessary Services; and
16. transplants as set forth in the Transplants Services category.

### **Exclusion**

1. Expenses for the following Hospital Services are excluded when such Services could have been provided without admitting you to the Hospital:
  - a. room and board provided during the admission;
  - b. Physician visits provided while you were an inpatient;
  - c. Occupational, Speech, Physical, and Cardiac Therapies; and
  - d. other Services provided while you were an inpatient.
2. gowns and slippers;
3. shampoo, toothpaste, body lotions and hygiene packets;
4. take-home drugs;
5. telephone and television;



6. guest meals or gourmet menus; and
7. admission kits.

### **Infertility Treatment**

Infertility Services for a Covered Person who meets the criteria established by us, including office visits, diagnosis, and diagnostic procedures to determine the cause of infertility, laboratory work and treatment of infertility limited to testing, Artificial Insemination, and surgical procedures to correct Conditions causing infertility.

### **Exclusion**

Prescription Drugs, In Vitro Fertilization (IVF); Gamete Intrafallopian Transfer (GIFT); Zygote Intrafallopian Transfer (ZIFT) and any Services associated with these procedures, or any Services associated with the donation or purchase of sperm.

### **Inpatient Rehabilitation**

Inpatient Rehabilitation Services may be covered when all of the following criteria are met:

1. Services must be provided under the direction of a Physician and must be provided by a Medicare certified facility in accordance with a comprehensive rehabilitation program;
2. a plan of care must be developed and managed by a coordinated multi-disciplinary team;
3. coverage is subject to our Medical Necessity coverage criteria then in effect;
4. you must be able to actively participate in at least two Rehabilitative Therapies and be able to tolerate at least three hours per day of skilled Rehabilitation Services for at least five days a week and your Condition must be likely to result in significant improvement; and
5. the Rehabilitation Services must be required at such intensity, frequency and duration that further progress cannot be achieved in a less intensive setting.

If your plan includes a maximum number of days, it will be listed on your Schedule of Benefits.

### **Exclusion**

All inpatient Rehabilitation Services for Substance Dependency, drug and alcohol related diagnoses (except as otherwise covered in the Behavioral Health category), Pain Management, and respiratory ventilator management Services are excluded.

### **Mammograms**

Mammograms obtained in a medical office, medical treatment facility or through a health testing service that uses radiological equipment registered with the appropriate Florida regulatory agencies for diagnostic purposes or breast cancer screening are Covered Services.

### **Mastectomy Services**

Breast cancer treatment, including treatment for physical complications relating to a Mastectomy (including lymphedemas) and outpatient post-surgical follow-up care for Mastectomy Services are covered when rendered by a Provider in accordance with prevailing medical standards and at the most medically appropriate setting. The setting may be the Hospital, Physician's office, outpatient center, or your home as determined by you and your Physician.

### **Maternity Services**

Health Care Services provided to you by a Doctor of Medicine (M.D.), Doctor of Osteopathy (D.O.), Hospital, Birth Center, Midwife or Certified Nurse Midwife are Covered Services and include:

Physician or Midwife Services provided to you for normal pregnancy, delivery, miscarriage or pregnancy complications. If your plan includes a Copayment for office Services, you will usually only have one Copayment, due on the first visit, for all prenatal care, the delivery and your follow-up visits to your obstetrician or Midwife, usually within about six weeks after the birth of the baby. This Copayment applies

only to Services relating to the pregnancy; any visits you have due to illness not related to the pregnancy may require a separate per-visit Copayment.

Hospital or Birth Center Services for labor and delivery of the baby including a physical assessment of the mother and any necessary clinical tests in keeping with prevailing medical standards, newborn assessment, room and board and nursery. Your Cost Share for these Services is listed on your Schedule of Benefits under inpatient Hospital or Birth Center, depending on where Services are rendered. You may also choose to deliver your baby at home, in which case, the Hospital or Birth Center Cost Share would not apply.

### **Exclusion**

Maternity Services rendered outside the Service Area are not covered except in urgent situations when you did not and could not reasonably expect the need for Services before you left the Service Area.

**Note:** Under federal law, your Group Plan 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 cesarean section. However, federal law generally does not prohibit the mother's or newborn's attending Provider, after consulting with the mother, from discharging the mother or her newborn earlier than 48 hours (or 96 as applicable). In any case, under federal law, your Group Plan can only require that a provider obtain authorization for prescribing an inpatient Hospital stay that exceeds 48 hours (or 96 hours).

### **Medical Pharmacy**

Physician-administered Prescription Drugs which are rendered in a Physician's office may be subject to a separate Cost Share amount that is in addition to the office visit Cost Share amount. The Medical Pharmacy Cost Share amount applies to each Prescription Drug and does not include the administration of the Prescription Drug.

Your plan may also include a maximum monthly amount you will be required to pay out-of-pocket for Medical Pharmacy. If your plan includes a Medical Pharmacy out-of-pocket maximum, it will be listed on your Schedule of Benefits and only applies after you have met your Deductible, if applicable.

Under the Medical Pharmacy program, we may exclude certain Prescription Drugs unless you have first tried designated Drug(s) identified in the Medication Guide in the order indicated; we call this the Responsible Steps program. In order for there to be coverage for such Prescription Drugs administered by your Physician, we must receive written documentation from your Physician that the designated Drugs in the Medication Guide are not appropriate for you because of a documented allergy, ineffectiveness or side effects.

Prior to administering a Prescription Drug, your Physician must contact us to request coverage for a Prescription Drug subject to the Responsible Steps program by following the procedures for prior coverage authorization outlined in the Medication Guide.

Please refer to your Schedule of Benefits for the additional Cost Share amount and/or monthly maximum out-of-pocket applicable to Medical Pharmacy for your plan.

**Note:** For purposes of this benefit, allergy injections and immunizations are not included in the Medical Pharmacy benefit category.

### **Newborn Care**

A newborn child who is properly enrolled will be covered from the moment of birth for injury or illness, including the necessary care or treatment of medically diagnosed congenital defects, birth abnormalities, and premature birth.

### **Newborn Assessment**

An assessment of the newborn child is covered when the Services are rendered at a Hospital, attending Physician's office, Birth Center, or in the home by a Physician, Midwife or Certified Nurse Midwife and includes physical assessment of the newborn child and the performance of any Medically Necessary

clinical tests and immunizations in keeping with prevailing medical standards.

### Newborn Ambulance Services

Ambulance Services are covered when necessary to transport the newborn child to and from the nearest appropriate facility which is appropriately staffed and equipped to treat the newborn child's Condition, as determined by us and certified by the attending Physician as Medically Necessary to protect the health and safety of the newborn child.

Note: Under federal law, your Group Plan 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 cesarean section. However, federal law generally does not prohibit the mother's or newborn's attending Provider, after consulting with the mother, from discharging the mother or her newborn earlier than 48 hours (or 96 as applicable). In any case, under federal law, your Group Plan can only require that a provider obtain authorization for prescribing an inpatient Hospital stay that exceeds 48 hours (or 96 hours).

### Orthotic Devices

Orthotic Devices including braces and trusses for the leg, arm, neck and back, and special surgical corsets are covered when prescribed by a Physician and designed and fitted by an Orthotist.

Benefits may be provided for necessary replacement of an Orthotic Device you own when due to irreparable damage, wear, a change in your Condition, or when necessitated due to growth of a child.

Payment for splints for the treatment of temporomandibular joint (TMJ) dysfunction is limited to one splint in a six-month period unless a more frequent replacement is determined by us to be Medically Necessary. Coverage for Orthotic Devices is based on the most cost-effective Orthotic Device which meets your medical needs as determined by us.

### **Exclusion**

1. Expenses for arch supports, shoe inserts designed to effect conformational changes in the foot or foot alignment, orthopedic shoes, over-the-counter, custom-made or built-up shoes, cast shoes, sneakers, ready-made compression hose or support hose, or similar type devices/appliances regardless of intended use, except for therapeutic shoes (including inserts and/or modifications) for the treatment of severe diabetic foot disease.
2. Expenses for orthotic appliances or devices, which straighten or re-shape the conformation of the head or bones of the skull or cranium through cranial banding or molding, such as dynamic orthotic cranioplasty or molding helmets; except when the orthotic appliance or device is used as an alternative to an internal fixation device as a result of surgery for craniosynostosis.
3. Expenses for devices necessary to exercise, train or participate in sports, e.g. custom-made knee braces.

### Osteoporosis Services

Screening, diagnosis and treatment of osteoporosis are covered for high-risk individuals, including, but not limited to individuals who:

1. are estrogen-deficient and at clinical risk for osteoporosis;
2. have vertebral abnormalities;
3. are receiving long-term glucocorticoid (steroid) therapy;
4. have primary hyperparathyroidism; or
5. have a family history of osteoporosis.

### Outpatient Therapies and Spinal Manipulation Services

1. The outpatient therapies listed below may be Covered Services when ordered by a Physician or other health care professional licensed to perform such Services. These are the only outpatient therapies

covered under this Booklet. Some therapies may also be covered in other health care settings; see the Home Health Care, Hospital, Inpatient Rehabilitation and Skilled Nursing Facility categories in this section.

Your Schedule of Benefits sets forth the maximum number of visits that will be covered for any combination of the outpatient therapies and spinal manipulation Services listed in this category. For example, even if you have only received two of your spinal manipulations for the Benefit Period, any additional spinal manipulations for that Benefit Period will not be covered if you have already met the combined therapy visit maximum with other Services.

- a. **Cardiac Therapy** Services provided under the supervision of a Physician, or an appropriate Provider trained for Cardiac Therapy, for the purpose of aiding in the restoration of normal heart function in connection with a myocardial infarction, coronary occlusion or coronary bypass surgery.
- b. **Occupational Therapy** Services provided by a Physician or Occupational Therapist for the purpose of aiding in the restoration of a previously impaired function lost due to a Condition.
- c. **Speech Therapy** Services rendered by a Physician, Speech Therapist, or licensed audiologist to aid in the restoration of speech loss or an impairment of speech resulting from a Condition.
- d. **Physical Therapy** Services provided by a Physician or Physical Therapist for the purpose of aiding in the restoration of normal physical function lost due to a Condition.
- e. **Massage Therapy** Services provided by a Physician, Massage Therapist, or Physical Therapist are covered when the Massage Therapy is prescribed as being Medically Necessary for the treatment of an acute illness or injury by a Physician licensed per Florida Statutes Chapter 458 (Medical Practice), Chapter 459 (Osteopathy), Chapter 460 (Chiropractic) or Chapter 461 (Podiatry).

#### **Exclusion**

Application or use of the following or similar techniques or items for the purpose of aiding in the provision of Massage including, but not limited to: hot or cold packs; hydrotherapy; colonic irrigation; thermal therapy; chemical or herbal preparations; paraffin baths; infrared light; ultraviolet light; Hubbard tank; contrast baths are not covered.

#### Coverage Access Rules for Massage and Physical Therapy

- 1) Coverage for Massage Therapy Services is limited to no more than four 15-minute Massage treatments per day, not to exceed the Outpatient Therapies and Spinal Manipulations benefit maximum listed in your Schedule of Benefits.
  - 2) Coverage for a combination of Massage and Physical Therapy Services rendered on the same day is limited to no more than four 15-minute treatments per day for combined Massage and Physical Therapy treatment, not to exceed the Outpatient Therapies and Spinal Manipulations benefit maximum listed on your Schedule of Benefits.
  - 3) Coverage for Physical Therapy Services rendered on the same day as spinal manipulation is limited to one Physical Therapy treatment per day not to exceed 15 minutes in length.
2. **Spinal manipulation** Services rendered by Physicians for manipulation of the spine to correct a slight dislocation of a bone or joint that is demonstrated by x-ray.

#### Coverage Access Rules for Spinal Manipulation

- a. Coverage for spinal manipulation is limited to the number of spinal manipulations listed in your Schedule of Benefits each Benefit Period, or the maximum number of visits listed in your Schedule of Benefits, whichever occurs first.
- b. Payment for covered Physical Therapy Services rendered on the same day as spinal manipulation is limited to one Physical Therapy treatment per day, not to exceed 15 minutes in length.

## **Oxygen**

Coverage includes oxygen and the use of equipment for its administration.

## **Physician Services**

Covered Services include medical Services such as office visits and allergy testing and treatment or surgical Health Care Services provided by a Physician, including Services rendered in the Physician's office or in an outpatient facility.

## **Exclusion**

Expenses for failure to keep a scheduled appointment and for telephone consultations (except as indicated as covered under the Preventive Health Services category of this section).

## **Preventive Health Services**

Preventive Services are covered for both adults and children based on prevailing medical standards and recommendations. Some examples of preventive health Services include (but are not limited to) periodic routine health exams, routine gynecological exams, immunizations and related preventive Services such as Prostate Specific Antigen (PSA), routine mammograms and pap smears.

In order to be covered, Services shall be provided in accordance with prevailing medical standards consistent with:

1. evidence-based items or Services that have in effect a rating of 'A' or 'B' in the current recommendations of the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force established under the Public Health Service Act;
2. immunizations that have in effect a recommendation from the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention established under the Public Health Service Act with respect to the individual involved;
3. respect to infants, children, and adolescents, evidence- informed preventive care and screenings provided for in the comprehensive guidelines supported by the Health Resources and Services Administration; and
4. respect to women, such additional preventive care and screenings not described in paragraph one as provided for in the comprehensive guidelines supported by the Health Resources and Services Administration.

More detailed information, such as medical management programs or limitations, on Services that are covered under the Preventive Health Services category is available in the Preventive Services Guide located on our website at [www.floridablue/healthresources.com](http://www.floridablue/healthresources.com). Drugs or Supplies covered as Preventive Health Services are described in the Medication Guide. In order to be covered as a Preventive Health Service under this section, the Service must be provided as described in the Preventive Services Guide or, for Drugs and Supplies, in the Medication Guide.

**Note:** From time to time medical standards that are based on the recommendations of the entities listed in numbers 1 through 4 above change. Services may be added to the recommendations and sometimes may be removed. It is important to understand that your coverage for these preventive Services is based on what is in effect on your Effective Date. If any of the recommendations or guidelines change after your Effective Date, your coverage will not change until your Group's first Anniversary Date one year after the recommendations or guidelines go into effect.

For example, if the USPSTF adds a new recommendation for a preventive Service that is not covered and you are already covered under this Booklet; that new Service will not be a Covered Service under this category right away. The coverage for a new Service will start on your Group's Anniversary Date one year after the new recommendation goes into effect.

## **Exclusion**

Routine vision and hearing examinations and screenings are not covered, except as required under

paragraph numbers one and/or three above.

### **Prosthetic Devices**

The following Prosthetic Devices are covered when prescribed by a Physician and designed and fitted by a Prosthetist:

1. artificial hands, arms, feet, legs and eyes, including permanent implanted lenses following cataract surgery, cardiac pacemakers, and Prosthetic Devices incident to a Mastectomy;
2. appliances needed to effectively use artificial limbs or corrective braces; and
3. penile prosthesis.

Covered Prosthetic Devices (except cardiac pacemakers, and Prosthetic Devices incident to Mastectomy) are limited to the first such permanent prosthesis (including the first temporary prosthesis if it is determined to be necessary) prescribed for each specific Condition. Coverage for Prosthetic Devices is based on the most cost-effective Prosthetic Device which meets your medical needs as determined by us.

Benefits may be provided for necessary replacement of a Prosthetic Device which is owned by you when due to irreparable damage, wear, or a change in your Condition, or when necessitated due to growth of a child.

### **Exclusion**

Expenses for cosmetic enhancements to artificial limbs.

### **Second Medical Opinion**

You are entitled to a second medical opinion when:

1. you do not agree with the opinion of your treating Physician or us regarding the reasonableness or necessity of a surgical procedure or treatment of a serious injury or illness; or
2. you feel you are not responding to the current treatment plan in a satisfactory manner after a reasonable lapse of time for the Condition being treated.

You may select any licensed Physician who practices medicine within the Service Area to render the second medical opinion, but will need to ask your PCP or an In-Network Specialist to get an authorization from us before you receive the Services. However, you should know that your Cost Share amount for Services rendered by an In-Network Provider (usually a set Copayment) for a second medical opinion will be lower than those rendered by an Out-of-Network Provider. When you use an Out-of-Network Provider for a second medical opinion your Cost Share will be a percentage of our Allowed Amount, which may be less than the Out-of-Network Provider charges for such Services. In this case, in addition to your percentage of the Allowed Amount, you will also have to pay any charges billed by an Out-of-Network Provider in excess of the Allowed Amount.

**All tests in connection with rendering the second medical opinion, including tests ordered by an Out-of-Network Physician, must be Medically Necessary and must be performed by In-Network Providers.**

Coverage may be denied for a second medical opinion if you seek more than three second medical opinions in any Benefit Period and second medical opinion costs are deemed evidence that you are unreasonably over-utilizing the second medical opinion privileges. The decision, after review of documentation from the second medical opinion you obtained, will be controlling as to the Plan's obligation to pay for such treatment.

### **Self-Administered Prescription Drugs**

Except as covered under the PRESCRIPTION DRUGS PROGRAM section, only Self-Administered Prescription Drugs used in the treatment of diabetes, cancer, Conditions requiring immediate stabilization

(e.g. anaphylaxis), or in the administration of dialysis are covered.

### **Skilled Nursing Facilities**

The following Health Care Services may be Covered Services when you are an inpatient in a Skilled Nursing Facility:

1. room and board;
2. respiratory, pulmonary or inhalation therapy , such as oxygen;
3. drugs and medicines administered while an inpatient (except take-home drugs);
4. intravenous solutions;
5. administration and cost of whole blood or blood products (except as outlined in the Drugs exclusion of the WHAT IS NOT COVERED? section);
6. dressings, including ordinary casts;
7. transfusion supplies and equipment;
8. diagnostic Services, including radiology, ultrasound, laboratory, pathology and approved machine testing, such as an EKG;
9. chemotherapy and radiation treatment for proven malignant disease;
10. Physical, Speech and Occupational Therapies; and
11. other Medically Necessary Services.

### **Exclusion**

Expenses for an inpatient admission to a Skilled Nursing Facility for Custodial Care, convalescent care, or any other Service primarily for your convenience or that of your family members or the Provider are excluded.

### **Surgical Procedures**

Surgical procedures performed by a Physician including surgical assistant Services rendered by a Physician or a Physician Assistant acting as a surgical assistant when such assistance is Medically Necessary, include the following:

1. surgery to correct deformity which was caused by disease, trauma, birth defects, growth defects or prior therapeutic processes;
2. oral surgical procedures for excision of tumors, cysts, abscesses, and lesions of the mouth;
3. surgical procedures involving bones or joints of the jaw such as temporomandibular joint (TMJ) and facial region if, under accepted medical standards, such surgery is necessary to treat Conditions caused by congenital or developmental deformity, disease, or injury; and
4. Gender reassignment surgery and Services related to gender dysphoria or gender transition are covered.

**Note:** Gender reassignment surgery must be authorized, in advance, by us in order to be covered.

### **Exclusion**

The following Services, which are considered cosmetic in nature, are not covered when used to improve the gender specific appearance of an individual. Examples of Services which are considered cosmetic include, but are not limited to:

1. reduction thyroid chondroplasty;
2. liposuction;
3. rhinoplasty;

4. facial bone reconstruction;
5. face lift;
6. blepharoplasty;
7. voice modification surgery;
8. hair removal/hairplasty; and
9. breast augmentation.

#### Payment Rules for Surgical Procedures

1. Payment for multiple surgical procedures performed in addition to the primary surgical procedure, on the same or different areas of the body, during the same operative session will be based on 50 percent of the Allowed Amount for any secondary surgical procedure performed and is subject to the Cost Share amount (if any) indicated in your Schedule of Benefits. This guideline applies to all bilateral procedures and all surgical procedures performed on the same date of service.
2. Payment for incidental surgical procedures is limited to the Allowed Amount for the primary procedure, and there is no additional payment for any incidental procedure. An "incidental surgical procedure" includes surgery where one, or more than one, surgical procedure is performed through the same incision or operative approach as the primary surgical procedure, which, in our opinion, is not clearly identified and/or does not add significant time or complexity to the surgical session. For example, the removal of a normal appendix performed in conjunction with a Medically Necessary hysterectomy is an incidental surgical procedure (there is no payment for the removal of the normal appendix in the example).
3. Payment for surgical procedures for fracture care, dislocation treatment, debridement, wound repair, unna boot, and other related Health Care Services, is included in the Allowed Amount for the surgical procedure.

#### Transplant Services

Transplant Services, limited to the procedures listed below, are covered when authorized in advance by us and performed at a facility acceptable to us. Coverage is subject to the conditions and limitations described below. Transplant includes pre-transplant, transplant and post-discharge Services and treatment of any complications after transplantation.

1. Bone Marrow Transplant, as defined herein and specifically listed in the applicable chapter of the Florida Administrative Code or covered by Medicare as described in the most recently published Medicare Coverage Issues Manual issued by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. The Plan will cover the expenses incurred for the donation of bone marrow by a donor to the same extent such expenses would be covered for you and will be subject to the same limitations and exclusions as would be applicable to you. Coverage for the reasonable expenses of searching for a donor will be limited to a search among immediate family members and donors identified through the National Bone Marrow Donor Program;
2. corneal transplant;
3. heart transplant;
4. heart-lung combination transplant;
5. liver transplant;
6. kidney transplant ;
7. pancreas transplant;
8. pancreas transplant performed simultaneously with a kidney transplant; or
9. whole single or whole bilateral lung transplant.

You may call the customer service phone number on your ID Card to determine which Bone Marrow



Transplants are covered under this Booklet.

### **Lodging and Transportation**

Expenses for lodging (hotel, motel, apartment or house rentals) and transportation (air, rail, bus, and/or taxi) for a transplant recipient and companion may be covered when:

1. the transplant recipient is a Covered Person at the time Services are rendered;
2. Covered Services are performed at a Designated Transplant Facility;
3. lodging and transportation to and from the Designated Transplant Facility are booked through a travel agency designated by us;
4. the transplant has been approved by us in advance; and
5. the facility where the transplant will be performed is 50 miles or more away from the recipient's home.

The lodging and transportation benefit is limited to \$10,000 per transplant.

### **Exclusion**

1. Transplant procedures not included in the list above, or otherwise excluded under this Booklet, such as Experimental or Investigational transplant procedures.
2. Transplant evaluation and procedures rendered **before** we are contacted for authorization.
3. Transplant procedures which are not authorized by us **before** they are provided.
4. Transplant procedures involving the transplantation or implantation of any non-human animal organ or tissue.
5. Transplant procedures related to the donation or acquisition of an organ or tissue for a recipient who is not covered by us.
6. Transplant procedures involving the implant of an artificial organ, including the implant of the artificial organ tissue, except for an approved artificial heart device that meets our Medical Necessity criteria then in effect.
7. Any organ, tissue, marrow, or stem cells which are sold rather than donated.
8. Any Bone Marrow Transplant, as defined herein, which is not specifically listed in the applicable chapter of the Florida Administrative Code or covered by Medicare pursuant to a national coverage decision made by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services as evidenced in the most recently published Medicare Coverage Issues Manual.
9. Any Service in connection with the identification of a donor from a local, state or national listing, except in the case of a Bone Marrow Transplant.
10. Any non-medical costs, including but not limited to, temporary lodging or transportation costs for you and/or your family to and from the approved facility, except as indicated under the Lodging and Transportation heading above.
11. Expenses related to evaluation for registration at more than one transplant center (dual listing).
12. Travel expenses that are not authorized by us in advance and those associated with:
  - a. transplants that are not covered under this Booklet;
  - b. dual listing; or
  - c. costs not allowed under IRS regulations.

### **Virtual Visits**

Covered Services may be provided via a Virtual Visit. Virtual Visits are limited to:

- Virtual Visits between you and a Virtual Care Provider that is designated by us and has a contract with us to provide Virtual Visits at the time the Services are rendered. Virtual Visits must be provided consistent with Florida laws, regulations and our payment policies in effect at the time Services are rendered.

Not all Conditions can be treated through Virtual Visits. The Virtual Care Provider should let you know if a Condition requires a face-to-face visit with a Physician.

### **Exclusion**

Expenses for failure to keep a scheduled appointment or scheduled Virtual Visit.

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# PRESCRIPTION DRUG PROGRAM

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## BlueCare Rx Pharmacy Program

Coverage for Prescription Drugs and Supplies is provided through the BlueCare Rx Pharmacy Program described in this section.

Certain Prescription Drugs and Supplies and select Over-the-Counter (“OTC”) Drugs are covered when purchased at a Pharmacy. In order to obtain benefits under this section, you must pay, at the time of purchase, your Cost Share amounts indicated on the Schedule of Benefits.

Coverage for Prescription Drugs and Supplies is provided through the BlueCare Rx Pharmacy Program described in this section. We have included this section in the Benefit Booklet for ease of reference, however it is important that you understand this Pharmacy Program is separate from the medical coverage described in other sections of this Booklet, and provisions which are specific to this Pharmacy Program are described in this section.

Certain Prescription Drugs and Supplies and select Over-the-Counter (“OTC”) Drugs are covered when purchased at a Pharmacy. In order to obtain benefits under this section, you must pay, at the time of purchase, your Cost Share amounts indicated on the BlueCare Rx Pharmacy Program Schedule of Benefits (herein “Pharmacy Schedule of Benefits”).

In the Medication Guide you will find lists of Preferred Generic Prescription Drugs, Preferred Brand Name Prescription Drugs, Non-Preferred Prescription Drugs and Covered OTC Drugs. You may be able to reduce your out-of-pocket expenses by: (1) choosing Preferred Prescription Drugs rather than Non-Preferred Prescription Drugs; (2) choosing Generic Prescription Drugs rather than Brand Name Prescription Drugs; and (3) choosing Preferred Generic Prescription Drugs or Covered OTC Drugs.

To verify if a Pharmacy is a Participating Pharmacy, you may access the Pharmacy Program Provider Directory on our website at [www.floridablue.com](http://www.floridablue.com) or call the customer service phone number on your ID Card.

## Covered Drugs and Supplies

A Prescription Drug, Covered OTC Drug or Self-Administered Injectable Prescription Drug is covered only if it is:

1. prescribed by a Physician or other health care professional (except a Pharmacist) acting within the scope of his or her license, except for vaccines, which are covered when prescribed and administered by a Pharmacist who is certified in immunization administration;
2. dispensed by a Pharmacist;
3. Medically Necessary, as defined in this Booklet and determined by us or the Group in accordance with our Medical Necessity coverage criteria in effect at the time Services are provided or authorized;
4. in the case of a Self-Administered Injectable Prescription Drug, listed in the Medication Guide as a Covered Self-Administered Injectable Prescription Drug;
5. in the case of a Specialty Drug, Prescription Drugs that are identified as Specialty Drugs in the Medication Guide;
6. a Prescription Drug contained in an anaphylactic kit;
7. authorized for coverage by us, if prior coverage authorization is required as indicated in the Medication Guide, then in effect;
8. not specifically or generally limited or excluded herein; and
9. approved by the FDA and assigned a National Drug Code, except for New Prescription Drugs;

10. reviewed by our Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee; and
11. within the Coverage and Benefit Guidelines category listed in this section.

A Supply is covered under this section only if it is:

1. a Covered Prescription Supply;
2. prescribed by a Physician or other health care professional (except a Pharmacist) acting within the scope of his or her license;
3. Medically Necessary; and
4. not specifically or generally limited or excluded herein.

## **Coverage and Benefit Guidelines**

The benefits under this Pharmacy Program have special benefit rules and payment rules in addition to rules that are specific to particular Covered Services listed in this Booklet.

### **Contraceptive Coverage**

Prescription diaphragms, oral contraceptives and contraceptive patches are covered subject to the limitations and exclusions listed in this section.

The following are covered at no cost to you when prescribed by a Physician or other health care professional (except a Pharmacist) acting within the scope of his or her license and purchased at a Participating Pharmacy:

1. Generic Prescription oral contraceptives indicated as covered in the Medication Guide;

Exceptions may be considered for Brand Name and/or Non-Preferred oral contraceptive Prescription Drugs when designated Generic Prescription Drugs in the Medication Guide are not appropriate for you because of a documented allergy, ineffectiveness or side effects. In order for an exception to be considered, we must receive an "Exception Request Form" from your Physician.

You can obtain an Exception Request Form on our website at [www.floridablue.com](http://www.floridablue.com), or you may call the customer service phone number on your ID Card and one will be mailed to you upon request.

2. Diaphragms indicated as covered in the Medication Guide; and
3. Emergency contraceptives indicated as covered in the Medication Guide.

### **Exclusion**

Contraceptive injectable Prescription Drugs (unless indicated as covered in the Medication Guide) and implants, such as Norplant and IUD are excluded from coverage under this Pharmacy Program.

### **Covered Over-the-Counter (OTC) Drugs**

Select OTC Drugs, listed in the Medication Guide, may be covered when you obtain a Prescription for the OTC Drug from your Physician. Only those OTC Drugs listed in the Medication Guide are covered.

Covered OTC Drugs are listed in the most current Medication Guide which can be viewed at [www.floridablue.com](http://www.floridablue.com) or you may call the customer service phone number on your ID Card and one will be mailed to you upon request.

### **Diabetic Coverage**

Prescription Drugs and Supplies used in the treatment of diabetes are covered subject to the limitations and exclusions listed in this section.

Insulin is only covered if prescribed by a Physician or other health care professional (except a Pharmacist) acting within the scope of his or her license. Syringes and needles for injecting insulin are

covered only when prescribed in conjunction with insulin.

The following Supplies and equipment used in the treatment of diabetes are covered under this Pharmacy Program: blood glucose testing strips and tablets, lancets, blood glucose meters, acetone test tablets and syringes and needles.

### **Exclusion**

All Supplies used in the treatment of diabetes except those that are Covered Prescription Supplies are excluded from coverage under this section.

### **Mineral Supplements, Fluoride or Vitamins**

The following Drugs are covered only when state or federal law requires a Prescription and when prescribed by a Physician or other health care professional (except a Pharmacist) acting within the scope of his or her license:

1. prenatal vitamins;
2. oral single-product fluoride (non-vitamin supplementation);
3. sustained release niacin;
4. folic acid;
5. oral hematinic agents;
6. dihydrotachysterol; or
7. calcitriol.

**Note:** The Drugs in this category may be available at no Cost Share if they are considered a Preventive Health Service as outlined in the WHAT IS COVERED? section, when prescribed by a Physician or other health care professional (except a Pharmacist) acting within the scope of his or her license.

### **Exclusion**

Prescription vitamin or mineral supplements not listed above, non-prescription mineral supplements and non-prescription vitamins are excluded from coverage.

### **Oral Chemotherapy Drugs**

Your Cost Share for oral Prescription Drugs used to kill or slow the growth of cancerous cells (chemotherapy), as consistent with nationally accepted standards, shall not exceed the Cost Share for Intravenous (IV) Chemotherapy Infusions when provided from an In-Network Provider.

### **Preventive Medications**

Certain medications may be available at no Cost Share when purchased from a Participating Pharmacy if they are considered a Preventive Health Service as outlined in the WHAT IS COVERED? section of the Benefit Booklet. Please see the Medication Guide for a list of these medications.

### **Specialty Pharmacy Split Fill Option**

Some types of medication may be difficult to tolerate for patients who are new to certain forms of treatment, such as oral oncology medication. To reduce waste and help avoid cost for medications that will go unused, the Specialty Pharmacy may split the first fill for certain medications identified in the Medication Guide. The applicable Cost Share would also be split between the two fills.

## **Limitations and Exclusions**

### **Limitations**

Coverage and benefits for Covered Prescription Drugs and Supplies and Covered OTC Drugs are subject

to the following limitations in addition to all other provisions and exclusions in this Booklet.

1. The Plan will not cover more than the Maximum supply, as set forth in the Pharmacy Schedule of Benefits, per Prescription for Covered Prescription Drugs and Supplies or Covered OTC Drugs.
2. The Plan will not cover more than the Maximum supply, as set forth in the Schedule of Benefits, per Prescription for Covered Prescription Drugs and Supplies or Covered OTC Drugs.
3. Prescription refills beyond the time limit specified by state and/or federal law are not covered.
4. Certain Prescription Drugs and Supplies and Covered OTC Drugs require prior coverage authorization in order to be covered.
5. Specialty Drugs (self-administered and Provider-administered), as designated in the Medication Guide, are not covered when purchased through the Mail Order Pharmacy.
6. Retinoids (e.g., Retin-A) and their generic or therapeutic equivalents are excluded after age 26.
7. We reserve the right to cover the Biosimilar Prescription Drug as an alternative to coverage of the referenced Brand Name Prescription Drug.

### **Exclusions**

1. Drugs that are covered and payable under the WHAT IS COVERED? section, such as Prescription Drugs which are dispensed and billed by a Hospital.
2. Except as covered in the Covered Drugs and Supplies subsection, any Prescription Drug obtained from a Pharmacy which is dispensed for administration by intravenous infusion or injection, regardless of the setting in which such Prescription Drug is administered or type of Provider administering such Prescription Drug.
3. Any Drug or Supply which can be purchased over-the-counter without a Prescription even when a written Prescription is provided (Drugs which do not require a Prescription), except for insulin, emergency contraceptives and Covered OTC Drugs listed in the Medication Guide.
4. All Supplies other than Covered Prescription Supplies.
5. Any Drugs or Supplies dispensed prior to the Effective Date or after the termination date of coverage of this Pharmacy Program.
6. Therapeutic devices, appliances, medical or other Supplies and equipment, such as air and water purifiers, support garments, creams, gels, oils and waxes, regardless of the intended use (except for Covered Prescription Supplies).
7. Drugs and Supplies that are:
  - a. in excess of the limitations specified in this section or on the Schedule of Benefits;
  - b. furnished to you without cost;
  - c. Experimental or Investigational;
  - d. indicated or used for the treatment of infertility, except when indicated as covered on the Schedule of Benefits;
  - e. in excess of the limitations specified in this section or on the Pharmacy Schedule of Benefits;
  - f. furnished to you without cost;
  - g. Experimental or Investigational;
  - h. indicated or used for the treatment of infertility, except when indicated as covered on the Pharmacy Schedule of Benefits;
  - i. used for cosmetic purposes including, but not limited to Minoxidil, Rogaine or Renova;
  - j. prescribed by a Pharmacist, except for vaccines, which are covered when prescribed and administered by a Pharmacist who is certified in immunization administration;

- k. used for smoking cessation, except as indicated as covered under the Preventive Health Services category of the WHAT IS COVERED? section;
  - l. listed in the Homeopathic Pharmacopoeia;
  - m. not Medically Necessary;
  - n. indicated or used for sexual dysfunction, such as Cialis, Levitra, Viagra and Caverject, except when indicated as covered on the Schedule of Benefits;
  - o. indicated or used for sexual dysfunction, such as Cialis, Levitra, Viagra and Caverject, except when indicated as covered on the Pharmacy Schedule of Benefits;
  - p. purchased from any source (including a Pharmacy) outside of the United States;
  - q. prescribed by any health care professional not licensed in any state or territory of the United States of America, such as Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands or Guam; and
  - r. OTC Drugs not listed in the Medication Guide.
8. Mineral supplements, fluoride or vitamins except for those items listed in the Coverage and Benefit Guidelines subsection.
  9. Any appetite suppressant and/or other Drug indicated, or used, for purposes of weight reduction or control, except when indicated as covered in the Schedule of Benefits.
  10. Any appetite suppressant and/or other Drug indicated, or used, for purposes of weight reduction or control, except when indicated as covered in the Pharmacy Schedule of Benefits.
  11. Immunization agents, biological sera, blood and blood plasma, except as listed in the Covered Drugs and Supplies subsection.
  12. Drugs prescribed for uses other than the FDA-approved label indications. This exclusion does not apply to any Drug prescribed for the treatment of cancer that has been approved by the FDA for at least one indication, provided the Drug is recognized for treatment of your particular cancer in a Standard Reference Compendium or recommended for such treatment of your particular cancer in Medical Literature. Drugs prescribed for the treatment of your particular cancer that have not been approved for any indication are also excluded.
  13. Drugs that have not been approved by the FDA, as required by federal law, for distribution or delivery into interstate commerce.
  14. Drugs that are compounded except when all active ingredients are FDA-approved Prescription Drugs with valid National Drug Codes.
  15. Drugs and Supplies purchased from a Non-Participating Pharmacy, except as a result of an Emergency Medical Condition or when authorized in advance by us.
  16. Any Drug prescribed in excess of the manufacturer's recommended specifications for dosages, frequency of use, or duration of administration as set forth in the manufacturer's insert for such Drug. This exclusion does not apply if:
    - a. the dosages, frequency of use, or duration of administration of a Drug has been shown to be safe and effective as evidenced in published peer-reviewed medical or pharmacy literature;
    - b. the dosages, frequency of use, or duration of administration of a Drug is part of an established nationally recognized therapeutic clinical guideline such as those published in the United States by the American Medical Association, National Heart Lung and Blood Institute, American Cancer Society, American Heart Association, National Institutes of Health, American Gastroenterological Association, Agency for Health Care Policy and Research; or
    - c. we or the Group, in our sole discretion, waive this exclusion with respect to a particular Drug or therapeutic class of Drugs.

17. Any Drug prescribed in excess of the dosages, frequency of use, or duration of administration shown to be safe and effective for such Drug as evidenced in published peer-reviewed medical or pharmacy literature or nationally recognized therapeutic clinical guidelines such as those published in the United States by the:
  - a. American Medical Association;
  - b. National Heart Lung and Blood Institute;
  - c. American Cancer Society;
  - d. American Heart Association;
  - e. National Institutes of Health;
  - f. American Gastroenterological Association; or
  - g. Agency for Health Care Policy and Research;unless we or the Group, in our sole discretion, decide to waive this exclusion with respect to a particular Drug or therapeutic class of Drugs.
18. Any amount you are required to pay under this Pharmacy Program as indicated on the Schedule of Benefits.
19. Any amount you are required to pay under this Pharmacy Program as indicated on the Pharmacy Schedule of Benefits.
20. Any benefit penalty reductions.
21. Drugs or Supplies you prescribe to yourself or prescribed by any person related to you by blood or marriage.
22. Food or medical food products, whether prescribed or not.
23. Prescription Drugs designated in the Medication Guide as not covered based on (but not limited to) the following criteria:
  - a. the Drug is a Repackaged Drug;
  - b. the Drug is no longer marketed;
  - c. the Drug has been shown to have excessive adverse effects and/or safer alternatives;
  - d. the Drug or an effective alternative is available Over-the-Counter (OTC);
  - e. the Drug has a preferred formulary alternative;
  - f. the Drug has a widely available/distributed AB rated generic equivalent formulation;
  - g. the Drug has shown limited effectiveness in relation to alternative Drugs on the formulary; or
  - h. the number of members affected by the change.Refer to the Medication Guide to determine if a particular Prescription Drug is excluded under this Pharmacy Program.
24. New Prescription Drugs.
25. The Plan may not apply manufacturer or provider cost share assistance program payments (e.g., manufacturer cost share assistance, manufacturer discount plans, and/or manufacturer coupons) to the Deductible or Out-of-Pocket maximums.

## **Pharmacy Alternatives**

For purposes of the section, there are two types of Pharmacies: Participating Pharmacies and



Non-Participating Pharmacies.

### **Participating Pharmacies**

Participating Pharmacies have agreed not to charge, or collect from, you, for each Covered Prescription Drug, Covered Prescription Supply and/or Covered OTC Drug, more than the amount set forth in the Schedule of Benefits.

Participating Pharmacies have agreed not to charge, or collect from, you, for each Covered Prescription Drug, Covered Prescription Supply and/or Covered OTC Drug, more than the amount set forth in the Pharmacy Schedule of Benefits.

To verify if a Pharmacy is a Participating Pharmacy, you may refer to the Pharmacy Program Provider Directory then in effect at [www.floridablue.com](http://www.floridablue.com) or call the customer service phone number on your ID Card.

Prior to purchase, you must present your ID Card to the Participating Pharmacy and the Pharmacy must be able to verify that you are, in fact, covered under this Plan.

When charges for Covered Prescription Drugs, and Supplies or Covered OTC Drugs by a Participating Pharmacy are less than the required Copayment, the amount you pay will depend on the agreement then in effect between the Pharmacy and us or our Pharmacy Benefit Manager, and will be one of the following:

1. The usual and customary charge of such Pharmacy as if it were not a Participating Pharmacy;
2. The charge under the Pharmacy's agreement with us or our Pharmacy Benefit Manager; or
3. The Copayment, if less than the usual and customary charge of such Pharmacy.

### **Specialty Pharmacy**

Certain medications, such as injectable, oral, inhaled and infused therapies used to treat complex medical Conditions are typically more difficult to maintain, administer and monitor when compared to traditional Drugs. Specialty Drugs may require frequent dosage adjustments, special storage and handling and may not be readily available at local Pharmacies or routinely stocked by Physicians' offices, mostly due to the high cost and complex handling they require.

Using a Specialty Pharmacy to provide these Specialty Drugs should lower the amount you have to pay for these medications.

The Specialty Pharmacies designated, solely by us, are the only Participating suppliers for Specialty Drugs. Any Pharmacy not designated by us as a Specialty Pharmacy is considered Non-Participating for payment purposes, even if such Pharmacy is a Participating Pharmacy for other Covered Prescription Drugs under this Pharmacy Program.

For additional details on how to obtain Covered Prescription Specialty Drugs from a Specialty Pharmacy, refer to the Medication Guide.

### **Mail Order Pharmacy**

For details on how to order Covered Prescription Drugs and Supplies and Covered OTC Drugs from the Mail Order Pharmacy, refer to the Mail Order Pharmacy Brochure or the Medication Guide.

**Note:** Specialty Drugs are not available through the Mail Order Pharmacy.

### **Non-Participating Pharmacies**

A Prescription Drug, OTC Drug or Self-Administered Injectable Prescription Drug purchased from a Non-Participating Pharmacy is covered under this Pharmacy Program only if it is prescribed as a result of an Emergency Medical Condition or authorized by us.

When Covered Prescription Drugs and Supplies or Covered OTC Drugs are purchased from a Non-Participating Pharmacy, as a result of an Emergency Medical Condition, or when authorized by us,

you may be required to pay the full cost of the Drug at the time of purchase.

In order to be reimbursed for Covered Prescription Drugs and Supplies or Covered OTC Drugs purchased from a Non-Participating Pharmacy, you must submit an itemized paid receipt to us at the address on your ID Card.

## **Pharmacy Utilization Review Programs**

Our pharmacy utilization review programs are intended to encourage the responsible use of Drugs and Supplies.

We may, in our sole discretion, require that Prescriptions for select Prescription Drugs and Supplies or OTC Drugs be reviewed under our pharmacy utilization review programs then in effect, in order for there to be coverage for them. Under these programs, there may be limitations or conditions on coverage for select Prescription Drugs and Supplies and OTC Drugs, depending on the quantity, frequency, or type of Drug or Supply prescribed.

**Note:** If coverage is not available, or is limited, this does not mean that you cannot obtain the Drug or Supply from the Pharmacy. It only means that the Plan will not cover or pay for the Drug or Supply. You are always free to purchase the Drug or Supply at your sole expense.

Our pharmacy utilization review programs include the following:

### **Responsible Steps Program**

Under this program, we may exclude certain Prescription Drugs and OTC Drugs unless you have first tried designated Drug(s) identified in the Medication Guide in the order indicated. In order for there to be coverage for such Prescription Drugs and OTC Drugs prescribed by your Physician, we must receive written documentation from your Physician that the designated Drugs in the Medication Guide are not appropriate for you because of a documented allergy, ineffectiveness or side effects.

Prior to filling a Prescription, your Physician may contact us to request coverage for a Prescription Drug or OTC Drug subject to the Responsible Steps program by following the procedures for prior coverage authorization outlined in the Medication Guide.

### **Responsible Quantity Program**

Safety limits apply to certain Drugs based on the drug maker and FDA's guidelines. For example, your Physician may prescribe 12 tablets for a One-Month Supply and the prescribed Drug may have a 9-tablet limit for a One-Month Supply. Under this program, any Prescription Drug or OTC Drug prescribed in excess of the Maximum specified in the Medication Guide may not be covered. If your Physician prescribes more than the Maximum quantity listed in the Medication Guide, you can either pay for the additional amount yourself or ask your Physician to request an authorization from us.

### **Prior Coverage Authorization Program**

You are required to obtain prior coverage authorization from us in order for certain Prescription Drugs and Supplies and OTC Drugs to be covered. If you do not obtain an authorization when one is required the Plan will deny coverage. Prescription Drugs and Supplies and OTC Drugs that require prior coverage authorization are designated in the Medication Guide.

**Note:** Prior Coverage Authorizations expire on the earlier of, but not to exceed 12 months:

1. the termination date of your plan, or
2. the period authorized by us, as indicated in the letter you receive from us.

Subject to our review and approval, we may authorize continued coverage of a previously approved Prescription Drug. To request a continuation we must receive appropriate documentation from your Provider. The fact that we may have previously authorized coverage does not guarantee a continued authorization.

Information on our pharmacy utilization review programs is published in the Medication Guide which can

be accessed at [www.floridablue.com](http://www.floridablue.com) or you may call the customer service phone number on your ID Card. Your Pharmacist may also tell you if a Prescription Drug or OTC Drug requires prior coverage authorization.

## Ultimate Responsibility for Medical Decisions

The pharmacy utilization review programs have been established solely to determine whether coverage or benefits for Prescription Drugs, Supplies and OTC Drugs will be provided under the terms of this Booklet. Ultimately the final decision as to whether the Prescription Drug, Supply or OTC Drug should be prescribed must be made by you and the prescribing Physician. Decisions made by us in authorizing coverage are made only to determine whether coverage or benefits are available under this Pharmacy Program and not for the purpose of providing or recommending care or treatment. We reserve the right to modify or terminate these programs at any time.

Any and all decisions that require or pertain to independent professional medical judgment or training, or the need for a Prescription Drug, Supply or OTC Drug, must be made solely by you and your treating Physician in accordance with the patient/Physician relationship. It is possible that you or your treating Physician may conclude that a particular Prescription Drug, Supply or OTC Drug is needed, appropriate, or desirable, even though such Prescription Drug, Supply or OTC Drug may not be authorized for coverage by us. In such cases, it is your right and responsibility to decide whether the Prescription Drug, Supply or OTC Drug should be purchased even if we have indicated that the Plan will not pay for such Prescription Drug, Supply or OTC Drug.

## Definitions

Certain important terms applicable to this Pharmacy Program are set forth below. For additional applicable definitions, please refer to the DEFINITIONS section of this Booklet.

**Biosimilar Prescription Drug** is a biological product that is approved by the FDA because it is highly similar to an already FDA-approved biological product (known as reference product). A Biosimilar Prescription Drug has no clinically meaningful difference in terms of safety and effectiveness from the reference product it is compared to.

**Coinsurance** means, when applicable, the sharing of health care expenses for each Covered Prescription Drug and Supply and/or Covered OTC Drug between you and the Plan. After the Deductible requirement is met, the Plan will pay a percentage of the Participating Pharmacy Allowance for each Covered Prescription Drug and Supply and/or Covered OTC Drug, as set forth in the Schedule of Benefits. The percentage you are responsible for is your Coinsurance.

**Copayment** or **Copay** means, when applicable, the amount you must pay to a Participating Pharmacy for each Covered Prescription Drug and Supply and/or Covered OTC Drug, at the time of purchase, as set forth in the Schedule of Benefits. Unless noted otherwise herein, the Deductible must be satisfied before any Copayment will apply.

**Coinsurance** means, when applicable, the sharing of health care expenses for each Covered Prescription Drug and Supply and/or Covered OTC Drug between you and the Plan. After any applicable Pharmacy Deductible requirement is met, the Plan will pay a percentage of the Participating Pharmacy Allowance for each Covered Prescription Drug and Supply and/or Covered OTC Drug, as set forth in the Pharmacy Schedule of Benefits. The percentage you are responsible for is your Coinsurance.

**Copayment** or **Copay** means, when applicable, the amount you must pay to a Participating Pharmacy for each Covered Prescription Drug and Supply and/or Covered OTC Drug, at the time of purchase, as set forth in the Pharmacy Schedule of Benefits.

**Covered OTC Drug** means an Over-the-Counter Drug that is designated in the Medication Guide as a Covered OTC Drug.

**Covered Prescription Drug** means a Drug, which, under federal or state law, requires a Prescription and

which is covered under this Pharmacy Program.

**Covered Prescription Drug(s) and Supply(ies)** means Covered Prescription Drugs and Covered Prescription Supplies.

Covered Prescription Supply(ies) means only the following Supplies:

1. Prescription diaphragms;
2. syringes and needles prescribed with insulin, or a Self-Administered Injectable Prescription Drug which is authorized for coverage by us;
3. syringes and needles prescribed with a Prescription Drug authorized for coverage by us;
4. syringes and needles contained in anaphylactic kits; and
5. Prescription Supplies used in the treatment of diabetes, limited to only blood glucose testing strips and tablets, lancets, blood glucose meters, and acetone test tablets (unless indicated as not covered on the Schedule of Benefits).
6. Prescription Supplies used in the treatment of diabetes, limited to only blood glucose testing strips and tablets, lancets, blood glucose meters, and acetone test tablets (unless indicated as not covered on the Pharmacy Schedule of Benefits).

**Day Supply** means a Maximum quantity per Prescription as defined by the Drug manufacturer's daily dosing recommendations for a 24-hour period.

**Deductible** means the amount of charges up to the Participating Pharmacy Allowance, for Covered Prescription Drugs and Supplies and Covered OTC Drugs, as set forth on the Schedule of Benefits, that you must actually pay per Benefit Period, in addition to any applicable Copayment or percentage of the Participating Pharmacy Allowance, to a Pharmacy who is recognized for payment under this Pharmacy Program, before the Plan's payment for Covered Prescription Drugs and Supplies and Covered OTC Drugs begins.

**Deductible** means the amount of charges up to the Participating Pharmacy Allowance, for Covered Prescription Drugs and Supplies and Covered OTC Drugs, as set forth on the Pharmacy Schedule of Benefits, that you must actually pay per Benefit Period, in addition to any applicable Copayment or percentage of the Participating Pharmacy Allowance, to a Pharmacy who is recognized for payment under this Pharmacy Program, before the Plan's payment for Covered Prescription Drugs and Supplies and Covered OTC Drugs begins.

**Drug** means any medicinal substance, remedy, vaccine, biological product, drug, pharmaceutical or chemical compound that has at least one active ingredient that is FDA-approved and has a valid National Drug Code.

**FDA** means the United States Food and Drug Administration.

**Generic Prescription Drug** means a Prescription Drug containing the same active ingredients as a Brand Name Prescription Drug that either (1) has been approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for sale or distribution as the bioequivalent of a Brand Name Prescription Drug through an abbreviated new drug application under 21 U.S.C. 355 (j); or (2) is a Prescription Drug that is not a Brand Name Prescription Drug, is legally marketed in the United States and, in the judgment of Florida Blue HMO, is marketed and sold as a generic competitor to its Brand Name Prescription Drug equivalent. All Generic Prescription Drugs are identified by an "established name" under 21 U.S.C. 352 (e), by a generic name assigned by the United States Adopted Names Council, or by an official or non-proprietary name, and may not necessarily have the same inactive ingredients or appearance as the Brand Name Prescription Drug.

**Mail Order Copayment** means, when applicable, the amount payable to the Mail Order Pharmacy for each Covered Prescription Drug, Covered Prescription Supply and/or Covered OTC Drug as set forth in the Pharmacy Schedule of Benefits.

**Mail Order Copayment** means, when applicable, the amount payable to the Mail Order Pharmacy for each Covered Prescription Drug, Covered Prescription Supply and/or Covered OTC Drug as set forth in

the Schedule of Benefits. Please note, under this Pharmacy Program, you must meet the Deductible before the Mail Order Copayment, if applicable, will apply.

**Mail Order Pharmacy** means the Pharmacy that has signed an agreement with us or our Pharmacy Benefit Manager to provide mail order services.

**Maximum** means the amount designated in the Medication Guide as the Maximum, including, but not limited to, frequency, dosage and duration of therapy.

**Medication Guide** means the guide then in effect issued by us that may designate the following categories of Prescription Drugs: Preferred Generic Prescription Drugs; Covered OTC Drugs, Preferred Brand Name Prescription Drugs; and Non-Preferred Prescription Drugs. The Medication Guide does not list all Non-Preferred Prescription Drugs due to space limitations, but some Non-Preferred Prescription Drugs and potential alternatives are provided for your information. **Note:** The Medication Guide is subject to change at any time. You may access the most current guide at [www.floridablue.com](http://www.floridablue.com) or call the customer service phone number on your ID Card for current information.

**National Drug Code (NDC)** means the universal code that identifies the Drug dispensed. There are three parts of the NDC, which are as follows: the labeler code (first five digits), product code (middle four digits), and the package code (last two digits).

**National Network Pharmacy** means a Pharmacy located outside of Florida that is part of the national network of Pharmacies established by our contracting Pharmacy Benefit Manager.

**New Prescription Drug(s)** means an FDA approved Prescription Drug or a new dosage form of a previously FDA approved Prescription Drug that has not yet been reviewed by our Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee (or, in the case of medical benefits, our Medical Policy Committee). Coverage for all New Prescription Drugs will be delayed until a review is completed by our Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee (or, in the case of medical benefits, our Medical Policy Committee), resulting in a final coverage determination. The New Prescription Drug Coverage delay begins on the date the Prescription Drug, or new dosage form, is approved by the FDA and ends on the earlier of the following dates:

1. The date the Prescription Drug is assigned to a tier by our Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee (or, in the case of medical benefits, the date our Medical Policy Committee makes a final coverage determination).

or

2. December 31st of the following Calendar Year.

**Non-Participating Pharmacy** means a Pharmacy that has not agreed to participate in the network for this Pharmacy Program and is not a National Network Pharmacy, Specialty Pharmacy or the Mail Order Pharmacy.

**Non-Preferred Prescription Drug** means a Generic Prescription Drug, Brand Name Prescription Drug or compound Drug that is not included on the Preferred Medication List then in effect. New Prescription Drugs are not a Non-Preferred Prescription Drug.

**One-Month Supply** means a Maximum quantity per Prescription up to a 30-Day Supply as defined by the Drug manufacturer's daily dosing recommendations. Certain Drugs (such as Specialty Drugs) may be dispensed in lesser quantities due to manufacturer package size or course of therapy.

**Over-the-Counter (OTC) Drug** means a Drug that is safe and effective for use by the general public, as determined by the FDA, and can be obtained without a Prescription.

**Participating Pharmacy** means a Pharmacy that has signed an agreement with us or our Pharmacy Benefit Manager to participate in the network for this Pharmacy Program. National Network Pharmacies, Specialty Pharmacies and the Mail Order Pharmacy are also Participating Pharmacies.

**Participating Pharmacy Allowance** means the maximum amount allowed to be charged by a Participating Pharmacy per Prescription for a Covered Prescription Drug, Covered OTC Drug or Covered

Prescription Supply under this Pharmacy Program.

**Pharmacist** means a person properly licensed to practice the profession of Pharmacy per Chapter 465 of the Florida Statutes, or a similar law of another state that regulates the profession of Pharmacy.

**Pharmacy** means an establishment licensed as a Pharmacy per Chapter 465 of the Florida Statutes, or a similar law of another state, where a Pharmacist dispenses Prescription Drugs.

**Pharmacy Benefit Manager** means an organization that has established, and manages, Pharmacy networks and other Pharmacy management programs for third party payers and employers, which has entered into an arrangement with us to make such network and/or programs available to you.

**Pharmacy Deductible** means, when applicable, the amount of charges up to the Participating Pharmacy Allowance, for Covered Prescription Drugs and Supplies and Covered OTC Drugs that you must actually pay per Benefit Period, in addition to any applicable Copayment or percentage of the Participating Pharmacy Allowance, to a Pharmacy who is recognized for payment under this Pharmacy Program, before the Plan's payment for Covered Prescription Drugs and Supplies and Covered OTC Drugs begins.

**Preferred Brand Name Prescription Drug** means a Brand Name Prescription Drug that is included on the Preferred Medication List then in effect. The Preferred Medication List is contained within the Medication Guide. A Preferred Brand Name Prescription Drug on the Preferred Medication List then in effect will be reclassified as a Non-Preferred Prescription Drug on the date the FDA approves a bioequivalent Generic Prescription Drug.

**Preferred Generic Prescription Drug** means a Generic Prescription Drug on the Preferred Medication List then in effect. The Preferred Medication List is contained within the Medication Guide.

**Preferred Medication List** means a list of Preferred Prescription Drugs then in effect, which have been designated by us as preferred and for which the Plan provides coverage and benefits, subject to the exclusions in this section. The Preferred Medication List is contained within the Medication Guide.

**Preferred Prescription Drug** means a Prescription Drug that appears on the Preferred Medication List then in effect. A Preferred Prescription Drug may be a Brand Name Prescription Drug or a Generic Prescription Drug. The Preferred Medication List is contained within the Medication Guide.

**Prescription** means an order for medications or Supplies by a Physician or other health care professional authorized by law to prescribe such Drugs or Supplies.

**Prescription Drug** means any medicinal substance, remedy, vaccine, biological product, Drug, pharmaceutical or chemical compound which can only be dispensed pursuant to a Prescription and/or which is required by state law to bear the following statement or similar statement on the label: "Caution: Federal law prohibits dispensing without a Prescription". For purposes of the BlueCare Rx Pharmacy Program, emergency contraceptives and insulin are considered Prescription Drugs because, in order to be covered hereunder, we require that they be prescribed by a Physician or other health care professional (except a Pharmacist) acting within the scope of his or her license.

**Repackaged Drug(s)** means a pharmaceutical product that is removed from the original manufacturer container (Brand Originator) and repackaged by another manufacturer with a different NDC.

**Self-Administered Injectable Prescription Drug** means an FDA-approved injectable Prescription Drug that you may administer to yourself, as recommended by a Physician, by means of injection, (except insulin). Covered Self-Administered Injectable Prescription Drugs are denoted with a special symbol in the Medication Guide.

**Specialty Drug** means an FDA-approved Prescription Drug that has been designated by us as a Specialty Drug due to requirements such as special handling, storage, training, distribution, and management of therapy. Specialty Drugs may be Provider administered or self-administered and are identified with a special symbol in the Medication Guide.

**Specialty Pharmacy** means a Pharmacy that has signed an agreement with us or our Pharmacy Benefit Manager to provide specific Prescription Drug products, as determined by us. The fact that a Pharmacy

is a Participating Pharmacy does not mean that it is a Specialty Pharmacy.

**Supply(ies)** means any Prescription or non-Prescription device, appliance or equipment including, but not limited to, syringes, needles, test strips, lancets, monitors, bandages, cotton swabs, and similar items and any birth control device.

**Three-Month Supply** means a Maximum quantity per Prescription up to a 90-Day Supply as defined by the Drug manufacturer's dosing recommendations.

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## WHAT IS NOT COVERED?

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### Introduction

The following exclusions are in addition to any that are specified in the WHAT IS COVERED? and PRESCRIPTION DRUG PROGRAM sections, including any Endorsement that is a part of this Booklet. If you do not follow our Coverage Access Rules, any Services you receive will not be covered. For further information, please refer to the COVERAGE ACCESS RULES section.

The Plan will not pay for any of the Services, treatments, or supplies described in this section, even when recommended or prescribed by a Physician or it is the only available treatment for your Condition.

### Exclusions

**Ambulance Services** including but not limited to:

1. Services for situations that are not Medically Necessary because they do not require Ambulance transportation.
2. Ambulance Services for a patient who is legally pronounced dead before the Ambulance is summoned.
3. Aid rendered by an Ambulance crew without transport. Examples include, but are not limited to situations when an Ambulance is dispatched and:
  - a. the crew renders aid until a helicopter can be sent;
  - b. the patient refuses care or transport; or
  - c. only basic first aid is rendered.
4. Non-emergency transport to or from a patient's home or a residential, domiciliary or custodial facility.
5. Transfers by medical vans or commercial transportation (such as Physician owned limousines, public transportation, cab, etc.).
6. Ambulance transport for patient convenience or patient and/or family preference. Examples include but are not limited to:
  - a. patient wants to be at a certain Hospital or facility for personal/preference reasons;
  - b. patient is in a foreign country, or out-of-state, and wants to return home for a surgical procedure or treatment, or for continued treatment, including patients who have recently been discharged from inpatient care; or
  - c. patient is going for a routine Service and is medically able to use another mode of transportation but can't pay for and/or find such transportation.
7. Air and water Ambulance Services in the absence of an Emergency Medical Condition, unless such Services are authorized by us in advance.

**Autopsy** or postmortem examination Services, unless specifically requested by us.

**Complementary or Alternative Medicine** including, but not limited to, self-care or self-help training; homeopathic medicine and counseling; Ayurvedic medicine such as lifestyle modifications and purification therapies; traditional Oriental medicine including acupuncture; naturopathic medicine; environmental medicine including the field of clinical ecology; chelation therapy; thermography; mind-body interactions such as meditation, imagery, yoga, dance, and art therapy; biofeedback; prayer and mental healing; Massage except as listed in the WHAT IS COVERED? section; manual healing methods such as the Alexander technique, aromatherapy, Ayurvedic massage, craniosacral balancing, Feldenkrais method, Hellerwork, polarity therapy, Reichian therapy, reflexology, rolfing, shiatsu, Swedish massage, traditional Chinese massage, Trager therapy, trigger-point myotherapy, and biofield therapeutics; Reiki, SHEN



therapy, and therapeutic touch; bioelectromagnetic applications in medicine; and herbal therapies.

**Completion** of any form and /or medical information.

**Cosmetic Services**, including any Service to improve the appearance or self-perception of an individual, including and without limitation: cosmetic surgery and procedures or supplies to correct hair loss or skin wrinkling such as Minoxidil, Rogaine, Retin-A and hair implants/transplants, or Services used to improve the gender specific appearance of an individual including, but not limited to reduction thyroid chondroplasty, liposuction, rhinoplasty, facial bone reconstruction, face lift, blepharoplasty, voice modification surgery, hair removal/hairplasty, breast augmentation.

**Cost Share** amounts you are required to pay even when the cost share amount is waived by a Provider.

**Custodial Care** as defined in the DEFINITIONS section of this Booklet.

### **Drugs**

1. Drugs prescribed for uses other than the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved label indications. This exclusion does not apply to any drug prescribed for the treatment of cancer that has been approved by the FDA for at least one indication, provided the drug is recognized for treatment of your particular cancer in a Standard Reference Compendium or recommended for treatment of your particular cancer in Medical Literature. Drugs prescribed for the treatment of cancer that have not been approved for any indication are excluded.
2. dispensed to, or purchased by you from a pharmacy, except as covered under the PRESCRIPTION DRUG PROGRAM section. This exclusion does not apply to drugs dispensed to you when:
  - a. you are an inpatient in a Hospital, Ambulatory Surgical Center, Skilled Nursing Facility, Psychiatric Facility or a Hospice facility;
  - b. you are in the outpatient department of a Hospital;
  - c. dispensed to your Physician for administration to you in the Physician's office and prior coverage authorization has been obtained (if required).
  - d. you are receiving Home Health Care according to a plan of treatment and the Home Health Care Agency bills us for such drugs, including Self-Administered Prescription Drugs that are rendered in connection with a nursing visit;
  - e. defined by, and covered under the PRESCRIPTION DRUG PROGRAM section.
3. Any non-Prescription medicines, remedies, vaccines, biological products (except insulin), pharmaceuticals or chemical compounds, vitamins, mineral supplements, fluoride products, over-the-counter drugs, products, or health foods.
4. Any drug which is indicated or used for sexual dysfunction, such as Cialis, Levitra, Viagra and Caverject.
5. Any drug which requires prior coverage authorization when prior coverage authorization is not obtained.
6. Blood or blood products used to treat hemophilia, except when provided to you for:
  - a. emergency stabilization;
  - b. during a covered inpatient stay, or
  - c. when proximately related to a surgical procedure.

The exceptions to the exclusion for drugs purchased or dispensed by a pharmacy described in exclusion two above, do not apply to hemophilia drugs excluded under this subparagraph.
7. New Prescription Drug(s), as defined in the DEFINITIONS section.
8. Convenience Kits as defined in the DEFINITIONS section.

9. Drugs that are FDA approved, but lack proven benefits and/or efficacy as defined in the product prescribing information or noted in our coverage policy as an output from our Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee, Medical Policy Committee or any other nationally recognized source.

**Experimental or Investigational** Services except as otherwise covered under the Bone Marrow Transplant provision described in the Transplant Services category of the WHAT IS COVERED? section.

**Food and Food Products** whether prescribed or not, except as covered in the Enteral Formulas category of the WHAT IS COVERED? section.

**Foot care (routine)**, including any Service or supply in connection with foot care in the absence of disease. This exclusion includes, but is not limited to, treatment of bunions, flat feet, fallen arches, and chronic foot strain, corns, or calluses, unless determined by us to be Medically Necessary. This exclusion does not apply to Services otherwise covered under the Diabetes Treatment category in the WHAT IS COVERED? section.

**General Exclusions** include, but are not limited to:

1. Any Health Care Service received prior to your Effective Date or after the date your coverage terminates under the Group Health Plan, unless coverage is extended in accordance with the Extension of Benefits subsection in the CONTINUING COVERAGE section.
2. Any Health Care Service not within the Covered Services Categories described in the WHAT IS COVERED? or PRESCRIPTION DRUG PROGRAM sections or any Endorsement that is part of this Booklet, unless such Services are specifically required to be covered by applicable law.
3. Any Health Care Service you render to yourself or those rendered by a Physician or other health care Provider related to you by blood or marriage.
4. Any Health Care Service that is not Medically Necessary as defined in this Booklet and determined by us. The ordering of a Service by a health care Provider does not, in itself, make such Service Medically Necessary or a Covered Service.
5. Any Health Care Service rendered at no charge.
6. Expenses for claims denied because we did not receive information requested from you regarding whether or not you have other coverage and the details of such coverage.
7. Any Health Care Service to diagnose or treat a Condition which, directly or indirectly, resulted from or is in connection with:
  - a. war or an act of war, whether declared or not;
  - b. your participation in, or commission of, any act punishable by law as a felony whether or not you are charged or convicted, or which constitutes riot, or rebellion, except for an injury resulting from an act of domestic violence or a medical Condition;
  - c. your engaging in an illegal occupation, except for an injury resulting from an act of domestic violence or a medical Condition;
  - d. Services received at military or government facilities to treat a Condition arising out of your service in the armed forces, reserved and/or National Guard; or
  - e. Services received to treat a Condition arising out of your service in the armed forces, reserves and/or National Guard.
8. Services that are not patient-specific, as determined solely by us.
9. Health Care Services rendered because they were ordered by a court, unless such Services are otherwise Covered Services under this Booklet.
10. Any Health Care Service rendered by or through a medical or dental department maintained by or on behalf of an employer, mutual association, labor union, trust, or similar person or group.

11. Any Health Care Service rendered outside the Service Area, except Emergency Services for treatment of an Emergency Medical Condition, unless such Services are approved by us in advance.

**Genetic Screening** including the evaluation of genes to determine if you are a carrier of an abnormal gene that puts you at risk for a Condition, except as provided under the Diagnostic Testing and Preventive Health Services categories of the WHAT IS COVERED? section.

**Hearing Aids** including routine hearing exams and screenings, except as provided under the Preventive Services category of the WHAT IS COVERED? section, and Services related to the fitting or provision of hearing aids, including tinnitus maskers, batteries and repair costs.

**Immunizations** except those covered under the Preventive Health Services category of the WHAT IS COVERED? section or the PRESCRIPTION DRUG PROGRAM section.

**Motor Vehicle Accidents Injuries and Services** you incur due to an accident involving any motor vehicle for which no-fault insurance is available.

**Orthomolecular Therapy** including nutrients, vitamins, and food supplements.

**Oversight of a medical laboratory** by a Physician or other health care Provider. "Oversight" as used in this exclusion shall, include, but is not limited to, the oversight of:

1. the laboratory to assure timeliness, reliability, and/or usefulness of test results;
2. the calibration of laboratory machines or testing of laboratory equipment;
3. the preparation, review or updating of any protocol or procedure created or reviewed by a Physician or other health care Provider in connection with the operation of the laboratory; and
4. laboratory equipment or laboratory personnel for any reason.

**Personal Comfort, Hygiene or Convenience Items** and Services deemed to be not Medically Necessary and not directly related to your treatment, including, but not limited to:

1. homemaker or domestic maid services;
2. sitter or companion services;
3. food, housing and home-delivered meals;
4. beauty and barber services,
5. personal hygiene supplies such as shampoo, toothpaste, body lotions and hygiene packets;
6. clothing, including support hose,
7. radio and television,
8. guest meals and accommodations,
9. telephone charges,
10. take-home supplies,
11. travel expenses (other than Medically Necessary Ambulance Services),
12. motel/hotel accommodations,
13. air conditioners, furnaces, air filters, air or water purification systems, water softening systems, humidifiers, dehumidifiers, vacuum cleaners or any other similar equipment and devices used for environmental control or to enhance an environmental setting,
14. hot tubs, Jacuzzis, heated spas, pools, or memberships to health clubs,
15. heating pads, hot water bottles, or ice packs,
16. physical fitness equipment,
17. hand rails and grab bars, and

18. Massage except as set forth in the WHAT IS COVERED? section.

**Services to Treat Complications of Non-Covered Services**, including any Service(s) to diagnose or treat any Condition which would not have occurred but for your receipt of a non-Covered Service such as, for example, treatment for a complication of cosmetic surgery (e.g. an implant leakage or capsular contracture after cosmetic breast augmentation unrelated to breast cancer reconstruction surgery requiring removal, repair, and/or replacement of the implant; repair of cosmetic or functional abnormalities as a result of cosmetic surgery complications). This exclusion applies when the Service(s) from which the complication resulted was/were not a Covered Service(s) under this Booklet or another Florida Blue/Florida Blue HMO policy. It also applies if the non-Covered Service(s) was/were performed while you were covered by a previous carrier or self-funded plan at any time prior to coverage under this Booklet even if the Service(s) were covered under the prior carrier or self-funded plan.

**Private Duty Nursing Care** rendered at any location.

**Smoking Cessation Programs**, including any Service to eliminate or reduce the dependency on, or addiction to, tobacco, including but not limited to nicotine withdrawal programs and nicotine products, such as gum, transdermal patches, etc, (except as indicated as covered under the Preventive Health Services category of the WHAT IS COVERED? section).

**Sports-Related Devices and Services** used to affect performance primarily in sports-related activities; all expenses related to physical conditioning programs such as athletic training, bodybuilding, exercise, fitness, flexibility, and diversion or general motivation.

**Training and Educational Programs** or materials, including, but not limited to programs or materials for Pain Management and vocational rehabilitation, except as provided under the Diabetes Treatment Services category of the WHAT IS COVERED? section.

**Transplant Services** except as indicated in the WHAT IS COVERED? section, including:

1. Transplant procedures not included in the Transplant Services category of the WHAT IS COVERED? section, or otherwise excluded under this Booklet, such as Experimental or Investigational transplant procedures.
2. Transplant evaluation and procedures rendered **before** we are contacted for authorization.
3. Transplant procedures which are not authorized by us **before** they are provided.
4. Transplant procedures involving the transplantation of any non-human animal organ or tissue.
5. Transplant procedures related to the donation or acquisition of an organ or tissue for a recipient who is not covered by us.
6. Transplant procedures involving the implant of an artificial organ, including the implant of the artificial organ tissue, except for an approved artificial heart device that meets our Medical Necessity criteria then in effect.
7. Any organ, tissue, marrow, or stem cells which are sold rather than donated.
8. Any Bone Marrow Transplant, as defined herein, which is not specifically listed in the applicable chapter of the Florida Administrative Code or covered by Medicare pursuant to a national coverage decision made by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services as evidenced in the most recently published Medicare Coverage Issues Manual.
9. Any Service in connection with the identification of a donor from a local, state or national listing, except in the case of a Bone Marrow Transplant.
10. Any non-medical costs, including but not limited to, temporary lodging or transportation costs for you and/or your family to and from the approved facility, except as indicated under the Lodging and Transportation heading of the Transplant Services category in the WHAT IS COVERED? section.
11. Expenses related to evaluation for registration at more than one transplant center (dual listing).
12. Travel expenses that are not authorized by us in advance and those associated with:

- a. transplants that are not covered under this Booklet;
- b. dual listing; or
- c. costs not allowed under IRS regulations.

**Travel** or vacation expenses even if prescribed or ordered by a Provider.

**Virtual Visits**, except as described in the WHAT IS COVERED? section. Services rendered by a Virtual Care Provider that is not designated by us to provide Virtual Visits and does not have a contract with us to provide Virtual Visits under this Booklet.

**Volunteer Services** or Services which would normally be provided free of charge.

**Weight Control Services** including any Service to lose, gain or maintain weight regardless of the reason for the Service or whether the Service is part of a treatment plan for a Condition, (except as indicated as covered under the Preventive Health Services category of the WHAT IS COVERED? section). This exclusion includes, but is not limited to weight control/loss programs; appetite suppressants and other medications; dietary regimens; food or food supplements; exercise programs; exercise or other equipment; gastric or stomach bypass or stapling, intestinal bypass, gastric balloons, jaw wiring, jejunal bypass, gastric shunts, and procedures designed to restrict your ability to assimilate food. Complications of any kind arising from, or related to, weight control surgery, as determined by us, are not covered. Complications of weight control surgery are excluded when the preceding weight control surgery was not a Covered Service under this Booklet or another Florida Blue/Florida Blue HMO policy and it also applies if the surgery was performed while you were covered by a previous carrier or self-funded plan at any time prior to coverage under this Booklet even if the Service(s) was/were covered under the prior carrier or self-funded plan.

**Wigs** and/or cranial prosthesis.

**Wilderness Treatment Programs** whether provided as part of a Residential Treatment Facility or not, if the primary Services provided:

1. can be provided without a Residential Treatment Facility license under Florida law or a similar applicable law of another state; and/or
2. constitute Services that are provided by:
  - a. a licensed outdoor youth program, and/or
  - b. a school or any such related or similar programs. This includes but is not limited to: educational and therapeutic programs within a school setting, health resorts, outdoor skills programs, and relaxation or lifestyle programs.

**Work Related Health Care Services** to treat a work related Condition to the extent you are covered or required to be covered by Workers' Compensation law. Any Service or supply to diagnose or treat any Condition resulting from or in connection with your job or employment are excluded, except for Medically Necessary Services (not otherwise excluded) for an individual who is not covered by Workers' Compensation and that lack of coverage did not result from any intentional action or omission by that individual.

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## MEDICAL NECESSITY

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In order for Health Care Services to be covered under this Booklet, the Services must meet all of the requirements to be a Covered Service, including being Medically Necessary, as determined by us and/or the Group and defined in this Booklet. **As a self-funded plan, the Group is ultimately responsible for determining whether expenses incurred for medical care are covered under this Booklet. However, it is important to note that under our ASA; the Group has asked us to use our Medical Necessity criteria and guidelines currently in effect.**

It is important to remember that any time we review Services for Medical Necessity it is solely for the purpose of determining coverage, benefits or payment under the terms of this Booklet and not for the purpose of recommending or providing medical care. When we review for Medical Necessity, we may review specific medical facts or information about you. Any such review, however, is strictly for the purpose of determining whether the Service provided or proposed meets the definition of Medical Necessity in this Booklet. In applying the definition of Medical Necessity to a specific Service, we may apply our coverage and payment guidelines then in effect.

All decisions that require or pertain to independent professional medical/clinical judgment or training, or the need for medical Services, are solely your responsibility and that of your treating Providers. You and your Providers are responsible for deciding what medical care you should have and when that care should be provided. Florida Blue HMO and/or the Group are solely responsible for determining whether expenses incurred for that medical care are covered under this Booklet. In making coverage decisions, we will not be deemed to participate in or override your decisions concerning your health or the medical decisions of your health care Providers.

The following are a few examples of hospitalization and other Services that are not Medically Necessary:

1. staying in the Hospital because arrangements for discharge have not been completed;
2. use of laboratory, x-ray, or other diagnostic testing that has no clear indication, or is not expected to alter your treatment;
3. staying in the Hospital because supervision in the home, or care in the home, is not available or is inconvenient; or being hospitalized for any Service which could have been provided adequately in an alternate setting (e.g., Hospital outpatient department or at home with Home Health Care Services);  
or
4. inpatient admissions to a Hospital, Skilled Nursing Facility, or any other facility for the purpose of Custodial Care, convalescent care, or any other Service primarily for the convenience of the patient or his or her family members or a Provider.

**Note:** Whether or not a Service is specifically listed as an exclusion, the fact that a Provider may prescribe, recommend, approve, or furnish a Service does not mean that the Service is Medically Necessary (as determined by us or the Group and defined in this Booklet) or a Covered Service. You are free to obtain a Service even if we deny coverage because the Service is not Medically Necessary; however, you will be solely responsible for paying for the Service. Please refer to the DEFINITIONS section for the definition of "Medically Necessary or Medical Necessity".

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# YOUR SHARE OF HEALTH CARE EXPENSES

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This section explains what your share of the health care expenses may be for Covered Services you receive. Since not all plans include all the different types of Cost Shares explained in this section, it is important that you refer to your Schedule of Benefits to determine your share of the cost with regard to Covered Services.

## **Deductible**

### **Individual Deductible**

This amount, when applicable, must be satisfied by you and each of your Covered Dependents each Benefit Period, before any payment will be made by the Plan. Only those charges indicated on claims we receive for Covered Services will be credited toward the individual Deductible and only up to the applicable Allowed Amount.

### **Family Deductible**

If your plan includes a family Deductible, after the family Deductible has been met by your family, neither you nor your Covered Dependents will have any additional Deductible responsibility for the remainder of that Benefit Period. The maximum amount that any one Covered Person in your family can contribute toward the family Deductible is the amount applied toward the individual Deductible, if applicable.

### **Embedded Deductible**

If your Schedule of Benefits indicates that the Deductible is embedded, each Covered Person only needs to satisfy the individual Deductible and not the entire family Deductible, prior to the Plan paying for Covered Services for that Covered Person. The Plan will not begin to pay for Covered Services for the other family members until they either satisfy the individual Deductible or until the family Deductible is met. The family Deductible is met when any combination of family members' costs for Covered Services meets the family Deductible limit. The maximum amount that any one Covered Person in your family can contribute toward the family Deductible is the amount applied toward that person's individual Deductible.

### **Shared Deductible**

If your Schedule of Benefits indicates that the family Deductible is Shared, the entire family Deductible must be met by any one Covered Person or a combination of any or all Covered Persons before the Plan will begin to pay for Covered Services for any Covered Person under your plan.

### **Hospital Per Admission Deductible**

The Hospital per admission Deductible, when applicable, must be satisfied by you for each Hospital admission before any payment will be made by the Plan for any claim for inpatient Services. The Hospital per admission Deductible applies regardless of the reason for the admission.

## **Copayments**

Covered Services rendered by certain Providers or at certain locations or settings may be subject to a Copayment. This is the dollar amount you have to pay when you receive these Services. Please refer to your Schedule of Benefits for the specific Covered Services that are subject to a Copayment. Listed below is a brief description of some of the Copayment requirements that may apply to your plan. In some cases, when our Allowed Amount or the Provider's actual charge for a Covered Service rendered is less than the Copayment amount, you may be responsible for the lesser of our Allowed Amount or the Provider's actual charge for the Covered Service.

### **Office Services Copayment**

If your plan is a Copayment plan, the Copayment for Covered Services rendered in the office must be paid by you, for each office visit before any payment will be made by the Plan. The office Services

Copayment applies regardless of the reason for the office visit and applies to all Covered Services rendered during that visit, with the exception of Durable Medical Equipment, Medical Pharmacy, Orthotics and Prosthetics, which may require Cost Share amounts in addition to the Office Services Copayment, as set forth on your Schedule of Benefits.

### **Inpatient Facility Services Copayment**

The Copayment for inpatient facility Services, if applicable to your plan, must be satisfied by you, for each inpatient admission to a Hospital, Psychiatric Facility, or Substance Abuse Facility, before any payment will be made by the Plan for any claim for inpatient Covered Services. The Copayment for inpatient facility Services, if applicable to your plan, applies regardless of the reason for the admission, and applies to all inpatient admissions unless your Schedule of Benefits states otherwise. Additionally, you may be responsible for out-of-pocket expenses for Covered Services provided by Physicians and other health care professionals while you are an inpatient.

### **Outpatient Facility Services Copayment**

The Copayment for outpatient facility Services, if applicable to your plan, must be satisfied by you, for each outpatient visit to a Hospital, Ambulatory Surgical Center, Independent Diagnostic Testing Center, Psychiatric Facility or Substance Abuse Facility, before any payment will be made by the Plan for any claim for outpatient Covered Services. The Copayment for outpatient facility Services, if applicable to your plan, applies regardless of the reason for the visit. Additionally, you may be responsible for out-of-pocket expenses for Covered Services provided by Physicians and other healthcare professionals while using these facilities.

**Note:** Copayments for outpatient facility Services may vary depending on the type of facility chosen and the Services received. Please see your Schedule of Benefits for more information.

### **Emergency Room Facility Services Copayment**

The Copayment for emergency room facility Services, if applicable to your plan, applies regardless of the reason for the visit, is in addition to any applicable Coinsurance amount, and applies to emergency room facility Services in or outside the Service Area. The Copayment for emergency room facility Services, if applicable to your plan, must be satisfied by you for each visit. If you are admitted to the Hospital as an inpatient at the time of the emergency room visit, the Copayment for emergency room facility Services, if applicable to your plan, will be waived, but you will still be responsible for your share of the expenses for inpatient facility Services as listed in your Schedule of Benefits.

## **Coinsurance**

All applicable Deductible amounts must be satisfied before the Plan will pay any portion of the Allowed Amount for Covered Services. For Services that are subject to Coinsurance, the percentage of the applicable Allowed Amount you are responsible for is listed in your Schedule of Benefits.

## **Special Calculation Rule for Capitated Providers**

The Plan typically pays In-Network Providers for Covered Services provided to you based upon that Providers' negotiated Allowed Amount with us. This form of payment to Providers is called "fee-for-service". In these circumstances, the amount you are responsible for paying for Covered Services will be based upon our actual Allowed Amount negotiated with the rendering Provider and will be credited toward applicable Deductibles and out-of-pocket maximums and/or used to calculate your Coinsurance.

In other circumstances under the agreements we have with In-Network Providers a set monthly amount per individual may be paid to these Providers to cover the cost of providing Covered Services to you, whether or not care is actually provided during the month. This form of payment is called "capitation". In these instances, when you receive Covered Services from such a Provider, the amounts you are responsible for paying and the applicable credit toward any Deductible or out-of-pocket maximums may be, as determined by us, based upon the amounts the Plan could have paid for such Covered Services to



an In-Network Provider of the same or similar provider type licensed to provide such Services but not paid on a capitation basis (based on our Allowed Amounts then in effect for such Covered Services). Similarly, in these instances, the amounts you will owe for Coinsurance may be calculated, as determined by us, utilizing the amounts the Plan could have paid an In-Network Provider of the same or similar provider type licensed to provide such Services but not paid on a capitated basis (based upon our Allowed Amounts for such Covered Services). The comparison form of payment utilized for this purpose, in the case of such a same or similar In-Network Provider, is fee-for-service payment. Further, in those circumstances where Services provided were paid on a capitation basis but such Provider may be paid fee-for-service by the Plan for the same or similar Services for other individuals, we may utilize the fee-for-service amounts for such same or similar Services when calculating the credits toward applicable Deductibles and out-of-pocket maximums and/or use such fee-for-service amounts to calculate your Coinsurance.

## **Out-of-Pocket Maximums**

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

Once you have reached the individual out-of-pocket maximum amount listed in your Schedule of Benefits, you will have no additional out-of-pocket responsibility for the remainder of that Benefit Period and the Plan will pay 100 percent of the Allowed Amount for Covered Services rendered during the remainder of that Benefit Period.

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

If your plan includes a family out-of-pocket maximum, once your family has reached the family out-of-pocket maximum amount listed in your Schedule of Benefits, neither you nor your covered family members will have any additional out-of-pocket responsibility for Covered Services for the remainder of that Benefit Period and the Plan will pay 100 percent of the Allowed Amount for Covered Services rendered during the remainder of that Benefit Period. The maximum amount any one Covered Person in your family can contribute toward the family out-of-pocket maximum, if applicable, is the amount applied toward the individual out-of-pocket maximum. Please see your Schedule of Benefits for more information.

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

If your Schedule of Benefits indicates that the out-of-pocket maximum is embedded, when any one Covered Person meets the individual out-of-pocket maximum, that Covered Person will have no additional Cost Share for the rest of the Benefit Period. The rest of the family must continue satisfying their out-of-pocket maximum until the family out-of-pocket maximum is met. The maximum amount that any one Covered Person in your family can contribute toward the family out-of-pocket maximum is the amount applied toward that person's individual out-of-pocket maximum.

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

If your Schedule of Benefits indicates that the out-of-pocket maximum is shared, any one Covered Person or a combination of any or all Covered Persons can meet the family out-of-pocket maximum. Once the family out-of-pocket maximum is met, neither you nor your Covered Dependents will have to pay any additional Cost Share for Covered Services for the rest of the Benefit Period.

**Note:** The Deductible, any applicable Copayments and Coinsurance amounts including those for Covered Prescription Drugs and Supplies, will accumulate toward the out-of-pocket maximums.

## **Prior Coverage Credit**

You will be given credit for the satisfaction or partial satisfaction of any deductible and coinsurance maximums met by you under a prior group, blanket, or franchise insurance or group Health Maintenance Organization (HMO) policy maintained by the Group if this coverage replaces such a plan or policy. This provision only applies if the prior group, blanket, or franchise insurance or HMO coverage purchased by the Group was in effect immediately preceding the Effective Date of this Booklet. This provision is only applicable for you during the initial Benefit Period of coverage under the Plan and the following rules

apply:

### **Prior Coverage Credit for Deductible**

For the initial Benefit Period of coverage only under this Plan, charges credited by the Group's prior policy or plan, toward your deductible requirement, for Services rendered during the 90-day period immediately preceding the Effective Date of this Plan, will be credited to the Deductible requirement under this Booklet.

### **Prior Coverage Credit for Coinsurance**

Charges credited by the Group's prior policy or plan, toward your Coinsurance maximum, for Services rendered during the 90-day period immediately preceding the Effective Date of this Plan, will be credited to your out-of-pocket maximum under this Booklet.

Prior coverage credit toward the Deductible or out-of-pocket maximums will only be given for Health Care Services, which would have been Covered Services under this Booklet.

Prior coverage credit under this Booklet only applies at the initial enrollment of the entire Group. You and/or the Group are responsible for providing us with any information necessary for us to apply this prior coverage credit.

## **Calculation of Cost Share**

You can get an estimate on our website at [www.floridablue.com](http://www.floridablue.com), of the Cost Share amount you will have to pay for certain Covered Services, as required under section 641.54 of the Florida Statutes.

## **Additional Expenses You Must Pay**

In addition to your share of the expenses described above, you are also responsible for:

1. charges in excess of any maximum benefit limitation listed in your Schedule of Benefits;
2. expenses for claims denied because we did not receive information requested from you regarding whether or not you have other coverage and the details of such coverage;
3. charges for Health Care Services which are non-Covered Services or excluded; and
4. any contribution amounts required by the Group.

## **How Benefit Maximums are Credited**

Except as described below, only the amounts actually paid by the Plan for Covered Services will be credited toward applicable benefit maximums. The amounts the Plan pays that are credited toward your Benefit Period maximums will be based on our Allowed Amount for the Covered Services provided.

Under certain agreements we have with Providers, a set monthly amount per individual may be paid to these Providers to cover the cost of providing Covered Services to you, whether or not care is actually provided during that month. This form of payment is called "capitation". In these instances, when you receive Covered Services from such a Provider, the amounts we will credit toward any applicable benefit maximum, will be the amount we would have paid (based on our Allowed Amount then in effect) had the Provider not been paid on a capitated basis.

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# HEALTH CARE PROVIDER OPTIONS

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## Introduction

It is important that you understand how the Providers you choose to use for medical care will affect how much you have to pay for medical Services. Under this HMO plan, most Services must be rendered by In-Network Providers in order to be Covered Services. This is true even when the Services you receive are Medically Necessary (except in the case of an Emergency Services for an Emergency Medical Condition). This section explains some special rules for getting Covered Services with certain types of Providers under this Booklet.

For information on Pharmacy Provider options, please refer to the PRESCRIPTION DRUGS PROGRAM section.

## Provider Participation Status

You are responsible for making sure a Provider is In-Network prior to receiving Services. To find out if a Provider is in our provider network you can:

1. access the current BlueCare Provider directory on our website at [www.floridablue.com](http://www.floridablue.com); or
2. call the customer service phone number on your ID Card.

## In-Network Providers

### Primary Care Physician (PCP)

The first and most important decision you must make when joining a health maintenance organization is the selection of a PCP for each covered family member. This decision is important since it is through this Provider that all other Covered Services, particularly those of Specialists, are coordinated. You do not need a referral to see your PCP.

### Specialist Care

If you need to visit a Specialist, you and/or your PCP may choose any In-Network Specialist.

Your PCP may consult with us regarding coverage or benefits and with the Specialist in order to coordinate your care. This provides you with continuity of treatment by the Physician who is most familiar with your medical history and who understands your total health profile.

You do not need a referral from your PCP to see an In-Network Specialist; however, some Services require an authorization from us before Services are rendered in order to be covered. In-Network Provider's are responsible for obtaining authorization from us.

Below are some special rules for certain types of Providers:

Chiropractors and Podiatrists: Upon your request, a Doctor of Chiropractic or a Doctor of Podiatry who is an In-Network Provider may be assigned to you for the purpose of providing chiropractic Services and podiatric Services, respectively. You shall have access to the assigned Doctor of Chiropractic or Doctor of Podiatry without the need for referrals from your PCP.

Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist: You have access to anesthesia Services within the scope of a duly licensed Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist's license if you requests such Services, provided such Services are available, as determined by us, and are Covered Services under the Plan.

Dermatologists: You may access an In-Network dermatologist for up to five visits each Benefit Period without an authorization. Some Services, such as surgical procedures will require an authorization before the Services are rendered and if you do not have an authorization; the Services will not be covered.

Obstetric and Gynecological Providers: You may access In-Network Providers who specialize in

obstetrics or gynecology for obstetric or gynecological care without the need for authorization.

Osteopathic Hospitals: Inpatient and outpatient Services, similar to inpatient and outpatient Services by allopathic Hospitals may be covered at a Hospital accredited by the American Osteopathic Association when such Services are available in the Service Area even when such Hospital has not entered into a written agreement with us for such Services. The Hospital providing these Services may not charge more than their usual and customary rates less the average discount that we have with allopathic Hospitals within the Service Area. You must contact us to get the documents necessary to comply with this provision.

Physician Assistant: You have access to surgical assistant Services rendered by a Physician Assistant only when acting as a surgical assistant. Certain types of medical procedures and other Covered Services may be rendered by licensed Physician Assistants, nurse practitioners or other individuals who are not Physicians.

Specialty Pharmacy: Certain medications, such as injectable, oral, inhaled and infused therapies used to treat complex medical Conditions are typically more difficult to maintain, administer and monitor when compared to traditional drugs. Specialty Drugs may require frequent dosage adjustments, special storage and handling and may not be readily available at local pharmacies or routinely stocked by Physicians' offices, mostly due to the high cost and complex handling they require.

## **Provider Financial Incentive Disclosure**

Health care decisions are the shared responsibility of you, your family, and your health care Providers. A Provider's decisions regarding Health Care Services may have a financial impact on you and/or the Provider. For example a Provider in his or her contract with us may agree to accept financial responsibility for your Health Care Services. We encourage you to talk to your Providers about how, and to what extent, the acceptance of financial risk by the Provider may affect his or her Health Care Service decisions.

## **Continuity of Coverage and Care Upon Termination of a Provider Contract**

When a contract between us and an In-Network Provider (including a PCP) is terminated by us or the Provider without cause and, at the time of the In-network Provider's termination, you are actively receiving Services for a Condition, Services for that Condition shall continue even after the date of the In-Network Physician's contract termination. Services for that Condition will be covered with that Provider only until the earlier of:

1. treatment for that specific Condition is completed;
2. you select another In-Network Physician; or
3. the next open enrollment period.

This extension period will not exceed the maximum time period allowed under Florida law, and in no case will it be longer than six months after termination of the Provider's contract with us.

The Plan will continue to provide maternity benefits under this Booklet, regardless of the trimester in which Services were initiated, until completion of your postpartum care, if you initiated your prenatal care prior to the termination of the In-Network Provider's contract.

The Plan is not required to cover or pay for any Services under this subsection for an individual whose coverage under this Booklet is not in effect at the time Services are rendered. Further, this subsection does not apply if the In-Network Provider is terminated "for cause".

## **Services Not Available from Contracting Providers**

Except as provided in the WHAT IS COVERED? section, if a Covered Service is not available through In-Network Providers, we may authorize coverage for such Services to be rendered by an Out-of-Network

Provider. Covered Services provided by an Out-of-Network Provider must be authorized by us before the Services are rendered.

### **Assignment of Benefits to Providers**

Except as set forth in the last paragraph of this section, we will not honor any of the following assignments, or attempted assignments, by you to any Provider, including, and without limitation, any of the following:

1. an assignment of the benefits due you under this Booklet;
2. an assignment of the right to receive payments due under this Booklet; or
3. an assignment of a claim for damage resulting from a breach, or an alleged breach, of any promise or obligation set forth in this Booklet, or any promise or obligation set forth in any contract, plan, or policy.

We specifically reserve the right to honor an assignment of benefits or payment by you to a provider who: (1) is an In-Network Provider under your Group Plan; (2) is a licensed Hospital or Physician and the benefits which have been assigned are for care provided per Florida Statutes; or (3) is an Ambulance Provider that provides transportation for care from a location where an Emergency Medical Condition, as defined per Florida Statutes, first occurred to a Hospital, and the benefits which have been assigned are for transportation to care per Florida Statutes. A written attestation of the assignment of benefits may be required.

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# BLUECARD® PROGRAM

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## Out-of-Area Services

### Overview

We have a variety of relationships with other Blue Cross and/or Blue Shield Plans and their Licensed Controlled Affiliates (“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 obtain Health Care Services outside of Florida, the claims for these Services may be processed through one of these Inter-Plan Arrangements.

When you receive care outside of Florida, 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 Licensee in that geographic area (“Host Blue”). Some Providers (“Nonparticipating Providers”) don’t contract with the Host Blue. We explain below how we pay both kinds of Providers.

We cover only limited Services received outside of Florida. As used in this section, “Out-of-Area Covered Services” only include Emergency Services for treatment of an Emergency Medical Condition obtained outside of Florida. Any other Services will not be covered even if processed through any Inter-Plan Arrangements.

### Inter-Plan Arrangements Eligibility – Claim Types

All claim types are eligible to be processed through Inter-Plan Arrangements, as described above, except for all dental care benefits except when paid as medical claims/benefits, and those prescription drug benefits or vision care benefits that may be administered by a third party contracted by us to provide the specific Service or Services.

### **BlueCard Program**

Under the BlueCard Program, when you receive Out-of-Area Covered Services within the geographic area served by a Host Blue, we will remain responsible for fulfilling our contractual obligations to you. However the Host Blue is responsible for contracting with and generally handling all interactions with its Participating Providers.

The BlueCard Program enables you to obtain Out-of-Area Covered Services, as defined above, from a health care Provider participating with a Host Blue, where available. The Participating Provider will automatically file a claim for the Out-of-Area Covered Services provided to you, so there are no claim forms for you to fill out. You will be responsible for your Cost Share amounts.

**Medical Emergency:** If you experience a medical emergency while traveling outside of Florida, go to the nearest facility that can provide the type of Services needed.

When you receive Out-of-Area Covered Services outside of Florida and the claim is processed through the BlueCard Program, the amount you pay for the Out-of-Area Covered Services, if not a fixed dollar Copayment, is calculated based on the lower of:

- The billed charges for your Out-of-Area Covered Services; or
- The negotiated price that the Host Blue makes available to us.

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

Estimated pricing and average pricing also take into account adjustments to correct for over- or underestimation of modifications of past pricing of claims, as noted above. However, such adjustments

will not affect the price we have used for your claim because they will not be applied after a claim has already been paid.

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

### **Nonparticipating Providers Outside of Florida**

When Covered Services are provided outside of Florida by Nonparticipating Providers, our payment for such Covered Services will be based on the applicable Allowed Amount.

### **Blue Cross Blue Shield Global® Core Program**

If you are outside the United States, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico or the U.S. Virgin Islands, you may be able to take advantage of the Blue Cross Blue Shield Global Core Program when obtaining Covered Services. The Blue Cross Blue Shield Global Core Program is unlike the BlueCard Program available in the United States, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands in certain ways. For instance, although the Blue Cross Blue Shield Global Core Program assists you with accessing a network of inpatient, outpatient and professional Providers, the network is not served by a Host Blue. As such, when you receive care from Providers outside the United States, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands, you will typically have to pay the Providers and submit the claims yourself to obtain reimbursement for Out-of-Area Covered Services.

If you need medical assistance services (including locating a doctor or hospital) outside the United States, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands, you should call the Blue Cross Blue Shield Global Core Service Center at 800-810-BLUE (2583) or call collect at 804-673-1177, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. An assistance coordinator, working with a medical professional, will arrange a physician appointment or hospitalization, if necessary.

### **Inpatient Services**

In most cases, if you contact the Blue Cross Blue Shield Global Core Service Center for assistance, hospitals will not require you to pay for inpatient Out-of-Area Covered Services, except for your Cost Share amounts. In such cases, the hospital will submit your claims to the Blue Cross Blue Shield Global Core Service Center to begin claims processing. However, if you paid in full at the time of Service, you must submit a claim to receive reimbursement for Out-of-Area Covered Services.

### **Outpatient Services**

Physicians, Urgent Care Centers and other Providers of outpatient Services located outside the United States, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands will typically require you to pay in full at the time of Service. You must submit a claim to obtain reimbursement for Out-of-Area Covered Services.

### **Submitting a Blue Cross Blue Shield Global Core Claim**

When you pay for Out-of-Area Covered Services outside the United States, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands, you must submit a claim to obtain reimbursement. For institutional and professional claims, you should complete a Blue Cross Blue Shield Global Core International claim form and send the claim form with the Provider's itemized bill(s) to the Blue Cross Blue Shield Global Core Service Center (the address is on the form) to initiate claims processing. Following the instructions on the claim form will help ensure timely processing of your claim. The claim form is available from the Blue Cross Blue Shield Global Core Service Center or online at [www.bcbsglobalcore.com](http://www.bcbsglobalcore.com). If you need assistance with your claim submission, you should call the Blue Cross Blue Shield Global Core Service Center at 800-810-BLUE (2583) or call collect at 804-673-1177, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

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## **COVERAGE ACCESS RULES**

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It is important that you become familiar with the rules for accessing health care coverage under this BlueCare HMO plan. The following section explains our role and the Primary Care Physician's (PCP) role, how to access specialty care coverage, and what to do if Emergency Services are needed. It is also important for you to review all Service Area-specific Coverage Access Rules for particular types of Services and In-Network Providers within the Service Area. These Service Area-specific Coverage Access Rules, if any, are set forth in the provider directory and may vary based on negotiated Provider contracts and other network factors specific to the Service Area.

### **Choosing a Primary Care Physician**

The first and most important decision you must make when joining a health maintenance organization is the selection of a PCP. This decision is important since it is through this Provider that all other Covered Services, particularly those of Specialists, are coordinated. You are free to choose any PCP listed in our published list of PCPs whose practice is open to additional BlueCare patients. This choice should be made when you enroll. You are responsible for choosing a PCP for all minor Covered Dependents including a newborn child or an Adopted newborn child. If you do not choose a PCP when enrolling, we will assign one to you and notify you of that assignment. The following important rules apply to your PCP relationship:

- Primary Care Physicians are trained to provide a broad range of medical care and can be a valuable resource to coordinate your overall health care needs. Developing and continuing a relationship with a PCP allows the Physician to become knowledgeable about your health history.
- A PCP can help you determine the need to visit a Specialist and also help you find one based on his or her knowledge of you and your specific health care needs.
- A PCP may specialize in internal medicine, family practice, general practice, or pediatrics. Also, a gynecologist or obstetrician/gynecologist may elect to contract with us as a Primary Care Physician.
- Care rendered by your PCP usually results in lower Cost Share for you.

The PCP you select maintains a Physician-patient relationship with you, and will be, except as specified by the Coverage Access Rules set forth in the provider directory, if any, responsible for helping to coordinate medical Services for you.

Both you and your PCP may request a change in the PCP assignment as discussed below:

1. You may request a transfer to another PCP whose practice is open to new BlueCare patients. The effective date of a transfer to the new PCP will depend upon when we receive your request. Requests may be made on our website at [www.floridablue.com](http://www.floridablue.com) or by calling the number on the back of your ID card.
2. There are also times when a PCP, for good cause, may request that we assist you in choosing another PCP.
3. If your PCP terminates his or her contract with us or is unable to perform his or her duties or is on a leave of absence, we may help you choose another PCP or assign a new one for you.



## Authorization Requirements

Many Services have to be authorized before the Services are rendered in order to be covered under this Booklet. **Since this is a self-funded plan, the Group is ultimately responsible for determining whether expenses incurred for medical care are covered under this Booklet. However, it is important to note that under our ASA; the Group has asked us to use our authorization criteria and guidelines currently in effect.**

There may be times when Services are authorized, but only if received in a specific setting, such as an Ambulatory Surgical Center or Independent Diagnostic Testing Center. If the authorization includes a specific setting and you receive the Services in a different setting, such Services may be denied. For example, a procedure may be authorized only when performed in an Ambulatory Surgical Center. In this case, if you have the procedure done in a Hospital, the claim may be denied because the procedure was only authorized when performed in an Ambulatory Surgical Center.

In-Network Providers have agreed to obtain these authorizations for you; however, it is always a good idea to ask your Provider if he or she has obtained an authorization if one is required. Services that must be authorized in advance include, but are not limited to:

1. hospitalization, both inpatient and observation stays (except Emergency Services rendered for an Emergency Medical Condition, see the WHAT IS COVERED? section);
2. certain radiology Services, including advanced diagnostic imaging Services, such as CT scans, MRIs, MRAs and nuclear imaging;
3. Birth Center Services;
4. Services rendered in connection with Approved Clinical Trials;
5. Home Health Care;
6. certain Durable Medical Equipment;
7. Prosthetic Devices and Orthotic Devices;
8. Pain Management Services;
9. surgery (at all locations);
10. Services provided by Out-of-Network Providers;
11. all Services provided in a Skilled Nursing Facility;
12. certain injections and infusion therapy;
13. certain Provider-administered Drugs (denoted with a special symbol in the Medication Guide);
14. Hospice Services; and
15. certain diagnostic Services.

**Note:** Prior Coverage Authorizations expire on the earlier of, but not to exceed 12 months:

1. the termination date of your plan, or
2. the period authorized by us, as indicated in the letter you receive from us.

Subject to our review and approval, we may authorize continued coverage of a previously approved Service. To request a continuation we must receive appropriate documentation from your Provider. The fact that we may have previously authorized coverage does not guarantee a continued authorization.

## **Personal Case Management Program**

The personal case management program focuses primarily on members who suffer from a catastrophic illness or injury. If you meet our case management guidelines, we may, in our sole discretion, assign a personal case manager to you to help you coordinate coverage, benefits or payment for Health Care Services you receive. **Your participation in this program is completely voluntary.**

Under the personal case management program, we may elect to offer alternative benefits or payment for cost-effective Health Care Services. These alternative benefits or payments may be made available by us on a case-by-case basis when you meet our case management criteria then in effect. Such alternative benefits or payments, if any, will be made available in accordance with a treatment plan with which you, or your representative, and your Physician agree to in writing. In addition, the Group will be required to specifically agree to such treatment plan and the alternative benefits or payment.

The fact that the Plan has paid or may offer to pay for certain Health Care Services under the personal case management program in no way obligates us or the Group to continue to provide or pay for the same or similar Services. Nothing contained in this section shall be deemed a waiver of the Group's right to enforce this Booklet in strict accordance with its terms. The terms of this Booklet will continue to apply, except as specifically modified in writing in accordance with the personal case management program rules then in effect.

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## **ELIGIBILITY FOR COVERAGE**

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Each employee or other individual who is eligible to participate in the Group Health Plan, and who meets and continues to meet the eligibility rules described in this Booklet, shall be entitled to apply for coverage under this Booklet. These eligibility rules are binding upon you and/or your eligible family members. No changes in the eligibility rules will be permitted by the Group. Acceptable documentation may be required as proof that an individual meets and continues to meet the eligibility requirements, such as a court order naming the Covered Plan Participant as the legal guardian or appropriate Adoption documentation described in the ENROLLMENT AND EFFECTIVE DATE OF COVERAGE section.

### **Covered Plan Participant Eligibility**

In order to be eligible to enroll as a Covered Plan Participant, an individual must be an Eligible Employee. An Eligible Employee must meet each of the following requirements:

1. the employee must maintain his or her primary residence in the Service Area or be regularly employed in the Service Area;
2. be a bona fide employee;
3. the employee's job must fall within a job classification identified by the Group;
4. completed any applicable Waiting Period established by the Group; and
5. meet any additional eligibility requirements required by the Group.

This Employee eligibility classification may be expanded to include:

1. retired employees;
2. additional job classifications;
3. employees of affiliated or subsidiary companies of the Group; and
4. other individuals as determined by the Group.

The Group shall have sole discretion concerning the expansion of the eligibility classifications.

### **Dependent Eligibility**

An individual who meets the eligibility criteria specified below is an Eligible Dependent and is eligible to apply for coverage under this Booklet:

1. The Covered Plan Participant's spouse under a legally valid existing marriage, who maintains his or her primary residence in the Service Area;
2. The Covered Plan Participant's natural, newborn, Adopted, Foster or step child (or a child for whom the Covered Plan Participant has been court-appointed as legal guardian or legal custodian) who has not reached the end of the Calendar Year in which he or she reaches age 30 regardless of the dependent child's student or marital status, financial dependency on the covered parent, whether the dependent child resides with the covered parent, or whether the dependent child is eligible for or enrolled in any other health plan. A dependent child must maintain his or her primary residence in the Service Area only beginning with the Calendar Year following the year they reach age 26 to the end of the Calendar Year the dependent child reaches age 30;
3. The newborn child of a Covered Dependent child. Coverage for such newborn child will automatically terminate 18 months after the birth of the newborn child.

**Note:** It is your sole responsibility as the Covered Plan Participant to establish that a child meets the eligibility rules. Eligibility will end when the child no longer meets the eligibility rules required to be an Eligible Dependent.

### **Children with Disabilities**

In the case of a dependent child with an intellectual or physical disability, such child is eligible to continue coverage as a Covered Dependent, beyond the age of 30, if the child is:

1. otherwise eligible for coverage under the Group Health Plan;
2. incapable of self-sustaining employment by reason of intellectual or physical disability; and
3. chiefly dependent upon the Covered Plan Participant for support and maintenance provided that the symptoms or causes of the child's intellectual or physical disability existed prior to the child's 30th birthday.

This eligibility will terminate on the last day of the month in which the dependent child no longer meets these requirements.

### **Other Eligibility Rules**

1. No person whose coverage with us has been terminated for cause (see the TERMINATION OF COVERAGE section) shall be eligible to re-enroll in the Group Health Plan.
2. No person shall be refused enrollment or re-enrollment because of race, color, creed, marital status, gender, or age (except as provided in the Dependent Eligibility subsection).
3. The Covered Plan Participant must notify the Group as soon as possible when a Covered Dependent is no longer eligible for coverage. If a Covered Dependent fails to continue to meet each of the eligibility requirements, and the Covered Plan Participant does not provide timely notice, the Group shall have the right to retroactively terminate the coverage of such Dependent to the date any such eligibility requirement was not met.
4. Upon request, the Covered Plan Participant shall provide proof, which is acceptable to the Group, of a Covered Dependent's continuing eligibility for coverage.
5. If the Group offers an alternative health benefits plan for Medicare eligibles or retirees, and an individual elects to be covered under such plan, then such individual shall not be eligible for coverage under this Booklet.

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# DOMESTIC PARTNER COVERAGE ENDORSEMENT

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**THIS ENDORSEMENT CHANGES THE DEPENDENT ELIGIBILITY UNDER YOUR HEALTH PLAN.  
PLEASE READ IT CAREFULLY.**

Your Plan has been customized at the request of your Group, to **provide the option for coverage of a Domestic Partner (including his or her dependent children)**. This means that some of the standard language in this Booklet does not apply to your Plan. These changes are listed below.

In addition to all other applicable provisions in the Benefit Booklet, the following Eligibility requirements are added for a Domestic Partner and his or her dependent children. The term Eligible Dependent is modified throughout the Booklet to also include the reference to Domestic Partner when spouse is referenced.

## ELIGIBILITY FOR COVERAGE

### Domestic Partner Eligibility

The following individuals are eligible to apply for coverage under the Benefit Booklet:

1. the Covered Plan Participant's (employee only) present Domestic Partner, as defined in this Endorsement;
2. the covered Domestic Partner's dependent child who meets all of the eligibility requirements under the Benefit Booklet.

**Note:** Covered Domestic Partners and their Covered Dependent children are subject to all eligibility and enrollment provisions contained in the Benefit Booklet.

## TERMINATION OF COVERAGE

In addition to the provisions stated in the Covered Dependent subsection, coverage under the Benefit Booklet for a covered Domestic Partner and his or her Covered Dependent children will end at 12:01 a.m. on the date that the Domestic Partnership terminates or the date of death of the covered Domestic Partner. The Covered Plan Participant must notify the Group within 10 days of when the Domestic Partnership eligibility requirements are no longer met or within 10 days of the death of the covered Domestic Partner.

## CONTINUING COVERAGE

Covered Domestic Partners and their Covered Dependents are not entitled to COBRA continuation of coverage, but may be entitled to apply for one of our conversion policies as set forth in the Conversion Privilege subsection.

## DEFINITIONS

Domestic Partner means a person of the same or opposite gender with whom the Covered Plan Participant has established a Domestic Partnership.

Domestic Partnership means a relationship between a Covered Plan Participant and one other person of the same or opposite gender who meet, at a minimum, the following eligibility requirements:

1. both individuals are each other's sole Domestic Partner and intend to remain so indefinitely;
2. individuals are not related by blood to a degree of closeness (e.g., siblings) that would prohibit legal marriage in the state in which they legally reside;

3. both individuals are unmarried, at least 18 years of age, and are mentally competent to consent to the Domestic Partnership;
4. both individuals are financially interdependent and intend to continue to reside together indefinitely;
5. the Covered Plan Participant has submitted acceptable proof of evidence of common residence and joint financial responsibility to the Group; and
6. the Covered Plan Participant has completed and submitted any required forms to the Group and the Group has determined the Domestic Partnership eligibility requirements have been met.

This Endorsement shall not extend, vary, alter, replace, or waive any of the provisions, benefits, exclusions, limitations, or conditions contained in the Benefit Booklet, other than as specifically stated in this Endorsement. In the event of any inconsistencies between the provisions contained in this Endorsement and the provisions contained in the Benefit Booklet, the provisions contained in this Endorsement shall control to the extent necessary to effectuate the intent of Florida Blue HMO and the Group as expressed herein.

If you have any questions or complaints concerning this Endorsement, please call us toll free at 800-FLA-BLUE.

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## **ENROLLMENT AND EFFECTIVE DATE OF COVERAGE**

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Eligible Employees and Eligible Dependents may enroll for coverage as described in this section. Any Eligible Employee or Eligible Dependent who is not properly enrolled will not be covered under this Booklet. Neither Florida Blue HMO nor the Group shall have any obligation whatsoever to any individual who is not properly enrolled.

### **General Rules for Enrollment**

1. You may apply for coverage by completing an Enrollment Form and submitting it to the Group.
2. All factual representations on the Enrollment Forms must be accurate and complete. Any false, incomplete, or misleading information provided during enrollment, or at any time, may cause you to be disqualified for coverage and, in addition to any other legal right the Group may have, the Group may terminate or Rescind your coverage.
3. The Plan will not provide coverage or benefits to any person who would not have been eligible to enroll, had accurate and complete information been provided on a timely basis. In such cases, the Group may require you or a person legally responsible for you, to repay any payments made on your behalf.

### **How to Apply for Coverage**

To apply for coverage, you as the Eligible Employee must:

1. complete the Enrollment Form and submit it to the Group;
2. provide any other information the Group may need to determine eligibility, upon request;
3. agree to pay any contribution amounts required by the Group; and
4. add Eligible Dependents or delete Covered Dependents by completing the Enrollment Form and submitting it to the Group.

When applying for coverage, you must elect one of the types of coverage available under the Group Health Plan. Such types may include:

<b>Coverage Type</b>	<b>Provides Coverage for:</b>
<b>Employee Only</b>	the Eligible Employee only
<b>Employee / Spouse</b>	the Eligible Employee and his or her spouse
<b>Employee / Child(ren)</b>	the Eligible Employee and children only
<b>Employee / Family</b>	the Eligible Employee, spouse and children

There may be an additional contribution amounts for each Covered Dependent based on the coverage provided by the Group.

## **Enrollment Periods**

There are only certain times during the year that you can enroll for coverage, these enrollment periods are as follows:

**Initial Enrollment Period:** this is the period of time when you are first eligible to enroll. It starts on the date you are first eligible and ends no less than 30 days later. This time can be when the Group first starts its Plan under this Booklet, or when an employee first becomes eligible for coverage under the Plan.

**Annual Open Enrollment Period:** this is the period of time (usually 30 days) when you have an opportunity to select coverage from the alternatives your Group offers in its health benefit program. This period takes place every year prior to the Anniversary Date. The Group will establish the dates and length of this period.

**Special Enrollment Period:** this is the 30-day period of time immediately following a special event such as getting a new dependent or losing other coverage. During this time you may apply for coverage because of the special event. Special events are described in the Special Enrollment Period subsection of this section.

### **Initial Enrollment Period**

1. If you are an Eligible Employee when the Group first starts its plan under this Booklet; you must enroll (yourself and any Eligible Dependents) during the Initial Enrollment Period in order to become covered as of the Effective Date of the Group. In this case, the Effective Date of coverage for you and the dependents you enroll will be the same as the Group.
2. If you become an Eligible Employee after the Group's Effective Date (for example, newly-hired employees) you must enroll (yourself and any Eligible Dependents) before or within the Initial Enrollment Period and your Effective Date of coverage will begin on the date specified in writing, by the Group.

### **Annual Open Enrollment Period**

If you did not apply for coverage during the Initial Enrollment Period or a Special Enrollment Period you may apply for coverage by completing an Enrollment Form during an Annual Open Enrollment Period. Your Effective Date of coverage will be the date specified by the Group.

If you do not enroll or change your coverage selection during the Annual Open Enrollment Period, you must wait until the next Annual Open Enrollment Period to make any changes, unless a special event, as outlined in the Special Enrollment Period subsection of this section, occurs.

### **Special Enrollment Period**

You may apply for coverage outside of the Initial Enrollment Period and Annual Enrollment Period as a result of a special enrollment event. To apply for coverage, you must complete an Enrollment Form and submit it to the Group within the time periods noted below for each special enrollment event.

If you declined coverage when it was first offered under this Plan and you stated in writing, that coverage under another group health plan or health insurance coverage was the reason for declining enrollment, you may apply for coverage if one of the following special enrollment events occurs and you complete an Enrollment Form and submit it to the Group within time periods indicated in the chart that follows.



**Special Enrollment Events**

Loss of Coverage under...	Caused by...	Enrollment Form due to Group within...
a group health plan or COBRA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Exhaustion of COBRA</li> <li>• termination of employment</li> <li>• reduction in the number of hours you work</li> <li>• reaching or exceeding the lifetime maximum of all benefits under other health coverage</li> <li>• the employer stopped offering group health coverage</li> <li>• death of your spouse</li> <li>• divorce or legal separation</li> <li>• employer contributions toward such coverage are terminated</li> </ul>	30 days of the date coverage was terminated
a Children’s Health Insurance Program or Medicaid	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• loss of eligibility for such coverage</li> <li>• becoming eligible for the optional state premium assistance program</li> </ul>	60 days of the date coverage was terminated
<b>*Adding Coverage...</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• your marriage</li> <li>• your getting a new dependent through birth, Adoption or placement in anticipation of Adoption</li> </ul>	30 days of the date of the event

\* The statement in the paragraph above this chart regarding declining coverage when it was first offered does not apply to these special enrollment events.

Your Effective Date of coverage will be the date of the special enrollment event. If you do not enroll or change your coverage during the Special Enrollment Period you must wait until the next Annual Open Enrollment Period.

**Note:** Loss of coverage for failure to pay your required contribution on a timely basis or for cause (such as making a fraudulent claim or an intentional misrepresentation of a material fact in connection with the prior health coverage) is not a qualifying event for special enrollment.

## Dependent Enrollment

An individual may be added upon becoming an Eligible Dependent of a Covered Plan Participant. Below are special rules for certain Eligible Dependents.

**Newborn Children** – To enroll a newborn child who is an Eligible Dependent, the Covered Plan Participant must complete an Enrollment Form and submit it to the Group. The Effective Date of coverage for a newborn child is usually the date of birth as long as you have enrolled the newborn child in time (as indicated below). The Group must be notified, in writing, when you are adding a newborn and the rules for Effective Date and contribution amounts charged for the newborn may vary depending on when we receive this written notification. The chart that follows indicates these differences:

### Newborn Enrollment

If written notice is received within...	the Effective Date of the newborn will be...	Contribution amounts for the newborn child...
30 days after the date of birth	the date of birth	will <b>not</b> be charged for the <b>first 30 days</b>
31 to 60 days after the date of birth	the date of birth	will be charged from the date of birth
61 or more days* after the date of birth	the date of birth	will be charged from the date of birth

\*This applies only if the Group has not had an Annual Open Enrollment Period since the baby was born. If we receive the written notice more than 60 days after the birth of the newborn child, and your Group has had an Annual Open Enrollment Period since the birth of the newborn, the child may not be added until the Group's next Annual Open Enrollment Period.

### Additional Rules for Adopted Newborn Children

If an Adopted newborn's Effective Date of coverage is determined to be the date of birth (based on the above chart), a written agreement to Adopt such child must have been entered into by the Covered Plan Participant prior to the birth of such child, whether or not such an agreement is enforceable. The Covered Plan Participant may be required to provide any information and/or documents which we or the Group deem necessary in order to administer this provision. If the Adopted newborn child is not ultimately placed in your residence, there shall be no coverage for the Adopted newborn child. It is your responsibility as the Covered Plan Participant to notify the Group within ten calendar days of the date that placement was to occur if the Adopted newborn child is not placed in your residence.

The guidelines above only apply to newborns born after the Effective Date of the Covered Plan Participant. If a child is born before the Effective Date of the Covered Plan Participant the newborn should be added during the Initial Enrollment Period.

**Adopted/Foster Children:** To enroll an Adopted child (other than a newborn child) or Foster Child, the Covered Plan Participant must complete an Enrollment Form and submit it to the Group within 30 days after the date of placement and the Effective Date will be the date the Adopted or Foster Child is placed in the residence of the Covered Plan Participant pursuant to Florida law. If timely notice is given, no additional contribution amount will be charged for coverage of the Adopted or Foster Child for the duration of the notice period (the 30-day period before the child was placed in your home). You may need to provide additional information and/or documents deemed necessary in order to properly administer this provision.

If timely notice is not given, the child will be added as of the date of placement so long as we receive the Enrollment Form within 60 days of the placement, and any applicable contribution is paid back to the date of placement. If notification is not received within 60 days of the date of placement, the Covered Plan

Participant must make application during an Annual Open Enrollment Period or Special Enrollment Period in order for the Adopted or Foster Child to be covered.

#### Adopted Children

For all children covered as Adopted children, if the final decree of Adoption is not issued, coverage shall not be continued for such Adopted Child. It is your responsibility as the Covered Plan Participant to notify the Group if the Adoption does not take place. Upon receipt of this notification, we will terminate the coverage of the child on the Effective Date of the Adopted Child upon receipt of the written notice.

#### Foster Children

If the Covered Plan Participant's status as a foster parent is terminated, coverage will end for any Foster Child. It is your responsibility as the Covered Plan Participant to notify the Group in writing that the Foster Child is no longer in your care. Upon receipt of this notification, such child's coverage will be terminated on the date provided by the Group.

**Marital Status:** If the Covered Plan Participant marries after his or her Effective Date, he or she may add the spouse who is an Eligible Dependent due to a legally valid marriage. The Covered Plan Participant must complete an Enrollment Form and submit it to the Group within 30 days of the marriage and the Effective Date of coverage for the new spouse will be the date of the marriage.

**Court Order:** You, as the Covered Plan Participant may add an Eligible Dependent outside of the Initial Enrollment Period and Annual Open Enrollment Period if a court has ordered coverage to be provided by you for a minor child under your plan. The Covered Plan Participant must complete an Enrollment Form and submit it to the Group within 30 days of the court order and the Effective Date of coverage for an Eligible Dependent who is enrolled as a result of a court order will be the date required by the court or the next billing date.

### **Other Provisions**

#### **Rehired Employees**

If you are rehired as an employee of the Group; you are considered a newly-hired employee for purposes of this section, unless the Group has indicated that the employee qualifies for the exception as described in the federal regulations. The provisions of the Group Health Plan, applicable to newly-hired employees and their Eligible Dependents if the employee does not qualify for the federal exception, such as Effective Dates of coverage and Waiting Periods will apply to you.

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## TERMINATION OF COVERAGE

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### Covered Plan Participant

A Covered Plan Participant's coverage will automatically terminate at 12:01 a.m.:

1. on the date the ASA between Florida Blue HMO and the Group terminates;
2. on the date the Covered Plan Participant becomes covered under an alternative health benefits plan which is offered through or in connection with the Group;
3. on the last day of the first month that the Covered Plan Participant no longer meets any of the applicable eligibility requirements;
4. on the date the Covered Plan Participant's coverage is terminated for cause; or
5. on the date specified by the Group.

### Covered Dependent

A Covered Dependent's coverage will automatically terminate at 12:01 a.m.:

1. on the date the Covered Plan Participant's coverage terminates for any reason;
2. on the date the Dependent becomes covered under an alternative health benefits plan which is offered through or in connection with the Group;
3. on the last day of the Calendar Year that the Covered Dependent no longer meets the eligibility requirements;
4. on the date the Covered Dependent's coverage is terminated for cause;
5. on the date specified by the Group.

If you as the Covered Plan Participant wish to delete a Covered Dependent from coverage, you must complete an Enrollment Form and submit it to the Group prior to the termination date requested.

If you wish to delete your spouse from coverage, in the case of divorce for example, the Enrollment Form must be submitted before the termination date you are requesting, or within 10 days of the date the divorce is final, whichever is applicable.

### Termination for Cause

If any of the following events occur, the Group may terminate an individual's coverage for cause:

1. fraud, material misrepresentation or omission in applying for coverage or benefits;
2. you intentionally misrepresent, omit, or give false information on Enrollment Forms or other forms completed by you or on your behalf;
3. fraudulent misuse of the ID Card;
4. you no longer live or work in the Service Area; or
5. a Covered Dependent reaches the limiting age.

Any termination made under the provisions stated above is subject to review in accordance with the Complaint and Grievance Process described in this Booklet.

**Note:** Only fraudulent misstatements on the Enrollment Form may be used by us to void coverage or deny any claim for loss incurred or disability, if discovered after two years from your Effective Date.

## **Rescission of Coverage**

Florida Blue HMO and the Group reserve the right to Rescind coverage under this Booklet for any individual covered under this Benefit Booklet as permitted by law.

Florida Blue HMO and the Group may only Rescind your coverage if you or another person on your behalf commits fraud or intentional misrepresentation of material fact in applying for coverage or benefits.

Florida Blue HMO and/or the Group will provide at least 45 days advance written notice to the Covered Employee of our intent to Rescind coverage.

Rescission of coverage is considered an Adverse Benefit Determination and is subject to the Adverse Benefit Determination review standards described in the CLAIMS PROCESSING section and the appeal procedures described in the COMPLAINT AND GRIEVANCE PROCESS sections.

## **Notice of Termination**

It is the Group's responsibility to immediately notify you of termination of the Group Health Plan for any reason.

## **Group Health Plan Responsibilities Upon Termination of Your Coverage**

Upon termination of coverage for you or your Covered Dependents for any reason, Florida Blue HMO and the Group will have no further liability or responsibility with respect to such individual, except as otherwise specifically described in this Booklet.

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# CONTINUING COVERAGE

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## Introduction

This section describes the ways coverage can be continued after your termination date. We have divided this section into three subsections: Federal Continuation Provisions, Conversion Privilege and Extension of Benefits.

## Federal Continuation of Coverage Law

A federal continuation of coverage law, known as the Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1985 (COBRA), as amended, may apply to your Group Health Plan; if so, you may be entitled to continue coverage for a limited period of time, if you meet the applicable requirements, make a timely election, and pay the proper amount required to maintain coverage.

You must contact your Group to determine if you are entitled to COBRA continuation of coverage. Your Group is solely responsible for meeting all of the obligations under COBRA, including the obligation to notify you of their rights under COBRA. If you or the Group do not meet your obligations under COBRA and this Booklet, we shall not be liable for any claims incurred by you after your coverage terminates.

A summary of your COBRA rights and the general conditions for qualification for COBRA continuation coverage is provided below. This summary is not meant as a representation that any of the COBRA obligations of the Group are met by the Group Health Plan; the duty to meet such obligations remains with the Group.

The following is a summary of what you may elect, if COBRA applies to your Group and you are eligible for such coverage:

1. You may elect to continue your coverage for a period not to exceed 18 months\* in the case of:
  - a. termination of employment of the Covered Plan Participant other than for gross misconduct; or
  - b. reduced hours of employment of the Covered Plan Participant.

**\*Note:** You are eligible for an 11 month extension of the 18 month COBRA continuation option above (to a total of 29 months) if you are totally disabled, as defined by the Social Security Administration (SSA), at the time of your termination, reduction in hours or within the first 60 days of COBRA continuation coverage. You must supply notice of the disability determination to the Group within 18 months of becoming eligible for continuation coverage and no later than 60 days after the SSA's determination date.

2. Your Covered Dependents may elect to continue their coverage for a period not to exceed 36 months in the case of:
  - a. the Covered Plan Participant's entitlement to Medicare;
  - b. divorce or legal separation from the Covered Plan Participant;
  - c. death of the Covered Plan Participant;
  - d. the employer files bankruptcy (subject to bankruptcy court approval); or
  - e. a Covered Dependent child who ceases to be an Eligible Dependent under the terms of the Plan.

Children born to or placed for Adoption with the Covered Plan Participant during the continuation coverage periods noted above are also eligible for the remainder of the continuation period

If you are eligible to continue group health insurance coverage pursuant to COBRA, the following conditions must be met:

1. The Group must notify you of your continuation of coverage rights under COBRA within 14 days of the event that creates the continuation option. If coverage would be lost due to Medicare entitlement, divorce, legal separation or because a Covered Dependent child no longer meets eligibility requirements, you or your Covered Dependent must notify the Group, in writing, within 60 days of any of these events. The Group's 14-day notice requirement runs from the date of receipt of such notice.
2. You must elect to continue the coverage within 60 days of the later of:
  - a. the date that your coverage ends; or
  - b. the date the notification of continuation of coverage rights is sent by the Group.
3. COBRA coverage will end if you become covered under any other group health plan. However, COBRA coverage may continue if the new group health plan contains exclusions or limitations due to a Pre-existing Condition that would affect your coverage.
4. COBRA coverage will end if you become entitled to Medicare.
5. If you are totally disabled and eligible and elect to extend your continuation of coverage, you may not continue such extension of coverage more than 30 days after a determination by the SSA that you are no longer disabled. You must inform the Group of the SSA's determination within 30 days of such determination.
6. You must meet all premium payment requirements and all other eligibility requirements described in COBRA, and, to the extent not inconsistent with COBRA, as described in the Group Health Plan.
7. The Group must continue to provide group health coverage to its employees, in order for COBRA continuation coverage to remain available to you.

An election by a Covered Plan Participant or Covered Dependent spouse shall be deemed to be an election for any other qualified beneficiary related to that Covered Plan Participant or Covered Dependent spouse, unless otherwise specified in the election form.

**Note:** This section shall not be interpreted to grant any continuation rights in excess of those required by COBRA and/or Section 4980B of the Internal Revenue Code. Additionally, the Policy shall be deemed to have been modified, and shall be interpreted, so as to comply with COBRA and changes to COBRA that are mandatory with respect to the Group.

## **Conversion Privilege**

If your Group Health Plan has terminated you may apply for conversion to a non-group plan. Florida Blue HMO and the Group have no obligation to notify you of the conversion privilege. It is your sole responsibility to exercise this conversion privilege subject to the provisions set forth below.

### **Eligibility Criteria for Conversion**

You are entitled to apply for a conversion contract for a non-group plan if:

1. you have been continuously covered under the Group Health Plan for at least three consecutive months; or you were covered for at least three consecutive months under any other group policy providing similar benefits that this Plan immediately replaced; and
2. your coverage has been terminated for any reason, including discontinuance of the Group Health Plan in its entirety and termination of continued coverage under COBRA; and
3. you maintain your primary residence in the Service Area.

The conversion contract shall be issued without regard to health status or requirements for Health Care Services. We must receive the completed conversion application and the applicable premium payment

within the 63-day period beginning on the date the Group Health Plan terminated. If the Group Health Plan has been terminated due to the non-payment of premium by the Group, we must receive the completed conversion application and the applicable premium payment within the 63-day period beginning on the date notice was given to the Group that the Group Health Plan terminated.

In the event we do not receive the conversion application and the initial premium payment within such 63-day period, your conversion application will be denied, and you will not be entitled to a conversion policy.

**Conversion is not available if termination occurred for any of the following reasons:**

1. you had not been continuously covered under the Group Health Plan for at least three months prior to termination;
2. failure by you to pay any required premium for coverage under the Group Health Plan;
3. replacement of coverage by similar group coverage occurs within 31 days of termination;
4. fraud or intentional misrepresentation in applying for the Group Health Plan or for any Covered Services;
5. termination for cause as set forth in the TERMINATION OF COVERAGE subsection;
6. you have left the Service Area with the intent to relocate or to establish a new residence outside the Service Area; or
7. you are eligible for, or covered under, Medicare.

Additionally, conversion is not available:

1. if you are eligible for similar benefits, whether or not you are actually covered under any arrangement of coverage for individuals in a group;
2. if you are covered by similar benefits by another hospital, surgical, medical or major medical expense insurance policy or hospital or medical Service insured contract or medical practice or other prepayment plan, or by any other plan or program;
3. if similar benefits are provided for or are available to you pursuant to or in accordance with the requirements of any state or federal law (e.g., COBRA); or
4. if the benefits provided or available to you, together with the benefits provided by us, would result in excess of coverage, as determined by us.

**Conversion Coverage**

The conversion contract issued to each individual who converts to non-group coverage shall include a level of benefits for "minimum Services" which is similar to the level of benefits for the Services included in this Booklet. For purposes of this section, the term "minimum Services" shall mean Services which include any of the following: emergency care, inpatient Hospital Services, Physician care, ambulatory diagnostic treatment, and preventive Health Care Services. Conversion coverage is not a continuation of the Group Health Plan. Benefits under such conversion coverage may differ from benefits under the Group Health Plan and any Endorsements attached thereto. Conversion coverage may continue in effect as long as you: (a) continue to meet all applicable eligibility requirements; (b) pay all applicable fees and charges; and (c) otherwise comply with all requirements under the conversion contract.

**Effective Date of Conversion**

The effective date of conversion coverage shall be the day following the termination of the Group Health Plan. However, until such time as coverage under the conversion contract becomes effective, you shall pay the Allowed Amount for any Covered Services rendered during the 63-day period immediately following termination of the Group Health Plan. In the event such conversion coverage becomes effective, you may request reimbursement from us for any payment for Covered Services. You must submit proof of payment to us in order to obtain reimbursement



## **Extension of Benefits**

If the Group Health Plan is terminated, coverage will end on the termination date. We will not provide coverage or benefits for any Covered Service received on or after the termination date, except as listed below. The extension of benefits described below only applies when the Group Health Plan is terminated, and the benefits provided under an extension of benefits are subject to all other terms included in this Booklet.

**Note:** You must provide proof that you are entitled to an extension of benefits.

### **Extension of Benefits**

1. If you are pregnant on the termination date of the Group Health Plan, a limited extension of the maternity benefits will be provided, as long as the pregnancy started while you were covered under the Group Health Plan. This extension of benefits is only for Covered Services necessary to treat the pregnancy and will automatically terminate on the date the child is born.
2. If you are totally disabled on the termination date of the Group Health Plan because of a specific accident or illness that happened while you were covered under the Group Health Plan, a limited extension of benefits will be provided for you only. This extension of benefits is only for Covered Services necessary to treat the disabling Condition. This extension of benefits will only continue as long as the disability is continuous and uninterrupted; however, in any event, this extension of benefits will automatically terminate at the end of the 12-month period beginning on the termination date of the Group Health Plan.

**Note:** For purposes of this subsection, you will be considered totally disabled only if, in our opinion, you are unable to work at a job for which you have the education, training, or experience, and you continue to require regular care from a Physician for the disability. This applies, even if you are not working (e.g., a student, non-working spouse, or children), if you are unable to perform the normal day-to-day activities which you would otherwise be able to perform.

Neither the Group, nor Florida Blue HMO is required to provide an extension of benefits if you leave the Service Area with the intent to relocate or establish a new residence outside the Service Area; if you intentionally left out or provided false information on any Enrollment Form in order to obtain coverage or Covered Services; or if you were terminated for disruptive, unruly, abusive, unlawful, fraudulent or uncooperative behavior to the extent that your continued coverage under this Booklet impairs our ability to administer coverage and/or benefits or to arrange for the delivery of Health Care Services to you or any other Covered Person.

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## COORDINATION OF BENEFITS

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### Coordination of Benefits

Coordination of Benefits is a limitation of coverage and/or benefits to be provided under this Booklet. It is designed to avoid duplication of payment for Covered Services and/or supplies. Payment of Covered Services will be coordinated to the maximum extent allowed by law provided you follow the Coverage Access Rules set forth in the COVERAGE ACCESS RULES section. Contracts which may be subject to Coordination of Benefits include, but are not limited to, the following which will be referred to as "plan(s)" for purposes of this section:

1. any group insurance, group-type self-insurance, or HMO plan;
2. any group contract issued by any Blue Cross and/or Blue Shield Plan(s);
3. any plan, program or insurance policy, including an automobile insurance policy, provided that any such non-group policy contains a coordination of benefits provision;
4. Medicare, as described in the Medicare Secondary Payer Provisions subsection; and
5. to the extent permitted by law, any other government sponsored health insurance program.

The amount of payment by the Plan, if any, is based on whether or not the Group Health Plan is the primary payer. When primary, the Plan will provide Covered Services without regard to your coverage under other plans. When this Plan is not primary, payment may be reduced so that total benefits under all plans will not exceed 100 percent of the total reasonable expenses actually incurred for the Covered Services. If the Covered Services were rendered by an In-Network Provider, "total reasonable expenses", for purposes of this section, shall mean the amount required to be paid to such In-Network Provider based on the Provider's contract. If the primary payer's payment exceeds the Allowed Amount, no payment will be made for such Services.

The following rules shall be used to establish the order in which benefits under the respective plans will be determined:

1. This Plan always pays secondary to any medical payment, personal injury protection (PIP) coverage or no-fault coverage under any automobile policy available to you.
2. When this Plan covers you as a dependent and the other plan covers you as other than a dependent, this Plan will be secondary.
3. When this Plan covers you as a dependent child and your parents are married (not separated or divorced):
  - a. the plan of the parent whose birthday, month and day, falls earlier in the year will be primary;
  - b. if both parents have the same birthday, month and day, and the other plan has covered one of the parents longer than us, this Plan will be secondary.
4. When this Plan covers you as a dependent child whose parents are not married, or are separated or divorced:
  - a. the plan of the parent with custody is primary;
  - b. the plan of the re-married parent with custody is primary regardless of whether the re-married parent is the employee or a dependent under the step-parent's plan; the step-parent's plan is secondary;
  - c. and the plan of the parent without custody pays last;
  - d. regardless of which parent has custody, whenever a court decree specifies the parent who is financially responsible for the child's health care expenses, the plan of that parent is always primary.

5. When an employee or the employee's dependent and you are covered under a plan that covers you as a laid off or retired employee or as the employee's dependent and the other plan covers you as a dependent:
  - a. the plan that covers you by virtue of active employment, e.g. as the dependent spouse of an active employee, is primary;
  - b. if the other plan is not subject to this rule, and if, as a result, such plan does not agree on the order of benefits, this paragraph shall not apply.
6. If you have continuation of coverage under COBRA or Florida Health Insurance Coverage Continuation Act (FHICCA or mini COBRA), and also under another group plan, the following order of benefits applies:
  - a. first, the plan covering the person as an employee, or as the employee's dependent; and
  - b. second, the coverage purchased under the plan covering the person as a former employee, or as the former employee's dependent provided according to the provisions of COBRA or FHICCA.
7. When rules 1 through 6 above do not establish an order of benefits, the plan which has covered the individual the longest shall be primary.
8. If the other plan does not have rules that establish the same order of benefits as under this Booklet, the benefits under the other plan will be determined primary to the benefits under this Booklet.

The Plan will not coordinate benefits against an indemnity-type policy, an excess insurance policy, a policy with coverage limited to specified illnesses or accidents, or a Medicare Supplement policy.

### **Medicare Secondary Payer Provision**

When you become covered under Medicare and are still eligible and covered under this Booklet, your coverage under the Group Health Plan will be primary and Medicare benefits will be secondary, but only to the extent required by law. In all other instances, your coverage under the Group Health Plan will be secondary to any Medicare benefits. When the Group Health Plan is the primary payer, claims for Covered Services should be filed with us first.

If you become covered under Medicare and are still eligible and covered under the Group Health Plan, the Group MAY NOT offer, subsidize, procure or provide a Medicare supplement policy to you. Also, the Group MAY NOT persuade you to decline or terminate your Group Health Plan coverage and elect Medicare as the primary payer.

When you turn 65 or become eligible for Medicare due to End Stage Renal Disease (ESRD), you must notify the Group immediately.

### **Individuals With End Stage Renal Disease**

If you become entitled to Medicare coverage because of ESRD, your Group Health Plan is primary for 30 months beginning with the earlier of:

1. the month in which you became entitled to Medicare Part A ESRD benefits; or
2. the first month in which you would have been entitled to Medicare Part A ESRD benefits if a timely application had been made.

If Medicare was already primary before ESRD, Medicare will remain primary. Also, if your Group Health Plan coverage was primary before ESRD entitlement, the Group Health Plan will remain primary for the ESRD coordination period.

### **Disabled Active Individuals**

Your Group Health Plan coverage is primary, if:

1. your Group is a part of a health plan that has covered employees of at least one employer of 100 or more full-time or part-time employees on 50% or more of its regular business days during the previous Calendar Year; and
2. you are entitled to Medicare coverage because of disability (unless you have ESRD).

Primary coverage under the Group Health Plan is subject to the following terms:

1. your Group Health Plan coverage is primary during any month in which you are entitled to Medicare coverage because of disability;
2. your entitlement to primary coverage under this subsection will terminate automatically when:
  - a. you turn 65 years of age; or
  - b. you no longer qualify for Medicare coverage because of disability; or
  - c. you elect Medicare as the primary payer. Coverage will terminate as of the date of your election.

Under Medicare, the Group MAY NOT offer, subsidize, procure or provide a Medicare supplement policy to you or induce you to decline or terminate your Group Health Plan coverage and elect Medicare as the primary payer.

3. Your entitlement to primary coverage under this subsection will terminate automatically if you no longer qualify under applicable Medicare regulations and instructions. The Group shall notify us, without delay, of any such change in status.

### **Miscellaneous**

This section shall be changed, if necessary, to comply with federal statutory and regulatory Medicare Secondary Payer rules as they relate to Medicare beneficiaries who are covered under a group plan.

We will not be liable to the Group or anyone covered under the Group Health Plan due to any nonpayment of primary benefits that result from any failure of the Group's performance or obligations set forth in this section.

If primary payments are made for Covered Services rendered to you as described in this section in a period prior to receipt of the information required by the terms of this section, you may be required to reimburse the Group Health Plan for such payments.

### **Non-Duplication of Government Programs**

The benefits provided under this Booklet shall not duplicate any benefits to which you are entitled, or for which you are eligible, under governmental programs such as Medicare, Veterans Administration, TRICARE, or Workers' Compensation, to the extent allowed by law or any extension of benefits of coverage under a prior plan or program which may be required by law.

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# CLAIMS PROCESSING

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## Introduction

This section is intended to:

- help you understand what your treating Providers must do, under the terms of this Booklet, in order to obtain payment for Covered Services that have been rendered or will be rendered to you; and
- provide you with a general description of the procedures we will use for making Adverse Benefit Determinations, Concurrent Care Decisions and for notifying you when we deny benefits.

If the Group Health Plan is subject to the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA), the plan administrator (usually the employer) is solely responsible for complying with ERISA. While the benefit determination timeliness standards set forth in this section are generally consistent with ERISA, we are not legally responsible for notifying you of any rights you may have under ERISA. If you are not sure of your rights under ERISA, you should contact the plan administrator or an attorney of your choice. We will follow the claim determination procedures and notice requirements set forth in this section even if the Group Health Plan is not subject to ERISA.

Under no circumstances will we be held responsible for, nor will we accept liability relating to, the failure of the Group Health Plan's sponsor or plan administrator to: (1) comply with ERISA's disclosure requirements; (2) provide you with a Summary Plan Description (SPD) as that term is defined by ERISA; or (3) comply with any other legal requirements. You should contact the plan sponsor or administrator if you have questions relating to the Group Health Plan's SPD. We are not the Group Health Plan's sponsor or plan administrator. In most cases, a plan's sponsor or plan administrator is the employer who establishes and maintains the plan.

## Types of Claims

For purposes of this Booklet, there are three types of claims: (1) Post-Service Claims; (2) Pre-Service Claims; and (3) Claims Involving Urgent Care. It is important that you become familiar with the types of claims that can be submitted to us and the timeframes and other requirements that apply.

## Post-Service Claims

### How to File a Post-Service Claim

Experience shows that the most common type of claim we will receive from you or your treating Providers will be Post-Service Claims.

In-Network Providers have agreed to file Post-Service Claims for Covered Services they render to you. If you receive a bill from an In-Network Provider, you should forward it to us. If you require Emergency Services from an Out-of-Network Provider while inside or outside the Service Area or, if we refer you to an Out-of-Network Provider, the Plan will pay for Covered Services provided to you. If you receive a bill from an Out-of-Network Provider for Covered Services, you should forward it to us. We rely on the information you provide when processing a claim.

We must receive a Post-Service Claim within 90 days of the date the Covered Service was rendered or, if it was not reasonably possible to file within such 90-day period, as soon as possible. In any event, no Post-Service Claim will be considered for payment if we do not receive it at the address indicated on your ID Card within one year of the date the Covered Service was rendered unless you are legally incapacitated.

For Post-Service Claims, we must receive an itemized statement containing the following information:

1. the date the Service was provided;

2. a description of the Service including any applicable procedure codes;
3. the amount actually charged by the Provider;
4. the diagnosis including any applicable diagnosis codes;
5. the Provider's name and address;
6. the name of the individual who received the Service; and
7. the Covered Plan Participant's name and contract number as they appear on the ID Card.

**Note:** Please refer to the PRESCRIPTION DRUGS PROGRAM section for information on the processing of prescription drug claims. Special claims processing rules may apply for Health Care Services you receive outside the state of Florida under the BlueCard Program. (See the BLUECARD PROGRAM or AWAY FROM HOME CARE section.)

### **Processing Post-Service Claims**

We will use our best efforts to pay, contest, or deny all Post-Service Claims for which we have all of the necessary information, as determined by us, within the timeframes described below.

### **Payment for Post-Service Claims**

When payment is due under the terms of this Booklet, we will use our best efforts to pay (in whole or in part) for electronically submitted Post-Service Claims within 20 days of receipt. Likewise, we will use our best efforts to pay (in whole or in part) for paper Post-Service Claims within 40 days of receipt. You may receive notice of payment for paper claims within 30 days of receipt. If we are unable to determine whether the claim or a portion of the claim is payable because we need more information, we may contest or deny the claim within the timeframes set forth below.

### **Contested Post-Service Claims**

In the event we contest an electronically submitted Post-Service Claim, or a portion of such a claim, we will use our best efforts to provide notice, within 20 days of receipt, that the claim or a portion of the claim is contested. In the event we contest a paper Post-Service Claim, or a portion of such a claim, we will use our best efforts to provide notice, within 30 days of receipt, that the claim or a portion of the claim is contested. The notice may identify: (1) the contested portion or portions of the claim; (2) the reasons for contesting the claim or a portion of the claim; and (3) the date that we reasonably expect to notify you of the decision. The notice may also indicate whether more information is needed in order to complete processing of the claim. If we request additional information, we must receive it within 45 days of the request for the information. **If we do not receive the requested information, the claim will be processed based on the information in our possession at the time and may be denied.** Upon receipt of the requested information, we will use our best efforts to complete the processing of the Post-Service Claim within 15 days of receipt of the information.

### **Denial of Post-Service Claims**

In the event we deny a Post-Service Claim submitted electronically, we will use our best efforts to provide notice, within 20 days of receipt that the claim or a portion of the claim is denied. In the event we deny a paper Post-Service Claim, we will use our best efforts to provide notice, within 30 days of receipt of the claim, that the claim or a portion of the claim is denied. The notice may identify the denied portion(s) of the claim and the reasons for denial. It is your responsibility to ensure that we receive all information that we determine is necessary to process a Post-Service Claim. **If we do not receive the necessary information, the claim or a portion of the claim may be denied.**

A Post-Service Claim denial is an Adverse Benefit Determination and is subject to the Adverse Benefit Determination standards described in this section, and the appeal procedures described in the COMPLAINT AND GRIEVANCE PROCESS section.

In any event, we will use our best efforts to pay or deny all (1) electronic Post-Service Claims within 90 days of receipt of the completed claim; and (2) paper Post-Service Claims within 120 days of receipt of the completed claim. Claims processing shall be deemed to have been completed as of the date the notice of the claims decision is deposited in the mail by us or otherwise electronically transmitted. Any

claims payment relating to a Post-Service Claim that is not made by us within the applicable timeframe is subject to the payment of simple interest at the rate established by the Florida Insurance Code.

## **Pre-Service Claims**

### **How to file a Pre-Service Claim**

This Booklet may condition coverage, benefits, or payment (in whole or in part) for a specific Covered Service, on the receipt by us of a Pre-Service Claim as that term is defined herein. In order to determine whether we must receive a Pre-Service Claim for a particular Covered Service, please refer to the COVERAGE ACCESS RULES section, the WHAT IS COVERED? section and other applicable sections of this Booklet. You may also call the customer service phone number on your ID Card for assistance.

We are not required to render an opinion or make a coverage or benefit determination with respect to a Service that has not actually been provided to you unless the terms of this Booklet require approval by us (or condition payment) for the Service before it is received.

### **Benefit Determinations on Pre-Service Claims Involving Urgent Care**

For a Pre-Service Claim Involving Urgent Care, we will use our best efforts to provide notice of the determination (whether adverse or not) as soon as possible, but not later than 72 hours after receipt of the Pre-Service Claim unless additional information is required for a coverage decision. If additional information is necessary to make a determination, we will use our best efforts to provide notice within 24 hours of: (1) the need for additional information; (2) the specific information that you or the Provider may need to provide; and (3) the date that we reasonably expect to provide notice of the decision. If we request additional information, we must receive it within 48 hours of the request. We will use our best efforts to provide notice of the decision on the Pre-Service Claim within 48 hours after the earlier of: (1) receipt of the requested information; or (2) the end of the period you were afforded to provide the specified additional information as described above.

### **Benefit Determinations on Pre-Service Claims That Do Not Involve Urgent Care**

We will use our best efforts to provide notice of a decision of a Pre-Service Claim not involving urgent care within 15 days of receipt provided additional information is not required for a coverage decision. This 15-day determination period may be extended by us one time for up to an additional 15 days. If such an extension is necessary, we will use our best efforts to provide notice of the extension and reasons for it. We will use our best efforts to provide notification of the decision on your Pre-Service Claim within a total of 30 days of the initial receipt of the claim, if an extension of time was taken by us.

If additional information is necessary to make a determination, we will use our best efforts to: (1) provide notice of the need for additional information, prior to the expiration of the initial 15-day period; (2) identify the specific information that you or your Provider may need to provide; and (3) inform you of the date that we reasonably expect to notify you of the decision. If we request additional information, we must receive it within 45 days of the request for the information. We will use our best efforts to provide notice of the decision on the Pre-Service Claim within 15 days of receipt of the requested information.

A Pre-Service Claim denial is an Adverse Benefit Determination and is subject to the Adverse Benefit Determination standards described in this section, and the appeal procedures described in the COMPLAINT AND GRIEVANCE PROCESS section.

## **Concurrent Care Decisions**

### **Reduction or Termination of Coverage or Benefits for Covered Services**

A reduction or termination of coverage or benefits for Covered Services will be considered an Adverse Benefit Determination when:

1. we have approved in writing coverage or benefits for an ongoing course of Covered Services to be provided over a period of time or a number of Covered Services to be rendered; and

2. the reduction or termination occurs before the end of such previously approved time or number of Covered Service(s); and
3. the reduction or termination of coverage or benefits by us was not due to an amendment to the Booklet or termination of your coverage as provided by this Booklet.

We will use our best efforts to notify you of such reduction or termination in advance so you will have a reasonable amount of time to have the reduction or termination reviewed in accordance with the COMPLAINT AND GRIEVANCE PROCESS described in this Booklet. In no event shall we be required to provide more than a reasonable period of time within which you may develop your appeal before we actually terminate or reduce coverage for the Covered Services.

### **Requests for Extension of Covered Services**

Your Provider may request an extension of coverage or benefits for a Covered Service beyond the approved period of time or number of approved Covered Services. If the request for an extension is for a Claim Involving Urgent Care, we will use our best efforts to notify you of the approval or denial of such requested extension within 24 hours after receipt of the request, provided it is received at least 24 hours prior to the expiration of the previously approved number or length of coverage for such Covered Services. We will use our best efforts to notify you within 24 hours if: (1) we need additional information; or (2) you or your representative did not follow proper procedures in the request for an extension. If we request additional information, you will have 48 hours to provide the requested information. We may notify you orally or in writing, unless you or your representative specifically request that it be in writing. A denial of a request for an extension of Covered Services is considered an Adverse Benefit Determination and is subject to the Complaint and Grievance process described in this Booklet.

## **Adverse Benefit Determinations**

### **Manner and Content of a Notification of an Adverse Benefit Determination**

We will use our best efforts to provide notice of any Adverse Benefit Determination in writing. Notification of an Adverse Benefit Determination will include (or will be made available to you free of charge upon request):

1. the date the Service or supply was provided;
2. the Provider's name;
3. the dollar amount of the claim, if applicable;
4. the diagnosis codes included on the claim (e.g., ICD-9, ICD-10, DSM-IV), including a description of such codes;
5. the standardized procedure code included on the claim (e.g., Current Procedural Terminology), including a description of such codes;
6. the specific reason or reasons for the Adverse Benefit Determination, including any applicable denial code;
7. a reference to the specific Booklet provisions upon which the Adverse Benefit Determination is based, as well as any internal rule, guideline, protocol, or other similar criterion that was relied upon in making the Adverse Benefit Determination;
8. a description of any additional information that might change the determination and why that information is necessary;
9. a description of the Adverse Benefit Determination review procedures and the time limits applicable to such procedures; and,
10. if the Adverse Benefit Determination is based on the Medical Necessity or Experimental or Investigational exclusions, a statement telling you how to obtain the specific explanation of the scientific or clinical judgment for the determination.



If the claim is a Claim Involving Urgent Care, we may notify you orally within the proper timeframes, provided we follow up with a written or electronic notification meeting the requirements of this subsection no later than two working days or three calendar days after the oral notification.

## **Additional Claims Processing Provisions**

### **Release of Information/Cooperation**

In order to process claims, we may need certain information, including information regarding other health care coverage you may have and/or medical information from Providers who render Services to you. You must cooperate with us in our effort to obtain this information, including signing any release of information form at our request. If you do not fully cooperate with us we may deny the claim and we will have no liability for such claim.

### **Physical Examination**

In order to make coverage and benefit decisions, we may, at our expense, require you to be examined by a Provider of our choice as often as is reasonably necessary while a claim is pending. If you do not fully cooperate with such examination we may deny the claim and we will have no liability for such claim.

### **Legal Actions**

No legal action arising out of or in connection with coverage under this Booklet may be brought against us within the 60-day period following our receipt of the completed claim as required herein. Additionally, no such action may be brought after expiration of the applicable statute of limitations.

### **Fraud, Misrepresentation or Omission in Applying for Benefits**

We rely on the information provided on the itemized statement when processing a claim. All such information, therefore, must be accurate, truthful and complete. Any fraudulent statement, omission or concealment of facts, misrepresentation, or incorrect information may result, in addition to any other legal remedy we may have, in denial of the claim or cancellation or Rescission of your coverage.

### **Communication of Claims Decisions**

All claims decisions, including denial and review decisions, will be communicated to you in writing. This written correspondence may indicate:

1. The specific reason or reasons the claim was denied.
2. Reference to the specific Booklet provisions upon which the denial is based as well as any internal rule, guideline, protocol, or other similar criterion that was relied upon in making the Adverse Benefit Determination.
3. A description of any additional information that would change the initial determination and why that information is necessary.
4. A description of the applicable Adverse Benefit Determination review procedures and the time limits applicable to such procedures.
5. If the Adverse Benefit Determination is based on the Medical Necessity or Experimental or Investigational exclusions, a statement telling you how you can obtain the specific explanation of the scientific or clinical judgment for the determination.

### **Circumstances Beyond Our Control**

To the extent that natural disaster, war, riot, civil insurrection, epidemic, or other emergency or similar event not within our control, results in facilities, personnel or our financial resources being unable to process claims for Covered Services, we will have no liability or obligation for any delay in the payment of claims for Covered Services, except that we will make a good faith effort to make payment for such Covered Services, taking into account the impact of the event. For purposes of this paragraph, an event is not within our control if we cannot effectively exercise influence or dominion over its occurrence or non-occurrence.

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# COMPLAINT AND GRIEVANCE PROCESS

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## Introduction

We have established a process for reviewing your Complaints and Grievances. The purpose of this process is to facilitate review of, among other things, your dissatisfaction with us, our administrative practices, coverage, benefit or payment decisions, or with the administrative practices and/or the quality of care provided by any independent In-Network Provider. The Complaint and Grievance Process also permits you or your Physician, or a person acting on your behalf, to expedite our review of certain types of Grievances. The process described in this section must be followed if you have a Complaint or Grievance.

## Informal Review

We encourage you to first attempt the informal resolution of any dissatisfaction by calling us. To advise us of a Complaint, you should first contact our customer service department, at the phone number listed on your ID Card. A service associate, working with appropriate personnel, will review the Complaint within a reasonable time after its submission and attempt to resolve it to your satisfaction. You must provide all of the facts relevant to the Complaint to the service associate. If you do not provide all requested or relevant information it may delay our review of the Complaint. Consequently, you must cooperate with us in our review of the matter.

If you remain dissatisfied with our resolution of the Complaint, you may submit a Grievance in accordance with the Formal Review subsection below.

## Formal Review

You, a Provider who has been directly involved in your treatment or diagnosis acting on your behalf, a state agency, or another person designated in writing by you, may submit a Grievance.

In order to begin the formal review process, you may fill out a pre-printed form, write a letter or meet with us in person to explain the facts and circumstances relating to the Grievance. You should provide as much detail as possible and attach copies of any relevant documentation. You are not required to use our form, however, we strongly urge you to use this form, as it was designed to help facilitate logging, identification, processing, and tracking of the Grievance through the review process. Written requests for formal review must be sent to the address listed in the Telephone Numbers and Address subsection.

If you need assistance in preparing your Grievance, you may contact us for assistance. If you are hearing impaired you may contact us via TTY/TDD.

## Review of Grievances Involving Adverse Benefit Determination

A Grievance involving an Adverse Benefit Determination will be reviewed using the process described below. The Grievance must be submitted to us in writing for an internal Grievance within 365 days of the original Adverse Benefit Determination, except in the case of Concurrent Care Decisions which may, depending upon the circumstances, require you to file within a shorter period of time from notice of the denial. The following guidelines are applicable to reviews of Adverse Benefit Determinations:

1. You must cooperate fully with us in our effort to promptly review and resolve a Complaint or Grievance. In the event you do not fully cooperate with us, you will be deemed to have waived your right to have the Complaint or Grievance processed within the time frames set forth in this section.
2. We will offer to meet with you if you believe that such a meeting will help us resolve the Complaint or Grievance to your satisfaction, you may also initiate a request for such meeting by notifying us. You may elect to meet with us in person, by telephone conference call, or by video-conferencing (if facilities are available). We will not pay for your travel or lodging in connection with any such

meeting. Appropriate arrangements will be made to allow telephone conferencing or video conferencing to be held at our administrative offices within the Service Area. We will make these telephone or video arrangements with no additional charge to you.

3. You, or a Provider or a person acting on your behalf, must specifically request an expedited review. The Expedited Review process only applies to Pre-Service Claims or requests for extension of Concurrent Care Services made within 24 hours before the authorization for such Services expires. An expedited review will not be accepted for an Adverse Benefit Determination on a Post-Service Claim.
4. You may review pertinent documents upon request and free of charge, such as any internal rule, guideline, protocol, or similar criterion relied upon to make the determination, and submit issues or comments in writing.
5. If any new or additional information is received from anyone other than you, a copy must be provided to you free of charge and as soon as possible and sufficiently in advance of the date on which the final adverse notice is to be provided to give you a reasonable opportunity to respond prior to that date.
6. If the Adverse Benefit Determination is based on the lack of Medical Necessity of a particular Service or the Experimental or Investigational exclusion, you may request an explanation of the scientific or clinical judgment relied upon, if any, for the determination, that applies the terms of this Booklet to your medical circumstances. This information is provided free of charge.
7. During the review process, the Services in question will be reviewed without regard to the decision reached in the initial determination.
8. We may consult with appropriate Physicians in the same or similar specialty as typically manages the Condition, procedure, or treatment under review, as necessary.
9. Any independent medical consultant who reviews the Adverse Benefit Determination on our behalf will be identified upon request.
10. If the claim is a Claim Involving Urgent Care, you may request an expedited review orally or in writing in which case all necessary information on review may be transmitted between you and us by telephone, facsimile or other available expeditious method. You may call our expedited phone line at the number listed at the end of this section.
11. If your request for expedited review arises out of a concurrent review determination by us that a continued hospitalization is not Medically Necessary, coverage for the hospitalization will continue until you have been notified of the determination.
12. If you wish to give someone else permission to file a Grievance for an Adverse Benefit Determination on your behalf, we must receive a completed Appointment of Representative form signed by you indicating the name of the person who will represent you with respect to the Grievance. An Appointment of Representative form is not required if the Physician is requesting review of an Adverse Benefit Determination relating to a Claim Involving Urgent Care. Appointment of Representative forms are available at [www.floridablue.com](http://www.floridablue.com) or by calling the customer service phone number on your ID Card.
13. The Internal Review Panel will review the Grievance and may make a decision based on medical records, additional information, and input from health care professionals in the same or similar specialty as typically manages the Condition, procedure or treatment under review.
14. We will advise you of all Grievance decisions in writing, as outlined in the Timing of Our Grievance Review on Adverse Benefit Determinations subsection.
15. We will provide written confirmation of our decision concerning a Claim Involving Urgent Care within two working days or three calendar days, whichever is less, after providing notification of that decision.

16. If you are not satisfied with our decision, you have the right to an independent external review through an external review organization for certain Grievances, as described in the External Review subsection below.
17. The panel that reviews Grievances is composed of individuals who did not participate in the previous decision, nor are they subordinates of such individual(s).
18. You may, but are not required to, present evidence and testimony during the Grievance process.

### **Timing of Our Grievance Review on Adverse Benefit Determinations**

We will use our best efforts to review Grievances of Adverse Benefit Determinations and communicate the decision in accordance with the following time frames:

1. Pre-Service Claims: within 30 days of our receipt of the Grievance;
2. Post-Service Claims: within 60 days of our receipt of the Grievance; or
3. Claims Involving Urgent Care (and requests to extend concurrent care Services made within 24 hours prior to the termination of the Services): within 72 hours of our receipt of the request.

**Note:** The nature of a claim for Services (i.e. whether it is “urgent care” or not) is judged as of the time of the benefit determination on review, not as of the time the Service was initially reviewed or provided.

### **Exhaustion of Internal Appeals Process**

Generally, you must complete all appeal processes outlined in this Benefit Booklet before you can obtain independent external review or bring an action in litigation. However, if we do not strictly adhere to all claim determination and appeal requirements under applicable federal law, you are considered to have exhausted our appeal requirements (“Deemed Exhaustion”) and may proceed with independent external review unless a minor exception applies. Minor exceptions are allowed when failure to adhere was non-prejudicial; attributable to good cause or matters beyond our control; in the context of on-going good-faith exchange of information; and not reflective of a pattern or practice of non-compliance.

## **ERISA Civil Action Provision**

A federal law known as the Employee Retirement Security Act of 1974 (ERISA), as amended, may apply to the Group Health Plan. If ERISA applies to the Group Health Plan, you are entitled, after exhaustion of the procedures described in this section, to pursue civil action under Section 502(a) of ERISA in connection with an Adverse Benefit Determination or any other legal or equitable remedy otherwise available.

## **External Review**

If we have denied your request for payment of a claim and our decision involved a medical judgment including, but not limited to, a decision based on Medical Necessity, appropriateness, health care setting, level of care or effectiveness of the Health Care Service or treatment you requested or a determination that the treatment is Experimental or Investigational, you are entitled to request an independent, external review of our decision. Your request will be reviewed by an independent third party with clinical and legal expertise (“External Reviewer”) who has no association with us. If you have any questions or concerns during the external review process, please contact us at the phone number listed on your ID Card or visit [www.floridablue.com](http://www.floridablue.com). You may submit additional written comments to the External Reviewer. A letter with the mailing address will be sent to you when you file an external review. Please note that if you provide any additional information during the external review process it will be shared with us in order to give us the opportunity to reconsider the denial. Submit your request in writing on the External Review Request form within four months after receipt of your denial to the below address:

### **Florida Blue HMO**

Attention: Member External Reviews DCC9-5  
Post Office Box 44197  
Jacksonville, FL 32231-4197

If you have a medical Condition where the timeframe for completion of a standard external review would seriously jeopardize your life, health or ability to regain maximum function, you may file a request for an expedited external review. Generally, an urgent situation is one in which your health may be in serious jeopardy, or in the opinion of your Physician, you may experience pain that cannot be adequately controlled while you wait for a decision on the external review of your claim. Moreover, expedited external reviews may be requested for an admission, availability of care, continued stay or Health Care Service for which you received Emergency Services, but have not been discharged from a facility. Please be sure your treating Physician completes the appropriate form to initiate this request type. If you have any questions or concerns during the external review process, please contact us at the phone number listed on your ID Card or visit [www.floridablue.com](http://www.floridablue.com). You may submit additional written comments to the External Reviewer. A letter with the mailing address will be sent to you when you file an external review. Please note that if you provide any additional information during the external review process it will be shared with us in order to give us the opportunity to reconsider the denial. If you believe your situation is urgent, you may request an expedited review by sending your request to the address above or by fax to 904-565-6637.

If the External Reviewer decides to overturn our decision, the Plan will provide coverage or payment for your health care item or Service.

You or someone you name to act for you may file a request for external review. To appoint someone to act on your behalf, please complete an Appointment of Representative form.

You are entitled to receive, upon written request and free of charge, reasonable access to, and copies of all documents relevant to your appeal, including a copy of the actual benefit provision, guideline protocol or other similar criterion on which the appeal decision was based.

You may request and we will provide the diagnosis and treatment codes, as well as their corresponding meanings, applicable to this notice, if available.

## **Telephone Numbers and Address**

You may contact a Grievance Coordinator at the phone number listed on your ID Card or at the phone numbers and address listed below.

### **Florida Blue HMO**

Attention: Grievance Department  
Post Office Box 41609  
Jacksonville, Florida 32230-1609

877-352-2583

877-842-9118 for Expedited Review for a Claim Involving Urgent Care

Dial 7-1-1 for Florida Relay Service assistance with TTY/TDD calls

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## OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

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### What is an HMO?

A health maintenance organization (HMO) is an alternative health care financing and/or delivery organization that either provides directly, or through arrangements made with other persons or entities, comprehensive health care coverage and benefits or services, or both, in exchange for a prepaid per capita or prepaid aggregate fixed sum.

While some HMOs are similar, not all HMOs operate or are organized in the same way. For example, an HMO can be organized and operate as a staff model, a group model, an IPA model or a network model.

### Types of HMOs

#### Staff and Group Model HMOs

In a staff model HMO, the doctors and other Providers rendering care are usually salaried employees of the HMO and generally provide care in a clinic setting rather than in their own personal offices. Group model HMOs, on the other hand, contract with large medical group practices to provide or arrange for most Health Care Services. Typically, the doctors in the medical groups own the HMO. In both these models, the HMO's doctors and other providers typically do not see patients covered by other third party payers or managed care organizations.

#### IPA Model HMOs

In an IPA model HMO, the HMO typically contracts with individual, independent doctors and/or a Physician organization, which may, in turn, contract services with additional doctors and Providers. Unlike the staff or group model HMOs, the IPA model HMO does not provide Health Care Services itself. Instead, it pays independent, qualified Providers to render health care to its members. The doctors in an IPA model HMO are not the agents or employees of the HMO; they typically practice in their own personal offices, and continue to see patients covered by other third party payers or managed care organizations.

**Note:** This description is not intended to be an exhaustive listing of all HMO organization models in use in the United States.

Florida Blue HMO is an IPA Model HMO. **It is not a staff or group model HMO.** This means that the doctors and other Providers with whom we contract are independent contractors and not the employees or agents, actual or ostensible, of Florida Blue HMO. Rather these independent doctors and Providers typically continue to see their own patients in their own personal offices or facilities and continue to see patients covered by other third party payers or managed care organizations.

### Your Rights and Responsibilities

We are committed to providing quality health care coverage at a reasonable cost while maintaining your dignity and integrity. Consistent with our commitment and recognizing that In-Network Providers are independent contractors and not our agents, the following statement of your Rights and Responsibilities has been adopted.

#### Rights

- To be provided with information about our services and the associated Providers of Health Care Services.
- To receive medical care and treatment from In-Network Providers who have met our credentialing standards.
- To expect health care Providers who participate in our network to permit you to participate in the major decisions about your health care, consistent with legal, ethical, and relevant patient-Provider relationship requirements.

- To expect to receive treatment and relevant information about your treatment from our In-Network Providers with courtesy, respect, and concern for your dignity and privacy.
- To appeal unfavorable medical or administrative decisions by following the established appeal or grievance procedures found in this Booklet.
- To inform In-Network Providers that you refuse treatment, and to expect them to honor your decision, if you choose to accept the responsibility and the consequences of your decision.
- To have access to your medical records, and to be assured that the confidentiality of your records is maintained, in accordance with applicable law and HOI's rules.

### **Responsibilities**

- To seek all non-emergency care through your assigned PCP or another In-Network Provider and to cooperate with anyone providing your care and treatment.
- To be respectful of the rights, property, comfort, environment and privacy of other patients and not be disruptive.
- To be responsible for understanding and following instructions about your treatment and to ask questions if you do not understand or need an explanation.
- To provide accurate and complete information concerning your health problems and medical history and to answer all questions truthfully and completely.
- To pay your Cost Share amounts set forth on the Schedule of Benefits and to provide current information concerning your coverage status to any In-Network Provider.
- To follow the process for filing a grievance about medical or administrative decisions that you feel were made in error.
- To request your medical records in accordance with our rules and procedures and in accordance with applicable law.
- To follow Coverage Access Rules established by us.

### **Disclosure of Continuing Care Facility Resident/Retirement Facility Resident Rights**

If, at the time of enrollment you are a resident of a continuing care facility certified under Chapter 651, Florida Statutes, or a retirement facility consisting of a nursing home or assisted living facility and residential apartments, your PCP must refer you to that facility's skilled nursing unit or assisted living facility if:

1. you request it and the facility agrees;
2. your PCP finds that such care is Medically Necessary;
3. the facility agrees to be reimbursed at the same contracted rate as similar Providers for the same Covered Services and supplies; and
4. the facility meets all guidelines established by us related to quality of care, utilization, referral authorization, risk assumption, use of our Provider network, and other criteria applicable to Providers under contract with us for the same Services.

If your request to be referred to the skilled nursing unit or assisted living facility that is part of your place of residence is not honored, you have the right to initiate a Complaint or Grievance under the process described in this Booklet.

## Statement on Advance Directives

The following information is provided in accordance with the Patient Self-Determination Act to advise you of your rights under Florida law to make decisions concerning your medical care, including your right to accept or refuse medical or surgical treatment, the right to prepare an advance directive, and explain our policy on advance directives. The information is general and is not intended as legal advice for specific needs. You are encouraged to consult with your attorney for specific advice.

Florida law recognizes your right as a competent adult to make an advance directive instructing your Physician to provide, withhold, or withdraw life-prolonging procedures, or to name someone to make treatment decisions for you in the event that you are found to be incompetent and suffering from a terminal Condition. Advance directives provide patients with a way to direct the course of their medical treatment even after they are no longer able to consciously participate in making their own health care decisions.

An "advance directive" is a witnessed oral or written statement which indicates your choices and preferences with respect to medical care made by you while you are still competent. An advance directive can address such issues as whether to provide any and all health care, including extraordinary life-prolonging procedures, whether to apply for Medicare, Medicaid or other health benefits, and with whom the health care Provider should consult in making treatment decisions.

There are three types of documents recognized in Florida that are commonly used to express an individual's advance directives: a Living Will, a Health Care Surrogate Designation and a Durable Power of Attorney for Health Care.

A Living Will is a declaration of a person's desire that life-prolonging procedures be provided, withheld, or withdrawn in the event that the person is suffering from a terminal Condition and is not able to express his or her wishes. It does not become effective until the patient's Physician and one other Physician determine that the patient suffers from a terminal Condition and is incapable of making decisions.

Another common form of advance directive is the Health Care Surrogate Designation. When properly executed, a Health Care Surrogate Designation grants authority for the surrogate to make health care decisions on behalf of the patient in accordance with the patient's wishes. The surrogate's authority to make decisions is limited to the time when the patient is incapacitated and must be in accordance with what the patient would want if the patient was able to communicate his or her wishes. While there are some decisions the surrogate cannot make, by law, such as consent to abortion or electroshock therapy, any specific limits on the surrogate's power to make decisions should be clearly expressed in the Health Care Surrogate Designation document.

Finally, there is the Durable Power of Attorney for Health Care. This document, when properly executed, designates a person as the individual's attorney-in-fact to arrange for and consent to medical, therapeutic, and surgical procedures for the individual. This type of advance directive can relate to any medical Condition.

A suggested form of Living Will and Designation of Health Care Surrogate is contained in Chapter 765 of the Florida Statutes. There is no requirement that you have an advance directive and your health care Provider cannot condition treatment on whether or not you have one. Florida law provides that, when there is no advance directive, the following persons are authorized, in order of priority, to make health care decisions on behalf of the patient:

1. a judicially appointed guardian;
2. a spouse;
3. an adult child or a majority of the adult children who are reasonably available for consultation;
4. a parent;
5. siblings who are reasonably available for consultation;
6. an adult relative who has exhibited special care or concern, maintained regular contact, and is familiar with the person's activities, health and religious or moral beliefs;



7. a close friend who is an adult, has exhibited special care and concern for the person, and who gives the health care facility or the person's attending Physician an affidavit stating that he or she is a friend of the person who is willing to become involved in making health care decisions for that person and has had regular contact with the individual so as to be familiar with the person's activities, health, religious and moral beliefs.

Deciding whether to have an advance medical directive, and if so, the type and scope of the directive, is a complex understanding. It may be helpful for you to discuss advance directives with your spouse, family, friends, religious or spiritual advisor or attorney. The goal in creating an advance directive should be for a person to clearly state his or her wishes and ensure that the health care facility, Physician and whomever else will be faced with the task of carrying out those wishes knows what you would want.

It is our policy to recognize your right to make health care treatment decisions in accordance with your own personal beliefs. You have a right to decide whether or not to execute an advance directive to guide treatment decisions in the event you become unable to do so. We will not interfere with your decision. It is your responsibility to provide notification to your Providers that an advance directive exists. If you have a written advance directive, we recommend that you furnish your Providers with a copy so that it can be made a part of your medical record.

Florida law does not require a health care Provider or facility to commit any act which is contrary to the Provider's or facility's moral or ethical beliefs concerning life-prolonging procedures. If a Provider or facility in our network, due to an objection on the basis of conscience, would not implement your advance directive, you may request treatment from another Provider or facility.

Our Providers have varying practices regarding the implementation of an individual's advance directive, in accordance with state law. Therefore, we recommend that you have discussions about advance directives with your medical care givers, family members and other friends and advisors. Your Physician should be involved in the discussion and informed clearly and specifically of any decisions reached. Those decisions need to be revisited in light of the passage of time or changes in your medical Condition or environment.

Complaints concerning noncompliance with advance directives may be submitted to the following address:

Agency for Health Care Administration  
Bureau of Managed Health Care  
Building 1, Room 311  
2727 Mahan Drive  
Tallahassee, Florida 32308

We hope this information has been helpful to your understanding of your rights under the Patient Self-Determination Act and Florida law.

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# AWAY FROM HOME CARE®

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Away From Home Care (AFHC) Guest Membership is an out-of-area program sponsored by the Blue Cross Blue Shield Association (BCBSA). AFHC is available to individuals covered by a participating Blue-sponsored HMO when the program's requirements are met. Guest Membership is defined as a courtesy membership for individuals who are temporarily residing outside of their Home HMO service area. Florida Blue HMO is your Home HMO.

Under AFHC, you receive a courtesy enrollment in a participating Host HMO and have access to a comprehensive range of benefits, including routine and preventive Services. You will receive the benefits of the Host HMO plan while in that HMO Plan's service area. You remain a Covered Plan Participant of your Home HMO under the Group Health Plan and are entitled to payment for Covered Services not payable under your AFHC Guest Membership under the terms of this Booklet. Should your coverage with your Home HMO terminate, you will no longer be eligible for AFHC coverage, and if you are then in this program your AFHC coverage will also be terminated.

The Host HMO pays the Provider the lowest available rate on a fee-for-service basis and then bills the Home HMO for reimbursement. You pay any applicable Cost Share amounts to the Provider in the Host Plan's service area at the time of Service.

## **Guest Application**

You must complete an AFHC Guest Application with the Home HMO, and then work with the Host HMO to locate a PCP in the Host Plan's service area. The AFHC Guest Application form is used to verify your eligibility and to provide the appropriate information for billing and reimbursement.

## **Guest Membership Types**

The types of Guest Memberships are based on your eligibility and the length of time that you will be out of the Home HMO service area. The three types of Guest Memberships are as follows:

### **Long-Term Traveler**

This Guest Membership is available to Covered Persons that are away from home for at least 90 consecutive days (three months) but not more than 180 days (six months).

This Guest Membership is typically used for long-term work assignments or for a retiree with a dual residence. Home HMOs may limit the number of Long-Term Traveler Guest Memberships to two per year.

### **Families Apart**

The Families Apart Guest Membership is available to Covered Dependents that do not reside in the Home HMO service area for 90 or more consecutive days. A Covered Plan Participant is not eligible for this type of Guest Membership.

To qualify for a Families Apart Guest Membership, the Covered Dependent must not be living with the Covered Plan Participant and must live in the service area of a Blue-Sponsored HMO.

There is no administrative time limit on the length of a Families Apart Guest Membership.

### **Student**

The Student Guest Membership is available to Covered Dependents that are out of the Home HMO Service Area for 90 or more consecutive days attending school.

To qualify for a Student Guest Membership, the Covered Dependent must not be living with the Covered Plan Participant and must live in the service area of a Blue-Sponsored HMO.

The Student Guest Membership is typically used for students while they are away at school. The student membership should terminate when the student returns to the Home HMO service area for the summer. There is no administrative time limit on the length of a Student Guest Membership.

Covered Dependents under a Student Guest Membership that seek care in a third HMO service area (out of the Home HMO area and out of the Host HMO area) should be referred back to Florida Blue HMO, the Home HMO.

## **Guest Membership Policies**

Host HMOs need enough time to process and setup Guest Memberships before the desired effective date. A 15-day notification period is provided for Host HMOs to complete the processing and setup of the Guest Membership. Covered individuals can be under only one Guest Membership at a time.

### **Guest Membership Renewals**

When your Guest Membership expires, you may apply for a separate, consecutive Guest Membership period to begin after your current one expires. The 15-day notification period applies to Guest Membership renewals, so it is important that you apply for renewal far enough in advance to avoid a lapse in Guest Membership.

Guest Membership renewals have the same requirements as initial Guest Memberships, including the 90-day out-of-area requirement. Renewals must be for a minimum of 90 or more consecutive days in length. A renewal requires that the Home HMO Guest Membership Coordinator re-verify eligibility, submit a new Guest Application form, obtain a new signature sticker and pay a new setup and renewal fee.

Renewals typically apply to Families Apart and Student Guest Memberships which commonly renew on an annual basis. A Long Term Traveler Guest Membership can also renew but you would need to re-qualify by being out of area for a minimum of 90 consecutive days from the date of the requested renewal, as well as meeting all other Home HMO eligibility requirements. You are not required to return to the Home HMO service area to qualify for a renewal.

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# GENERAL PROVISIONS

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## Access to Information

Florida Blue HMO and the Group shall have the right to receive, from any health care Provider rendering Services to you, information that is reasonably necessary, as determined by us or the Group, in order to administer the coverage and/or benefits provided under this Booklet, subject to all applicable confidentiality requirements set forth in this section. By accepting coverage under this Booklet, you authorize every health care Provider who renders Services or furnishes supplies to you, to disclose to us or to affiliated entities, upon request, all facts, records, and reports pertaining to your care, treatment, and physical or mental Condition, and to permit us and/or the Group to copy any such records and reports so obtained.

## Care Profile Program – A Payer-Based Health Record Program

A care profile is available to treating Physicians for each person covered under this Booklet. This care profile allows a secure, electronic view of specific claims information for Services rendered by Physicians, Hospitals, labs, pharmacies, and other health care Providers. Unless you have chosen to opt out, here are a few of the benefits of participation in the Care Profile Program:

1. All authorized treating Physicians will have a consolidated view – or history – of your Health Care Services, assisting them in improved decision-making in the delivery of health care.
2. In times of catastrophic events or Emergency Services, the care profile will be accessible from any location by authorized Physicians so that appropriate treatment and Service can still be delivered.
3. Safe and secure transmission of claim information. Only authorized health care Providers or authorized members of the Provider's staff will have access to your information.
4. Coordination of care among your authorized treating health care Providers.
5. More efficient health care delivery for you.

Keeping your health information private is extremely important, so your care profile will not include certain health information that pertains to "sensitive" medical Conditions, for which the law provides special protection. Health care Providers access the care profile using the same secure, electronic channel they use to file claims. In addition, only authorized members of the Provider's staff will have access to the information. Remember, this will help your Physician in obtaining important information concerning your health history.

However, if for some reason you, or any of your family members, choose not to provide your treating Physician access to your claim history, the use of this information may be restricted. Should you choose not to participate call the customer service phone number on your ID Card and inform a service associate of your decision.

## Compliance with State and Federal Laws and Regulations

The terms of coverage and benefits to be provided by us under this Booklet shall be deemed to have been modified by the parties, and shall be interpreted, so as to comply with applicable state or federal laws and regulations dealing with rates, benefits, eligibility, enrollment, termination, conversion, or other rights and duties of you, the Group, or us.

## **Confidentiality**

Except as otherwise specifically provided herein, and except as may be required in order for us to administer coverage and/or benefits under the Group Health Plan, specific medical information concerning you received by/from a Provider shall be kept confidential by us. Such information shall not be disclosed to third parties without your written consent, except for use in connection with bona fide medical research and education, or as reasonably necessary in connection with the administration of coverage and/or benefits under the Group Health Plan, specifically including our quality assurance and utilization review activities. Additionally, we may disclose such information to affiliated entities. However, any documents or information which are properly subpoenaed in a judicial proceeding, or by order of a regulatory agency, shall not be subject to this provision.

Our financial arrangements with In-Network Providers may require that we release certain claims and medical information about you even if you have not sought treatment by or through that Provider. By accepting coverage, you hereby authorize us to release to In-Network Providers, claims information, including related medical information, pertaining to you, in order for the In-Network Provider to evaluate financial responsibility under their contracts with us.

## **Cooperation Required of Covered Persons**

You must cooperate with us and the Group, and must execute and submit to us such consents, releases, assignments, and other documents as may be requested in order to administer and exercise any rights hereunder. Failure to do so may result in the denial of claims and will constitute grounds for termination for cause as described in the TERMINATION OF COVERAGE section.

## **Customer Rewards and Incentive Programs**

From time to time we may offer you rewards or incentives for participating in certain activities and programs. These may be one-time rewards, available periodically or related to completing activities under a particular program. This includes but is not limited to shared savings incentive programs as defined under Florida law.

### **Types of Rewards or Incentives**

The rewards and incentives available to you may exceed \$100 per year and may include things like reduced Copayments, Coinsurance or Deductibles, cash equivalents or other incentives such as gift cards, debit cards, free or low cost transportation for medical Services, discounts, contributions to a health savings account and memberships to gyms or other programs.

### **Types of Programs**

Rewards and incentives may be earned by taking part in programs or activities that focus on (for example):

- managing specific Conditions;
- preventive or wellness Services;
- certain behaviors, such as completing an annual physical; or
- optimizing your health plan, such as filling out a health assessment upon enrollment.

These are only examples of the types of programs that may be available to you. By logging into your rewards portal, you will be able to track rewards you have earned and access other programs that may be available to you.

## Transportation Program

We understand that access to transportation can sometimes be a barrier to getting the health care you need. To assist you, we may offer programs to help you access health and wellness facilities and services.

**Note:** We will tell you about any available rewards programs in general mailings, newsletters and/or on our website. You may not have access to every reward, incentive, health or transportation program. You are not obligated to take part in any of these programs and they will not affect the coverage available to you under this Booklet. We reserve the right to stop or change the features of any rewards or incentive programs at any time. The rewards, incentives or transportation provided may be taxable income and you should consult a tax advisor for further guidance.

## **Employer as Plan Administrator**

Your employer, as the plan administrator, retains full, final, discretionary authority with respect to the administration of the coverage and benefits described in this Booklet, including, but not limited to, the authority to establish the benefits and scope of coverage to be provided hereunder; authority to make ultimate coverage and claims payment decisions; authority to determine the eligibility of individuals for coverage; and authority to construe and interpret the terms of coverage under this Booklet.

## **Evidence of Coverage**

You have been provided with this Booklet and an ID Card as evidence of coverage under the Group Health Plan.

## **Florida Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA) Performance Data**

The performance outcome and financial data published by AHCA, per Florida Statutes, or any successor statute, located at [www.floridahealthfinder.gov](http://www.floridahealthfinder.gov), may be accessed through the link provided on our corporate website at [www.floridablue.com](http://www.floridablue.com).

## **Identification Cards**

The ID Cards issued to you in no way create, or serve to verify eligibility to receive coverage and benefits under this Booklet. ID Cards are our property and must be destroyed or returned to us immediately following termination of your coverage.

## **Modification of Provider Network**

Our Provider network is subject to change at any time without prior notice to, or approval of, you or the Group. Additionally, we may, at any time, terminate or modify the terms of any Provider contract and may enter into additional Provider contracts without prior notice to, or approval of, you or the Group. It is your responsibility to determine whether a health care Provider is an In-Network Provider at the time Services are rendered. Under this Booklet, your financial responsibility may vary depending on a Provider's participation status.

## **Non-Waiver of Defaults**

Any failure by us or the Group at any time, or from time to time, to enforce or to require the strict adherence to any of the terms or conditions set forth herein, shall in no event constitute a waiver of any such terms or conditions. Further, it shall not affect our or the Group's right at any time to enforce or avail ourselves of any such remedies as we may be entitled to under applicable law or this Booklet.

## Notices

Any notice required or permitted hereunder will be deemed given if hand delivered or if mailed by United States Mail, postage prepaid, and addressed as set forth below. Such notice shall be deemed effective as of the date delivered or so deposited in the mail.

### If to us:

To the address printed on the ID Card.

### If to you:

To the latest address provided by you according to our records.

### If to Group:

To the address indicated by the Group.

## Our Obligations Upon Termination

Upon termination of your coverage for any reason, we shall have no further liability or responsibility under the Group Health Plan with respect to you, except as specifically set forth herein.

## Promissory Estoppel

No oral statements, representations, or understanding by any person can change, alter, delete, add, or otherwise modify the express written terms of this Booklet.

## Relationships Between the Parties

### Florida Blue HMO and Health Care Providers

Neither Florida Blue HMO, the Group, nor any of its officers, directors or employees provide health care Services to you. Rather, Florida Blue HMO and the Group are engaged in making coverage and benefit decisions under this Booklet. By accepting this coverage and benefits, you agree that health care Providers rendering Health Care Services are not employees or agents of Florida Blue HMO or the Group. In this regard, we and the Group hereby expressly disclaim any agency relationship, actual or implied, with any health care Provider. Florida Blue and the Group do not, by virtue of making coverage, benefit, and payment decisions, exercise any control or direction over the medical judgment or clinical decisions of any health care Provider. Any decisions made by us under the Group Health Plan concerning appropriateness of setting, or whether any Service is Medically Necessary, shall be deemed to be made solely for the purpose of determining whether such Services are covered, and not for the purpose of recommending any treatment or non-treatment. Neither Florida Blue HMO, nor the Group will assume liability for any loss or damage arising as a result of acts or omissions of any health care Provider.

### Florida Blue HMO and the Group

Neither the Group nor any Covered Person is our agent or representative, and neither shall be liable for any acts or omissions of Florida Blue HMO, its agents, servants, or employees. Additionally, neither the Group, any Covered Person, nor Florida Blue HMO shall be liable, whether in tort or contract or otherwise, for any acts or omissions of any other person or organization with which Florida Blue HMO has made or hereafter makes arrangements for the provision of Covered Services. Florida Blue HMO is not the agent, servant, or representative of the Group or any Covered Person, and shall not be liable for any acts or omissions of the Group, its agents, servants, employees, any Covered Person, or any person or organization with which the Group has entered into any agreement or arrangement. By acceptance of coverage and benefits hereunder, you agree to the foregoing.

### **You and In-Network Providers**

The relationship between you and In-Network Providers shall be that of a health care Provider-patient relationship, in accordance with any applicable professional and ethical standards.

### **Medical Treatment Decisions**

Any and all decisions that require or pertain to independent professional medical judgment or training, or the need for medical Services or supplies, must be made solely by you, your family and your treating Physician in accordance with the patient/Physician relationship. It is possible that you or your treating Physician may conclude that a particular procedure is needed, appropriate, or desirable, even though such procedure may not be covered.

### **Right of Recovery**

Whenever the Plan has made payments in excess of the maximum provided for under this Booklet, we and/or the Group will have the right to recover any such payments, to the extent of such excess, from you or any other person, plan, or organization that received such payments.

### **Right to Receive and Release Necessary Information**

In order to administer coverage and benefits, we may, without the consent of or notice to, any person, plan, or organization, release to obtain from any person, plan, or organization any information with respect to any person covered under this Booklet or an applicant for enrollment which we deem to be necessary.

### **Subrogation and Right of Recovery**

The provisions of this subsection apply to all current or former plan participants and also to the parents, guardian, or other representative of a dependent child who incurs claims and is or has been covered by the Plan. The Plan's right to recover (whether by subrogation or reimbursement) shall apply to the personal representative of your estate, your decedents, minors, and incompetent or disabled persons. "You" or "your" includes anyone on whose behalf the Plan pays benefits. No adult Covered Person hereunder may assign any rights that it may have to recover medical expenses from any tortfeasor or other person or entity to any minor child or children of said adult Covered Person without the prior express written consent of the Plan.

The Plan's right of subrogation or reimbursement, as set forth below, extend to all insurance coverage available to you due to an injury, illness or Condition for which the plan has paid medical claims (including, but not limited to, liability coverage, uninsured motorist coverage, underinsured motorist coverage, personal umbrella coverage, medical payments coverage, workers compensation coverage, no fault automobile coverage or any first party insurance coverage).

Your Group Health Plan is always secondary to automobile no-fault coverage, personal injury protection coverage, or medical payments coverage.

No disbursement of any settlement proceeds or other recovery funds from any insurance coverage or other source will be made until the Group Health Plan's subrogation and reimbursement interest are fully satisfied.



### **Subrogation**

The right of subrogation means the Plan is entitled to pursue any claims that you may have in order to recover the benefits paid by the Plan. Immediately upon paying or providing any benefit under the Plan, the Plan shall be subrogated to (stand in the place of) all of your rights of recovery with respect to any claim or potential claim against any party, due to an injury, illness or Condition to the full extent of benefits provided or to be provided by the Plan. The Plan may assert a claim or file suit in your name and take appropriate action to assert its subrogation claim, with or without your consent. The Plan is not required to pay you part of any recovery it may obtain, even if it files suit in your name.

### **Reimbursement**

If you receive any payment as a result of an injury, illness or Condition, you agree to reimburse the Plan first from such payment for all amounts the Plan has paid and will pay as a result of that injury, illness or Condition, up to and including the full amount of your recovery.

### **Constructive Trust**

By accepting benefits (whether the payment of such benefits is made to you or made on your behalf to any Provider) you agree that if you receive any payment as a result of an injury, illness or Condition, you will serve as a constructive trustee over those funds. Failure to hold such funds in trust will be deemed a breach of your fiduciary duty to the Plan. No disbursement of any settlement proceeds or other recovery funds from any insurance coverage or other source will be made until the Group Health Plan's subrogation and reimbursement interest are fully satisfied.

### **Lien Rights**

Further, the Plan will automatically have a lien to the extent of benefits paid by the Plan for the treatment of the illness, injury or Condition upon any recovery whether by settlement, judgment or otherwise, related to treatment for any illness, injury or Condition for which the Plan paid benefits. The lien may be enforced against any party who possesses funds or proceeds representing the amount of benefits paid by the Plan including, but not limited to, you, your representative or agent, and/or any other source that possessed or will possess funds representing the amount of benefits paid by the Plan.

### **Assignment**

In order to secure the Plan's recovery rights, you agree to assign to the Plan any benefits or claims or rights of recovery you have under any automobile policy or other coverage, to the full extent of the Plan's subrogation and reimbursement claims. This assignment allows the Plan to pursue any claim you may have, whether or not you choose to pursue the claim.

### **First-Priority Claim**

By accepting benefits from the Plan, you acknowledge that the Plan's recovery rights are a first priority claim and are to be repaid to the Plan before you receive any recovery for your damages. The Plan shall be entitled to full reimbursement on a first-dollar basis from any payments, even if such payment to the Plan will result in a recovery which is insufficient to make you whole or to compensate you in part or in whole for the damages sustained. The Plan is not required to participate in or pay your court costs or attorney fees to any attorney you hire to pursue your damage claim.

### **Applicability to All Settlements and Judgments**

The terms of this entire subrogation and right of recovery provision shall apply and the Plan is entitled to full recovery regardless of whether any liability for payment is admitted and regardless of whether the settlement or judgment identifies the medical benefits the Plan provided or purports to allocate any portion of such settlement or judgment to payment of expenses other than medical expenses. The Plan is entitled to recover from any and all settlements or judgments, even those designated as pain and suffering, non-economic damages and/or general damages only. The Plan's claim will not be reduced due to your own negligence.

### **Cooperation**

You agree to cooperate fully with the Plan's efforts to recover benefits paid. It is your duty to notify the Plan within 30 days of the date when any notice is given to any party, including an insurance company or attorney, of your intention to pursue or investigate a claim to recover damages or obtain compensation due to your injury, illness or Condition. You and your agents agree to provide the Plan or its representative's notice of any recovery you or your agents obtain prior to receipt of such recovery funds or within 5 days if no notice was given prior to receipt. Further, you and your agents agree to provide notice prior to any disbursement of settlement or any other recovery funds obtained. You and your agents shall provide all information requested by the Plan, the Claims Administrator or its representative including, but not limited to, completing and submitting any applications or other forms or statements as the Plan may reasonably request and all documents related to or filed in personal injury litigation. Failure to provide this information, failure to assist the Plan in pursuit of its subrogation rights or failure to reimburse the Plan from any settlement or recovery you receive may result in the denial of any future benefit payments or claim until the Plan is reimbursed in full, termination of your health benefits or the institution of court proceedings against you.

You shall do nothing to prejudice the Plan's subrogation or recovery interest or prejudice the Plan's ability to enforce the terms of this plan provision. This includes, but is not limited to, refraining from making any settlement or recovery that attempts to reduce or exclude the full cost of all benefits provided by the Plan or disbursement of any settlement proceeds or other recovery prior to fully satisfying the Group Health Plan's subrogation and reimbursement interest.

You acknowledge that the Plan has the right to conduct an investigation regarding the injury, illness or Condition to identify potential sources of recovery. The Plan reserves the right to notify all parties and his/her agents of its lien. Agents include, but are not limited to, insurance companies and attorneys.

You acknowledge that the Plan has notified you that it has the right pursuant to the Health Insurance Portability & Accountability Act ("HIPAA"), 42 U.S.C. Section 1301 et seq, to share your personal health information in exercising its subrogation and reimbursement rights.

### **Interpretation**

In the event that any claim is made that any part of this subrogation and right of recovery provision is ambiguous or questions arise concerning the meaning or intent of any of its terms, the Claims Administrator for the Plan shall have the sole authority and discretion to resolve all disputes regarding the interpretation of this provision.

### **Jurisdiction**

By accepting benefits from the Plan, you agree that any court proceeding with respect to this provision may be brought in any court of competent jurisdiction as the Plan may elect. By accepting such benefits, you hereby submit to each such jurisdiction, waiving whatever rights may correspond by reason of your present or future domicile. By accepting such benefits, you also agree to pay all attorneys' fees the Plan incurs in successful attempts to recover amounts the Plan is entitled to under this section.

### **Third Party Beneficiary**

The terms and provisions of the Group Health Plan shall be binding solely upon, and inure solely to the benefit of the Group, and no other person shall have any rights, interest or claims thereunder, or under this Booklet, or be entitled to sue for a breach thereof as a third-party beneficiary or otherwise. The Group hereby specifically expresses their intent that Providers that have not entered into contracts with Florida Blue HMO to participate in our Provider networks shall not be third-party beneficiaries under the terms of the Group Health Plan or this Booklet.

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## DEFINITIONS

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The following definitions will help you understand the terms that are used in this Booklet, including the Schedule of Benefits and any Endorsements attached to this Booklet. As you read through this Booklet you can refer to this section. We have identified defined terms in the Booklet, the Schedule of Benefits and any Endorsements by capitalizing the first letter(s) of the term.

### A

**Accident** means an unintentional, unexpected event, other than the acute onset of a bodily infirmity or disease, which results in traumatic injury. This term does not include injuries caused by surgery or treatment for disease or illness.

**Accidental Dental Injury** means an injury to Sound Natural Teeth caused by a sudden, unintentional, and unexpected event or force. This term does not include injuries to the mouth, structures within the oral cavity, or injuries to natural teeth caused by biting or chewing, surgery, or treatment for a disease or illness.

**Administrative Services Agreement** or **ASA** means an agreement between the Group and Florida Blue HMO. Under the Administrative Services Agreement, we provide claims processing and payment services, customer service, utilization review services, and access to our network of independent contracting Providers.

**Adoption** or **Adopt(ed)** means the act of creating a legal parent/child relationship where it did not exist, declaring that the child is legally the child of the adoptive parents and their heir-at-law and is entitled to all the rights and privileges and subject to all the obligations of a child born to such adoptive parents, or as defined by Florida law or a similar applicable law of another state.

**Adverse Benefit Determination** means any denial, reduction or termination of coverage, benefits, or payment (in whole or in part) under this Booklet in connection with:

1. a Pre-Service Claim or a Post-Service Claim;
2. a Concurrent Care Decision, as described in the CLAIMS PROCESSING section; or
3. Rescission of coverage, as described in the TERMINATION OF COVERAGE section

**Allowed Amount** means the maximum amount upon which payment will be based for Covered Services. The allowed amount may be changed at any time without notice to you or your consent.

1. In the case of an In-Network Provider located in the Service Area, this amount will be established in accordance with the applicable agreement between that Provider and Florida Blue HMO.
2. In the case of Out-of-Network Providers located outside of the Service Area who participate in the BlueCard Program, this amount will generally be established in accordance with the negotiated price that the Host Blue passes on to us, except when the Host Blue is unable to pass on its negotiated price due to the terms of its Provider contracts. See the BLUECARD PROGRAM section for more details.
3. In the case of an Out-of-Network Provider that has not entered into an agreement with Florida Blue HMO to provide access to a discount from the billed amount of that Provider for the specific Covered Services provided to you, the allowed amount will be the lesser of that Provider's actual billed amount for the specific Covered Services or an amount established by Florida Blue HMO that may be based on several factors, including but not limited to: (i) payment for such Covered Services under the Medicare and/or Medicaid programs; (ii) payment often accepted for such Covered Services by that Out-of-Network Provider and/or by other Providers, either in Florida or in other comparable market(s), that we determine are comparable to the Out-of-Network Provider that rendered the specific Covered Services (which may include payment accepted by such Out-of-Network Provider and/or by other

Providers as participating Providers in other Provider networks of third-party payers which may include, for example, other insurance companies and/or health maintenance organizations); (iii) payment amounts which are consistent, as determined by us, with our Provider network strategies (e.g., does not result in payment that encourages Providers participating in an Florida Blue HMO network to become non-participating); and/or, (iv) the cost of providing the specific Covered Services. In the case of an Out-of-Network Provider that has not entered into an agreement with another Blue Cross and/or Blue Shield organization to provide access to discounts from the billed amount for the specific Covered Services under the BlueCard Program, the Allowed Amount for the specific Covered Services provided to you may be based upon the amount provided to Florida Blue HMO by the other Blue Cross and/or Blue Shield organization where the Services were provided at the amount such organization would pay non-participating providers in its geographic area for such Services.

In no event will the allowed amount be greater than the amount the Provider actually charges.

You may obtain an estimate of the allowed amount for particular Services by calling the customer service phone number on your ID Card. The fact that we may provide you with such information does not mean that the particular Service is a Covered Service. All terms and conditions included in this Booklet apply. You should refer to the WHAT IS COVERED? section of this Booklet and your Schedule of Benefits to determine what is covered and how much the Plan will pay.

Please specifically note that, in the case of an Out-of-Network Provider that has not entered into an agreement with Florida Blue HMO to provide access to a discount from the billed amount of that Provider, the allowed amount for particular Services is often substantially below the amount billed by such Out-of-Network Provider for such Services.

**Ambulance** means a ground or water vehicle, airplane or helicopter properly licensed pursuant to Chapter 401 of the Florida Statutes, or a similar applicable law of another state.

**Ambulatory Surgical Center** means a facility properly licensed pursuant to Chapter 395 of the Florida Statutes, or a similar applicable law of another state, the primary purpose of which is to provide elective surgical care to a patient, admitted to, and discharged from such facility within the same working day.

**Anniversary Date** means the date one year after the Effective Date stated in the ASA, and subsequent annual anniversaries or such other date as mutually agreed to in writing by the parties.

**Applied Behavior Analysis** means the design, implementation and evaluation of environmental modifications, using behavioral stimuli and consequences to produce socially significant improvement in human behavior, including, but not limited to, the use of direct observation, measurement and functional analysis of the relations between environment and behavior.

**Approved Clinical Trial** means a phase I, phase II, phase III, or phase IV clinical trial that is conducted in relation to the prevention, detection, or treatment of cancer or other Life-Threatening Disease or Condition and meets one of the following criteria:

1. The study or investigation is approved or funded by one or more of the following:
  - a. The National Institutes of Health.
  - b. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.
  - c. The Agency for Health Care Research and Quality.
  - d. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.
  - e. A cooperative group or center of any of the entities described in items (a) through (d) or the Department of Defense or the Department of Veterans Affairs.
  - f. A qualified non-governmental research entity identified in the guidelines issued by the National Institutes of Health for center support grants.
  - g. Any of the following, if the conditions described in paragraph (2) are met:
    - 1) The Department of Veterans Affairs.

- 2) The Department of Defense.
  - 3) The Department of Energy.
2. The study or investigation is conducted under an investigational new drug application reviewed by the Food and Drug Administration.
  3. The study or investigation is a drug trial that is exempt from having such an investigational new drug application.

For a study or investigation conducted by a Department the study or investigation must be reviewed and approved through a system of peer review that the Secretary determines: (1) to be comparable to the system of peer review of studies and investigations used by the National Institutes of Health, and (2) assures unbiased review of the highest scientific standards by qualified individuals who have no interest in the outcome of the review.

For purposes of this definition, the term "Life-Threatening Disease or Condition" means any disease or Condition from which the likelihood of death is probable unless the course of the disease or Condition is interrupted.

**Artificial Insemination (AI)** means a medical procedure in which sperm is placed into the female reproductive tract by a qualified health care Provider for the purpose of producing a pregnancy.

**Autism Spectrum Disorder** means any of the following disorders as defined in the diagnostic categories of the International Classification of Diseases (ICD-9 CM or ICD-10-CM), or their equivalents in the most recently published version of the American Psychiatric Association's Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders:

1. Autistic disorder;
2. Asperger's syndrome;
3. Pervasive developmental disorder not otherwise specified; and
4. Childhood Disintegrative Disorder.

## B

**Benefit Booklet** or **Booklet** means the certificate of coverage, which is evidence of coverage under the Group Health Plan.

**Benefit Period** means a consecutive period of time, specified by the Group, in which benefits accumulate toward the satisfaction of Deductibles, out-of-pocket maximums and any applicable benefit maximums. Your benefit period is listed on your Schedule of Benefits, and will not be less than 12 months.

**Birth Center** means any facility, institution, or place, properly licensed pursuant to Chapter 383 of the Florida Statutes, or a similar applicable law of another state, in which births are planned to occur away from the mother's usual residence following a normal, uncomplicated, low-risk pregnancy. A birth center is not an Ambulatory Surgical Center or a Hospital.

**Bone Marrow Transplant** means human blood precursor cells administered to a patient to restore normal hematological and immunological functions following ablative or non-ablative therapy with curative or life-prolonging intent. Human blood precursor cells may be obtained from the patient in an autologous transplant, or an allogeneic transplant from a medically acceptable related or unrelated donor, and may be derived from bone marrow, the circulating blood, or a combination of bone marrow and circulating blood. If chemotherapy is an integral part of the treatment involving bone marrow transplantation, the term "bone marrow transplant" includes the transplantation as well as the administration of chemotherapy and the chemotherapy drugs. The term "bone marrow transplant" also includes any Services or supplies relating to any treatment or therapy involving the use of high dose or intensive dose chemotherapy and human blood precursor cells and includes any and all Hospital, Physician or other health care Provider Services rendered in order to treat the effects of, or complications arising from, the use of high dose or

intensive dose chemotherapy or human blood precursor cells, such as Hospital room and board and ancillary Services.

**Breast Reconstructive Surgery** means surgery to reestablish symmetry between the two breasts.

## C

**Calendar Year** begins January 1st and ends December 31st of the same year.

**Cardiac Therapy** means Health Care Services provided under the supervision of a Physician, or an appropriate Provider trained for cardiac therapy, for the purpose of aiding in the restoration of normal heart function in connection with a myocardial infarction, coronary occlusion or coronary bypass surgery.

**Certified Nurse Midwife** means a person who is properly licensed pursuant to Chapter 467 of the Florida Statutes, or a similar applicable law of another state, as an advanced practice registered nurse and who is certified to practice midwifery by the American College of Nurse Midwives.

**Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist** means a person who is a properly licensed nurse who is a certified advanced practice registered nurse within the nurse anesthetist category pursuant to Chapter 464 of the Florida Statutes, or a similar applicable law of another state.

**Claim Involving Urgent Care** means any request or application for coverage or benefits for medical care or treatment that has not yet been provided to you with respect to which the application of time periods for making non-urgent care benefit determinations: (1) could seriously jeopardize your life or health or your ability to regain maximum function; or (2) in the opinion of a Physician with knowledge of your Condition, would subject you to severe pain that cannot be adequately managed without the proposed Services being rendered.

**Coinsurance** means the sharing of health care expenses for Covered Services between you and the Plan. After your Deductible is met, the Plan will pay a percentage of the Allowed Amount for Covered Services, as listed in the Schedule of Benefits. The percentage you are responsible for is your coinsurance. Not all plans include coinsurance.

**Complaint** means an oral (non-written) expression of dissatisfaction, whether or not such dissatisfaction is made in person, by phone, or by another person acting on your behalf.

**Concurrent Care Decision** means a decision by us to deny, reduce, or terminate coverage, benefits, or payment (in whole or in part) with respect to a course of treatment to be provided over a period of time, or a specific number of treatments, if we had previously approved or authorized coverage, benefits, or payment for that course of treatment or number of treatments in writing.

As defined herein, a concurrent care decision shall not include any decision to deny, reduce, or terminate coverage, benefits or payment under the Case Management subsection of the COVERAGE ACCESS RULES section.

**Condition** means a disease, illness, ailment, injury, or pregnancy.

**Convenience Kits** are prepackaged kits which may contain not only medication(s), but also non-Drug items including, but not limited to, alcohol prep pads, cotton balls, band aids, disposable sterile medical gloves, povidone-iodine swabs, adhesive bandages and gauze. The Plan may provide coverage for the medication(s), but not other items included in the kit.

**Convenient Care Center** means a properly licensed ambulatory center that: (1) treats a limited number of common, low-intensity illnesses when ready-access to the patient's primary Physician is not possible; (2) shares clinical information about the treatment with the patient's primary Physician; (3) is usually housed in a retail business; and (4) is staffed by at least one master's level advanced practice registered nurse (APRN) who operates under a set of clinical protocols that strictly limit the Conditions the APRN can treat. Although no Physician is present at the convenient care center, medical oversight is based on

a written collaborative agreement between a supervising Physician and the APRN.

**Copayment or Copay** means, when applicable, the dollar amount established solely by us and the Group which you must pay to a health care Provider at the time certain Covered Services are rendered by that Provider.

**Cost Share** means the dollar or percentage amount established solely by us and the Group, which you must pay to a health care Provider at the time Covered Services are rendered by that Provider. Cost share may include, but is not limited to Coinsurance, Copayment and Deductible amounts. Applicable cost share amounts are identified in your Schedule of Benefits

**Covered Dependent** means an Eligible Dependent who continues to meet all applicable eligibility requirements, described in the ELIGIBILITY FOR COVERAGE section and who is enrolled and actually covered under the Group Health Plan other than as a Covered Plan Participant.

**Covered Person** means a Covered Plan Participant or Covered Dependent.

**Covered Plan Participant** means an Eligible Employee or other individual who continues to meet all applicable eligibility requirements described in the ELIGIBILITY FOR COVERAGE section and who is enrolled and actually covered under the Group Health Plan other than as a Covered Dependent.

**Covered Services** means those Health Care Services which meet the criteria listed in the WHAT IS COVERED? section.

**Custodial or Custodial Care** means care that serves to assist a person in the activities of daily living, such as assistance in walking, getting in and out of bed, bathing, dressing, feeding, and using the toilet; preparation of special diets, and supervision of medication that usually can be self-administered. Custodial care essentially is personal care that does not require the continuing attention of trained medical or paramedical personnel. In determining whether a person is receiving custodial care, consideration is given to the frequency, intensity and level of care and medical supervision required and furnished. A determination that care received is custodial is not based on the patient's diagnosis, type of Condition, degree of functional limitation, or rehabilitation potential.

## D

**Deductible** means the amount of charges, up to the Allowed Amount, for Covered Services that you must actually pay each Benefit Period to an appropriate licensed health care Provider who is recognized for payment under this Booklet, before payment for Covered Services begins under the Group Health Plan. Not all plans include a deductible.

**Designated Transplant Facility** is a licensed facility that is designated by us and has a contract with us to provide covered transplant Services at the time the Services are rendered. Designated transplant facilities may or may not be located in the Service Area. The fact that a Hospital is an In-Network Hospital does not mean that it is a designated facility.

**Detoxification** means a process whereby an alcohol or drug intoxicated, or alcohol or drug dependent person is assisted through the period of time necessary to eliminate, by metabolic or other means, the intoxicating alcohol or drug, alcohol or drug dependent factors or alcohol in combination with drugs as determined by a Physician, while keeping the physiological risk to the person at a minimum.

**Diabetes Educator** means a person who is properly certified pursuant to Florida law, or a similar applicable law of another state, to supervise diabetes outpatient self-management training and educational Services.

**Dialysis Center** means an outpatient facility certified by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services and the Florida Agency for Health Care Administration, or a similar regulatory agency of another state to provide hemodialysis and peritoneal dialysis Services and support.

**Dietitian** means a person who is properly licensed pursuant to Florida law or a similar applicable law of



another state to provide nutrition counseling for diabetes outpatient self-management Services.

**Down Syndrome** means a chromosomal disorder caused by an error in cell division which results in the presence of an extra whole or partial copy of chromosome 21.

**Drug** means any medicinal substance, remedy, vaccine, biological product, drug, pharmaceutical or chemical compound that has at least one active ingredient that is FDA-approved and has a valid National Drug Code.

**Durable Medical Equipment** means equipment furnished by a supplier or a Home Health Agency that (1) can withstand repeated use; (2) is primarily and customarily used to serve a medical purpose; (3) is not for comfort or convenience; (4) generally is not useful to an individual in the absence of a Condition; and (5) is appropriate for use in the home.

**Durable Medical Equipment Provider** means a person or entity that is properly licensed, if applicable, pursuant to Florida law or a similar applicable law of another state to provide Durable Medical Equipment in the patient's home under a Physician's Prescription.

## E

**Effective Date** for the Group, means 12:01 a.m. on the date specified in the ASA; and for you means 12:01 a.m. on the date coverage will begin as specified in the ENROLLMENT AND EFFECTIVE DATE OF COVERAGE section.

**Eligible Dependent** means an individual who meets and continues to meet all of the eligibility requirements described in the ELIGIBILITY FOR COVERAGE section.

**Eligible Employee** means an employee who meets and continues to meet all of the eligibility requirements set forth in the ELIGIBILITY FOR COVERAGE section and is eligible to enroll as a Covered Plan Participant. An eligible employee is not a Covered Plan Participant until actually enrolled and accepted for coverage as a Covered Plan Participant by the Group.

**Emergency Medical Condition** means a medical or psychiatric Condition or an injury manifesting itself by acute symptoms of sufficient severity (including severe pain) such that the absence of immediate medical attention may reasonably be expected to result in a condition described in clause (i), (ii), or (iii) of Section 1867(e)(1)(A) of the Social Security Act.

**Emergency Services** means, with respect to an Emergency Medical Condition:

1. a medical screening examination (as required under Section 1867 of the Social Security Act) that is within the capability of the emergency department of a Hospital, including ancillary Services routinely available to the emergency department to evaluate such Emergency Medical Condition; and
2. within the capabilities of the staff and facilities available at the Hospital, such further medical examination and treatment as are required under Section 1867 of such Act to Stabilize the patient.

**Endorsement** means a document issued by us that changes or modifies language in this Booklet. Endorsements may also be referred to as amendments.

**Enrollment Date** means the date of enrollment of the individual under the Group Health Plan or, if earlier, the first day of the Waiting Period.

**Enrollment Forms** means those forms, electronic or paper, used to maintain accurate enrollment files under the Group Health Plan.

**Experimental or Investigational** means any evaluation, treatment, therapy, or device which involves the application, administration or use, of procedures, techniques, equipment, supplies, products, remedies, vaccines, biological products, drugs, pharmaceuticals, or chemical compounds if, as determined solely by

us or the Group:

1. such evaluation, treatment, therapy, or device cannot be lawfully marketed without approval of the United States Food and Drug Administration or the Florida Department of Health and approval for marketing has not, in fact, been given at the time such is furnished to you;
2. such evaluation, treatment, therapy, or device is provided pursuant to a written protocol which describes as among its objectives the following: determinations of safety, efficacy, or efficacy in comparison to the standard evaluation, treatment, therapy, or device;
3. such evaluation, treatment, therapy, or device is delivered or should be delivered subject to the approval and supervision of an institutional review board or other entity as required and defined by federal regulations;
4. reliable evidence shows that such evaluation, treatment, therapy, or device is the subject of an ongoing Phase I or II clinical investigation, or the experimental or research arm of a Phase III clinical investigation, or under study to determine maximum tolerated dosage(s), toxicity, safety, efficacy, or efficacy as compared with the standard means for treatment or diagnosis of the Condition in question;
5. reliable evidence shows that the consensus of opinion among experts is that further studies, research, or clinical investigations are necessary to determine maximum tolerated dosage(s), toxicity, safety, efficacy, or efficacy as compared with the standard means for treatment or diagnosis of the Condition in question;
6. reliable evidence shows that such evaluation, treatment, therapy, or device has not been proven safe and effective for treatment of the Condition in question, as evidenced in the most recently published Medical Literature using generally accepted scientific, medical, or public health methodologies or statistical practices;
7. there is no consensus among practicing Physicians that the treatment, therapy, or device is safe and effective for the Condition in question; or
8. such evaluation, treatment, therapy, or device is not the standard treatment, therapy, or device utilized by practicing Physicians in treating other patients with the same or similar Condition.

"Reliable evidence" shall mean (as determined by us or the Group):

1. records maintained by Physicians or Hospitals rendering care or treatment to you or other patients with the same or similar Condition;
2. reports, articles, or written assessments in authoritative Medical Literature and scientific literature;
3. published reports, articles, or other literature of the United States Department of Health and Human Services or the United States Public Health Service, including any of the National Institutes of Health, or the United States Office of Technology Assessment;
4. the written protocol or protocols relied upon by the treating Physician or institution or the protocols of another Physician or institution studying substantially the same evaluation, treatment, therapy, or device;
5. the written informed consent used by the treating Physician or institution or by another Physician or institution studying substantially the same evaluation, treatment, therapy, or device; or
6. the records (including any reports) of any institutional review board of any institution which has reviewed the evaluation, treatment, therapy, or device for the Condition in question.

**Note:** Services or supplies which are determined by us or the Group to be experimental or investigational are excluded as described in the WHAT IS NOT COVERED? section. In making benefit determinations, we may also rely on the predominant opinion among experts, as expressed in the published authoritative literature, that usage of a particular evaluation, treatment, therapy, or device should be substantially confined to research settings or that further studies are necessary in order to define safety, toxicity, effectiveness, or effectiveness compared with standard alternatives.

## F

**FDA** means the United States Food and Drug Administration.

**Florida Blue HMO** is a trade name of Health Options, Inc., an HMO subsidiary of Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Florida, Inc. D/B/A Florida Blue. These companies are independent licensees of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association. Health Options, Inc. is a Florida Corporation (and any successor corporation) operating as a Health Maintenance Organization under applicable provisions of federal and/or state law.

**Foster Child** means a person who is placed in your residence and care under the Foster Care Program by the Florida Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services in compliance with Florida law or a similar applicable law of another state.

## G

**Gamete Intrafallopian Transfer (GIFT)** means the direct transfer of a mixture of sperm and eggs into the fallopian tube by a qualified health care Provider. Fertilization takes place inside the tube.

**Generally Accepted Standards of Medical Practice** means standards that are based on credible scientific evidence published in peer-reviewed medical literature generally recognized by the relevant medical community, Physician Specialty Society recommendations, and the views of Physicians practicing in relevant clinical areas and any other relevant factors.

**Grievance** means a written expression of dissatisfaction.

**Group** means the employer, labor union, trust, association, partnership, or corporation, department or other organization or entity through which coverage and benefits described in this Booklet are made available to you, and through which you become entitled to coverage and benefits for the Covered Services described herein.

**Group Health Plan or Plan** means the plan established by the Group for the provision of health care coverage and benefits to the individuals covered under this Booklet.

## H

**Health Care Services or Services** means evaluations, treatments, therapies, devices, procedures, techniques, equipment, supplies, products, remedies, vaccines, biological products, Drugs, pharmaceuticals, chemical compounds and other Services rendered or supplied, by or at the direction of, a licensed Provider.

**Home Health Agency** means an agency or organization properly licensed pursuant to Chapter 400 of the Florida Statutes, or a similar applicable law of another state which provides health Services in the home.

**Home Health Care or Home Health Care Services** means Physician-directed professional, technical and related medical and personal care Services provided on an intermittent or part-time basis directly by (or indirectly through) a Home Health Agency in your home or residence. For purposes of this definition, a Hospital, Skilled Nursing Facility, nursing home or other facility will not be considered an individual's home or residence.

**Hospice** means a public agency or private organization properly licensed pursuant to Florida Statutes, or a similar applicable law of another state to provide hospice Services. In addition, such licensed entity must be principally engaged in providing pain relief, symptom management, and supportive Services to terminally ill persons and their families.

**Hospital** means a facility properly licensed pursuant to Chapter 395 of the Florida Statutes, or a similar applicable law of another state, that offers Services which are more intensive than those required for

room, board, personal Services and general nursing care; offers facilities and beds for use beyond 24 hours; and regularly makes available at least clinical laboratory Services, diagnostic x-ray Services and treatment facilities for surgery or obstetrical care or other definitive medical treatment of similar extent.

The term hospital does not include: an Ambulatory Surgical Center, a Skilled Nursing Facility, a stand-alone Birth Center; a Psychiatric Facility; a Substance Abuse Facility; a convalescent, rest or nursing home; or a facility which primarily provides Custodial, educational, or rehabilitative care.

**Note:** If Services specifically for the treatment of a physical disability are provided in a licensed Hospital which is accredited by The Joint Commission, the American Osteopathic Association, or the Commission on the Accreditation of Rehabilitative Facilities, payment for these Services will not be denied solely because such Hospital lacks major surgical facilities and is primarily of a rehabilitative nature. Recognition of these facilities does not expand the scope of Covered Services; it only expands the setting where Covered Services can be performed for coverage purposes.

## I

**Identification (ID) Card** means the cards we issue to Covered Plan Participants. The cards are our property, and are not transferable to another person. Possession of such card in no way verifies that an individual is eligible for, or covered under, the Group Health Plan.

**Independent Clinical Laboratory** means a laboratory, independent of a Hospital or Physician's office, which is a fixed location, properly licensed pursuant to Chapter 483 of the Florida Statutes, or a similar applicable law of another state, where examinations are performed on materials or specimens taken from the human body to provide information or materials used in the diagnosis, prevention, or treatment of a Condition.

**Independent Diagnostic Testing Center** means a facility, independent of a Hospital or Physician's office, which is a fixed location, a mobile entity, or an individual non-Physician practitioner where diagnostic tests are performed by a licensed Physician or by licensed, certified non-Physician personnel under appropriate Physician supervision. An independent diagnostic testing center must be properly registered with the Agency for Health Care Administration and must comply with all applicable Florida laws or laws of the state in which it operates. Further, such an entity must meet our criteria for eligibility as an independent diagnostic testing center.

**In-Network Provider** means any health care Provider who, at the time Covered Services are rendered to you, is under contract with us to provide Covered Services described in this Booklet.

**Intensive Outpatient Treatment** means treatment in which an individual receives at least 3 clinical hours of institutional care per day (24-hour period) for at least 3 days a week and returns home or is not treated as an inpatient during the remainder of that 24-hour period. A Hospital shall not be considered a "home" for purposes of this definition.

**Internal Review Panel** means a panel established by us to review Grievances related to Adverse Benefit Determinations that an admission, availability of care, continued stay, or other Health Care Service has been reviewed and, based upon the information provided, does not meet our requirements for Medical Necessity, appropriateness, health care setting, level of care, or efficacy. This panel consists of Physicians who have appropriate expertise, and who were not previously involved in the initial Adverse Benefit Determination nor do these Physicians report to anyone who was involved in making the initial determination.

**In Vitro Fertilization (IVF)** means a process in which an egg and sperm are combined in a laboratory dish to facilitate fertilization. If fertilized, the resulting embryo is transferred to a woman's uterus.

## L

**Licensed Practical Nurse** means a person properly licensed pursuant to Chapter 464 of the Florida

Statutes, or a similar applicable law of another state to practice practical nursing.

## M

**Massage or Massage Therapy** means the manipulation of superficial tissues of the human body using the hand, foot, arm, or elbow. For purposes of this Booklet, the term massage or massage therapy does not include the application or use of the following or similar techniques or items for the purpose of aiding in the manipulation of superficial tissues: hot or cold packs; hydrotherapy; colonic irrigation; thermal therapy; chemical or herbal preparations; paraffin baths; infrared light; ultraviolet light; Hubbard tank; or contrast baths.

**Massage Therapist** means a person properly licensed pursuant to Chapter 480 of the Florida Statutes, or a similar applicable law of another state to practice Massage.

**Mastectomy** means the removal of all or part of the breast for Medically Necessary reasons as determined by a Physician.

**Medical Literature** means peer reviewed literature included in the PubMed/Medline database of the National Library of Medicine.

**Medically Necessary or Medical Necessity** means that, with respect to a Health Care Service, a Provider, exercising prudent clinical judgment, provided, or is proposing or recommending to provide the Health Care Service to you for the purpose of preventing, evaluating, diagnosing or treating an illness, injury, disease or its symptoms, and that the Health Care Service was/is:

1. in accordance with Generally Accepted Standards of Medical Practice;
2. clinically appropriate, in terms of type, frequency, extent, site of Service, duration, and considered effective for your illness, injury, or disease or symptoms;
3. not primarily for your convenience, your family's convenience, your caregiver's convenience or that of your Physician or other health care Provider, and
4. not more costly than the same or similar Service provided by a different Provider, by way of a different method of administration, an alternative location (e.g., office vs. inpatient), and/or an alternative Service or sequence of Services at least as likely to produce equivalent therapeutic or diagnostic results as to the diagnosis or treatment of your illness, injury, disease or symptoms.

When determining whether a Service is not more costly than the same or similar Service as referenced above, we may, but are not required to, take into consideration various factors including, but not limited to, the following:

- a. the Allowed Amount for Service at the location for the delivery of the Service versus an alternate setting;
- b. the amount we have to pay to the proposed particular Provider versus the Allowed Amount for a Service by another Provider including Providers of the same and/or different licensure and/or specialty; and/or,
- c. an analysis of the therapeutic and/or diagnostic outcomes of an alternate treatment versus the recommended or performed procedure including a comparison to no treatment. Any such analysis may include the short and/or long-term health outcomes of the recommended or performed treatment versus alternate treatments including an analysis of such outcomes as the ability of the proposed procedure to treat comorbidities, time to disease recurrence, the likelihood of additional Services in the future, etc.

**Note:** The distance you have to travel to receive a Health Care Service, time off from work, overall recovery time, etc. are not factors that we are required to consider when evaluating whether or not a Health Care Service is not more costly than an alternative Service or sequence of Services.

Reviews we perform of medical necessity may be based on comparative effectiveness research, where available, or on evidence showing lack of superiority of a particular Service or lack of difference in outcomes with respect to a particular Service. In performing medical necessity reviews, we may take into consideration and use cost data which may be proprietary.

It is important to remember that any review of medical necessity by us is solely for the purpose of determining coverage or benefits under this Booklet and not for the purpose of recommending or providing medical care. In this respect, we may review specific medical facts or information pertaining to you. Any such review, however, is strictly for the purpose of determining, among other things, whether a Service provided or proposed meets the definition of medical necessity in this Booklet as determined by us. In applying the definition of medical necessity in this Booklet, we may apply our coverage and payment guidelines then in effect. You are free to obtain a Service even if we deny coverage because the Service is not medically necessary; however, you will be solely responsible for paying for the Service.

**Medicare** means the two programs of health insurance provided under Title XVIII of the Social Security Act. The two programs are sometimes referred to as Health Insurance for the Aged and Disabled Act. Medicare also includes any later amendments to the initial law.

**Medication Guide** for purposes of this Booklet, means the guide then in effect issued by us where you may find information about Specialty Drugs, Prescription Drugs that require prior coverage authorization and Self-Administered Prescription Drugs that may be covered under this Booklet. **Note:** The Medication Guide is subject to change at any time. Please refer to our website at [www.floridablue.com](http://www.floridablue.com) for the most current guide or you may call the customer service phone number on your ID Card.

**Mental Health Professional** means a person properly licensed pursuant to Chapter 491 of the Florida Statutes, or a similar applicable law of another state to provide mental health Services. This professional may be a clinical social worker, mental health counselor or marriage and family therapist. A mental health professional does not include members of any religious denomination who provide counseling Services.

**Mental and Nervous Disorder** means any disorder listed in the diagnostic categories of the International Classification of Disease (ICD-9 CM or ICD-10 CM), or their equivalents in the most recently published version of the American Psychiatric Association's Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, regardless of the underlying cause, or effect, of the disorder.

**Midwife** means a person properly licensed pursuant to Chapter 467 of the Florida Statutes, or a similar applicable law of another state to practice midwifery.

## N

**New Prescription Drug(s)** means an FDA approved Prescription Drug or a new dosage form of a previously FDA approved Prescription Drug that has not yet been reviewed by our Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee (or, in the case of medical benefits, our Medical Policy Committee). Coverage for all New Prescription Drugs will be delayed until a review is completed by our Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee (or, in the case of medical benefits, our Medical Policy Committee), resulting in a final coverage determination. The New Prescription Drug Coverage delay begins on the date the Prescription Drug, or new dosage form, is approved by the FDA and ends on the earlier of the following dates:

1. The date the Prescription Drug is assigned to a tier by our Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee (or, in the case of medical benefits, the date our Medical Policy Committee makes a final coverage determination).
- or
2. December 31st of the following Calendar Year.

## O

**Occupational Therapist** means a person properly licensed pursuant to Chapter 468 of the Florida Statutes, or a similar applicable law of another state to practice occupational therapy.

**Occupational Therapy** means a treatment that follows an illness or injury and is designed to help a patient learn to use a newly restored or previously impaired function.

**Orthotic Device** means any rigid or semi-rigid device needed to support a weak or deformed body part or restrict or eliminate body movement.

**Out-of-Network Provider** means a Provider who, at the time Health Care Services are rendered to you does not have a contract with us to provide Covered Services described in this Booklet.

**Outpatient Rehabilitation Facility** means an entity which renders, through Providers properly licensed pursuant to Florida law or a similar applicable law of another state: outpatient Physical Therapy; Speech Therapy; Occupational Therapy; Cardiac Therapy; and Massage for the primary purpose of restoring or improving a bodily function impaired or eliminated by a Condition. Further, such an entity must meet our criteria for eligibility as an outpatient rehabilitation facility. The term outpatient rehabilitation facility, as used herein, shall not include any Hospital including a general acute care Hospital, or any separately organized unit of a Hospital, which provides comprehensive medical rehabilitation inpatient Services, or rehabilitation outpatient Services, including, but not limited to, a Class III "specialty rehabilitation hospital" described Chapter 59-A, of the Florida Administrative Code or a similar applicable law of another state.

## P

**Pain Management** includes, but is not limited to, Services for pain assessment, medication, Physical Therapy, biofeedback, and/or counseling. Pain management programs feature multidisciplinary Services directed toward helping those with chronic pain to reduce or limit their pain.

**Partial Hospitalization** means treatment in which an individual receives at least 6 clinical hours of institutional care per day (24-hour period) for at least 5 days per week and returns home or is not treated as an inpatient during the remainder of that 24-hour period. A Hospital shall not be considered a "home" for purposes of this definition.

**Physical Therapist** means a person properly licensed pursuant to Chapter 486 of the Florida Statutes, or a similar applicable law of another state to practice Physical Therapy.

**Physical Therapy** means the treatment of disease or injury by physical or mechanical means as defined in Chapter 486 of the Florida Statutes or a similar applicable law of another state. Such therapy may include traction, active or passive exercises, or hot or cold therapy.

**Physician** means a person who is properly licensed by the state of Florida, or a similar applicable law of another state, as a Doctor of Medicine (M.D.), Doctor of Osteopathy (D.O.), Doctor of Podiatry (D.P.M.), Doctor of Chiropractic (D.C), Doctor of Dental Surgery or Dental Medicine (D.D.S. or D.M.D), or Doctor of Optometry (O.D.).

**Physician Assistant** means a person properly licensed pursuant to Chapter 458 of the Florida Statutes, or a similar applicable law of another state to perform surgical first assisting Services.

**Physician Specialty Society** means a United States medical specialty society that represents diplomates certified by a board recognized by the American Board of Medical Specialties.

**Post-Service Claim** means any paper or electronic request or application for coverage, benefits, or payment for a Service actually provided to you (not just proposed or recommended) that is received by us on a properly completed claim form or electric format acceptable to us in accordance with the provisions of the CLAIMS PROCESSING section.

**Prescription** means an order for drugs, Services or supplies by a Physician or other health care

professional authorized by law to prescribe such drugs, Services or supplies.

**Prescription Drug** means any medicinal substance, remedy, vaccine, biological product, drug, pharmaceutical or chemical compound which can only be dispensed with a Prescription and/or which is required by state law to bear the following statement or similar statement on the label: "Caution: Federal law prohibits dispensing without a Prescription".

**Pre-Service Claim** means any request or application for coverage or benefits for a Service that has not yet been provided to you and with respect to which the terms of this Booklet condition payment for the Service (in whole or in part) on approval by us of coverage or benefits for the Service before you receive it. A pre-service claim may be a Claim Involving Urgent Care. As defined herein, a pre-service claim shall not include a request for a decision or opinion by us regarding coverage, benefits, or payment for a Service that has not actually been rendered to you if the terms of this Booklet do not require (or condition payment upon) approval by us of coverage or benefits for the Service before it is received.

**Preventive Services Guide** means the guide then in effect issued by us that contains a listing of Preventive Health Services covered under this Booklet. **Note:** The preventive services guide is subject to change at any time. Please refer to our website at [www.floridablue.com/healthresources](http://www.floridablue.com/healthresources) for the most current guide.

**Primary Care Physician (PCP)** means the Physician who, at the time Covered Services are rendered, was under a primary care physician Provider contract with us. A primary care physician may specialize in internal medicine, family practice, general practice, or pediatrics. Also, a gynecologist or obstetrician/gynecologist may elect to contract with us as a primary care physician.

**Prosthetic Device** means a device which replaces all or part of a body part or an internal body organ or replaces all or part of the functions of a permanently inoperative or nonfunctional body part or organ.

**Prosthetist/Orthotist** means a person or entity that is properly licensed or registered, if applicable, under Florida law, or a similar applicable law of another state, to provide Services consisting of the design and fabrication of medical devices such as braces, splints and artificial limbs prescribed by a Physician.

**Provider** means any facility, person or entity recognized for payment by us under this Booklet.

**Psychiatric Facility** means a facility properly licensed under Florida law, or a similar applicable law of another state, to provide for the Medically Necessary care and treatment of Mental and Nervous Disorders. For purposes of this Booklet, a psychiatric facility is not a Hospital or a Substance Abuse Facility, as defined herein.

**Psychologist** means a person properly licensed pursuant to Chapter 490 of the Florida Statutes, or a similar applicable law of another state to practice psychology.

## R

**Registered Nurse** means a person properly licensed pursuant to Chapter 464 of the Florida Statutes, or a similar applicable law of another state to practice professional nursing.

**Registered Nurse First Assistant (RNFA)** means a person properly licensed pursuant to Chapter 464 of the Florida Statutes or a similar applicable law of another state to perform surgical first assisting Services.

**Rehabilitative Services** means Services rendered for the purpose of restoring function lost due to illness, injury or surgical procedures including but not limited to Cardiac Therapy, pulmonary rehabilitation, Occupational Therapy, Speech Therapy, Physical Therapy and Massage.

**Rehabilitative Therapies** means therapies with the primary purpose of restoring or improving a bodily or mental function impaired or eliminated by a Condition, and include, but are not limited to, Physical Therapy, Speech Therapy, Pain Management, pulmonary therapy or Cardiac Therapy.

**Rescission** or Rescind refers to Florida Blue HMO's or the Group's action to retroactively cancel or discontinue coverage under this Booklet. Rescission does not include a cancellation or discontinuance of coverage with only a prospective effect or a cancellation or discontinuance of coverage that is effective



retroactively due to non-payment of premium.

**Residential Treatment Facility** means a facility properly licensed under Florida law or a similar applicable law of another state, to provide care and treatment of Mental and Nervous Disorders and Substance Dependency and meets all of the following requirements:

- has Mental Health Professionals on-site 24 hours per day and 7 days per week;
- provides access to necessary medical services 24 hours per day and 7 days per week;
- provides access to at least weekly sessions with a behavioral health professional fully licensed for independent practice for individual psychotherapy;
- has individualized active treatment plans directed toward the alleviation of the impairment that caused the admission;
- provides a level of skilled intervention consistent with patient risk;
- is not a wilderness treatment program or any such related or similar program, school and/or education service.

With regard to Substance Dependency treatment, in addition to the above, must meet the following:

- if Detoxification Services are necessary, provides access to necessary on-site medical services 24 hours per day and 7 days per week, which must be actively supervised by an attending Physician;
- ability to assess and recognize withdrawal complications that threaten life or bodily function and to obtain needed Services either on site or externally;
- is supervised by an on-site Physician 24 hours per day and 7 days per week with evidence of close and frequent observation.

**Residential Treatment Services** means treatment in which an individual is admitted by a Physician overnight to a Hospital, Psychiatric Hospital or Residential Treatment Facility and receives daily face to face treatment by a Mental Health Professional for at least 8 hours per day, each day. The Physician must perform the admission evaluation with documentation and treatment orders within 48 hours and provide evaluations at least weekly with documentation. A multidisciplinary treatment plan must be developed within 3 days of admission and must be updated weekly.

## S

**Self-Administered Prescription Drug** means an FDA-approved Prescription Drug that you may administer to yourself, as recommended by a Physician.

**Service Area** means the geographic area approved by the Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA); and in which rates have been approved by the Florida Office of Insurance Regulation (OIR). A list of the applicable service area is available at:  
[https://www.floridablue.com/sites/floridablue.com/files/docs/county\\_landing\\_page.pdf](https://www.floridablue.com/sites/floridablue.com/files/docs/county_landing_page.pdf).

**Skilled Nursing Facility** means an institution or part thereof which meets our criteria for eligibility as a skilled nursing facility and which: (1) is licensed as a skilled nursing facility by the state of Florida, or a similar applicable law of another state; (2) is accredited as a skilled nursing facility by The Joint Commission or recognized as a skilled nursing facility by the Secretary of Health and Human Services of the United States under Medicare, unless such accreditation or recognition requirement has been waived by us.

**Sound Natural Teeth** means teeth that are whole or properly restored (restoration with amalgams, resin or composite only); are without impairment, periodontal, or other conditions; and are not in need of Services provided for any reason other than an Accidental Dental Injury. Teeth previously restored with a crown, inlay, onlay, or porcelain restoration, or treated with endodontics, are not sound natural teeth.

**Specialist** means a Physician who limits practice to specific Services or procedures such as surgery,

radiology, pathology, certain age categories of patients such as pediatrics, geriatrics, certain body systems such as dermatology, orthopedics, cardiology, internal medicine or types of diseases such as allergy, psychiatry, infectious diseases, oncology. Specialists may have special education and training related to their respective practice and may or may not be certified by a related specialty board.

**Specialty Drug** means an FDA-approved Prescription Drug that has been designated solely by us, as a specialty drug due to special handling, storage, training, distribution requirements and/or management of therapy. Specialty drugs may be Provider administered or self-administered and are identified with a special symbol in the Medication Guide.

**Specialty Pharmacy** means a Pharmacy that has an agreement with us or our Pharmacy Benefit Manager to provide specific Prescription Drug products, as determined by us. In-network specialty pharmacies are listed in the Medication Guide. The fact that a Pharmacy is an In-Network Pharmacy does not mean that it is a specialty pharmacy.

**Speech Therapist** means a person properly licensed pursuant to Chapter 468 of the Florida Statutes, or a similar applicable law of another state to practice speech therapy.

**Speech Therapy** means the treatment of speech and language disorders by a Physician, Speech Therapist, or a licensed audiologist, including language assessment and language restorative therapy Services.

**Stabilize** shall have the same meaning with regard to Emergency Services as the term is defined in Section 1867 of the Social Security Act.

**Standard Reference Compendium** means (1) the United States Pharmacopoeia Drug Information; (2) the American Medical Association Drug Evaluation; and/or (3) the American Hospital Formulary Service Hospital Drug Information.

**Substance Abuse Facility** means a facility properly licensed under Florida law, or a similar applicable law of another state, to provide necessary care and treatment for Substance Dependency. For purposes of this Booklet a substance abuse facility is not a Hospital or a Psychiatric Facility, as defined herein.

**Substance Dependency** means a Condition where a person's alcohol or drug use injures his or her health; interferes with his or her social or economic functioning; or causes the individual to lose self-control.

## U

**Urgent Care Center** means a properly licensed facility that: (1) is available to provide Services to patients at least 60 hours per week with at least 25 of those available hours after 5:00 p.m. on weekdays or on Saturday or Sunday; (2) posts instructions for individuals seeking Health Care Services, in a conspicuous public place, as to where to obtain such Services when the urgent care center is closed; (3) employs or contracts with at least one or more board certified or board eligible Physician and Registered Nurse (RN) who are physically present during all hours of operation. (Physicians, RNs, and other medical professional staff must have appropriate training and skills for the care of adults and children); and (4) maintains and operates basic diagnostic radiology and laboratory equipment in compliance with applicable state and/or federal laws and regulations. For purposes of this Booklet, an urgent care center is not a Hospital, Psychiatric Facility, Substance Abuse Facility, Skilled Nursing Facility or Outpatient Rehabilitation Facility.

## V

**Virtual Care Provider** is a licensed Provider that is designated by us and has a contract with us to provide Virtual Visits at the time Services are rendered. A Provider that is designated to offer Virtual Care will be indicated as such in the provider directory.

**Virtual Visit**, for purposes of this Booklet, means the lawful practice of medicine by a Virtual Care

Provider where patient care, treatment or Services are rendered, in place of a face-to-face visit, through the use of medical information exchanged via electronic communications.

## **W**

**Waiting Period** means the period of time specified by the Group, if any, which must be met by an individual before that individual is eligible to enroll for coverage under the Group Health Plan. Such waiting period cannot be more than 90 days in accordance with federal law.

## **Z**

**Zygote Intrafallopian Transfer (ZIFT)** means a process in which an egg is fertilized in the laboratory and the result zygote is transferred to the fallopian tube at the pronuclear stage (before cell division takes place). The eggs are retrieved and fertilized on one day and the zygote is transferred the following day.



An Independent Licensee of the  
Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association

## **NOTICE OF PRIVACY PRACTICES**

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

**PLEASE REVIEW IT CAREFULLY.**

**This Notice is effective as of September 03, 2013.**

We (Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Florida, Inc., d/b/a/ Florida Blue, Health Options, Inc., d/b/a Florida Blue HMO, and BeHealthy Florida, Inc., d/b/a Florida Blue Preferred HMO, collectively referred to as Florida Blue in this Notice) understand the importance of, and are committed to, maintaining the privacy of your protected health information (PHI). PHI is health and nonpublic personal financial information that can reasonably be used to identify you and that we maintain in the normal course of either administering your employer's self-insured group health plan or providing you with insured health care coverage and other services. PHI also includes your personally identifiable information that we may collect from you in connection with the application and enrollment process for health insurance coverage.

We are required by applicable federal and state laws to maintain the privacy of your PHI. We are also required to provide you with this Notice which describes our privacy practices, our legal duties, and your rights concerning your PHI. We are required to follow the privacy practices that are described in this Notice while it is in effect.

We reserve the right to change our privacy practices and the terms of this Notice at any time and to make the terms of our revised Notice effective for all of your PHI that we either currently maintain or that we may maintain in the future. If we make a significant change in our privacy practices, we will post a revised Notice on our web site by the effective date, and provide the revised Notice, or information about the change and how to get the revised Notice, to covered individuals in our next annual mailing.

### **How we protect your PHI:**

- Our employees are trained on our privacy and data protection policies and procedures;
- We use administrative, physical and technical safeguards to help maintain the privacy and security of your PHI;
- We have policies and procedures in place to restrict our employees' use of your PHI to those employees who are authorized to access this information for treatment or payment purposes or to perform certain healthcare operations; and
- Our corporate Business Ethics, Integrity & Compliance division monitors how we follow our privacy policies and procedures.

### **How we must disclose your PHI:**

- **To You:** We will disclose your PHI to you or someone who has the legal right to act on your behalf (your personal representative) in order to administer your 'Individual Rights' under this Notice.
- **To The Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS):** We will disclose your PHI to HHS, if necessary, to ensure that your privacy rights are protected.
- **As Required by Law:** We will disclose your PHI when required by law to do so.

### **How we may use and disclose your PHI without your written authorization:**

We may use and disclose your PHI without your written authorization in a number of different ways in connection with your treatment, the payment for your health care, and our health care operations. When using or disclosing your PHI, or requesting your PHI from another entity, we will make reasonable efforts to limit such use, disclosure or request, to the extent practicable, to the minimum necessary to accomplish the intended purpose of such use, disclosure or request. The following are only a few examples of the types of uses and disclosures of your PHI that we may make without your written authorization.

- **For Treatment:** We may use and disclose your PHI as necessary to aid in your treatment or the coordination of your care. For example, we may disclose your PHI to doctors, dentists, hospitals, or other health care providers in order for them to provide treatment to you.
- **For Payment:** We may use and disclose your PHI to administer your health benefits policy or contract. For example, we may use and disclose your PHI to pay claims for services provided to you by doctors, dentists or hospitals. We may disclose your PHI to a health care provider or another health plan so that the provider or plan may obtain payment of a claim or engage in other payment activities.
- **To Family, Friends, and Others for Treatment or Payment:** Our disclosure of your PHI for the treatment and payment purposes described above may include disclosures to others who are involved in your care or the administration of your health benefits policy or contract. For example, we may disclose your PHI to your family members, friends or caregivers if you direct us to do so or if we exercise professional judgment and determine that they are involved in either your care or the administration of your health benefits policy. We may send an explanation of benefits to the policyholder, which may include claims paid and other information. We may determine that persons are involved in your care or the administration of your health benefits policy if you either agree or fail to object to a disclosure of your PHI to such persons when given an opportunity. In an emergency or in situations where you are incapacitated or not otherwise present, we may disclose your PHI to your family members, friends, caregivers or others, when the circumstances indicate that such disclosure is authorized by you and is in your best interests. In these situations we will only disclose your PHI that is relevant to such other person's involvement in your care or the administration of your health benefits policy.

- **For Health Care Operations:** We may use and disclose your PHI to support other business activities. For example, we may use or disclose your PHI to conduct quality assessment and improvement activities, to conduct fraud and abuse investigations, to engage in care coordination or case management, or to communicate with you about health related benefits, products or services or treatment alternatives that may be of interest to you. We may also disclose your PHI to another entity subject to federal privacy laws, as long as the entity has or had a relationship with you and the PHI is disclosed only for certain health care operations of that provider, plan, or other entity. We may use and disclose your PHI as needed to conduct or arrange for legal services, auditing, or other functions. We may also use and disclose your PHI to perform underwriting activities, however, we are prohibited from using or disclosing your genetic information for underwriting purposes.
- **To Business Associates for Treatment, Payment or Health Care Operations:** Our use of your PHI for treatment, payment or health care operations described above (or for other uses or disclosures described in this Notice) may involve our disclosure of your PHI to certain other entities with which we have contracted to perform or provide certain services on our behalf (Business Associates). We may allow our Business Associates to create, receive, maintain, or transmit your PHI on our behalf in order for the Business Associate to provide services to us, or for the proper management and administration of the Business Associate or to fulfill the Business Associate's legal responsibilities. These Business Associates include lawyers, accountants, consultants, claims clearinghouses, and other third parties. Our Business Associates may re-disclose your PHI to subcontractors in order for these subcontractors to provide services to the Business Associates. These subcontractors will be subject to the same restrictions and conditions that apply to the Business Associates. Whenever such arrangement with a Business Associate involves the use or disclosure of your PHI, we will have a written contract with our Business Associate that contains terms designed to protect the privacy of your PHI.
- **For Public Health and Safety:** We may use or disclose your PHI to the extent necessary to avert a serious and imminent threat to the health or safety of you or others. We may also disclose your PHI for public health and government health care oversight activities and to report suspected abuse, neglect or domestic violence to government authorities.
- **As Permitted by Law:** We may use or disclose your PHI when we are permitted to do so by law.
- **For Process and Proceedings:** We may disclose your PHI in response to a court or administrative order, subpoena, discovery request, or other lawful process.
- **Criminal Activity or Law Enforcement:** We may disclose your PHI to a law enforcement official with regard to crime victims and criminal activities. We may disclose your PHI if we believe that the use or disclosure is necessary to prevent or lessen a serious and imminent threat to the health and safety of a person or the public. We may also disclose your PHI if it is necessary for law enforcement authorities to identify or apprehend an individual.

- **Special Government Functions:** When the appropriate conditions apply, we may use or disclose PHI of individuals who are Armed Forces personnel (i) for activities deemed necessary by appropriate military command authorities; (ii) for the purpose of determination by the Department of Veterans Affairs of your eligibility for benefits, or (iii) to foreign military authorities if you are a member of that foreign military service. We may also disclose your PHI to authorized federal officials for conducting national security and intelligence activities, including the provision of protective services to the President or others legally authorized to receive such governmental protection.
- **Inmates:** We may use or disclose your PHI if you are an inmate of a correctional facility and your physician created or received your PHI in the course of providing care to you.
- **To Plan Sponsors, if applicable (including employers who act as Plan Sponsors):** We may disclose enrollment and disenrollment information to the plan sponsor of your group health plan. We may also disclose certain PHI to the plan sponsor to perform plan administration functions. We may disclose summary health information to the plan sponsor so that the plan sponsor may either obtain premium bids or decide whether to amend, modify or terminate your group health plan. Please see your plan documents, where applicable, for a full explanation of the limited uses and disclosures that the plan sponsor may make of your PHI in providing plan administration functions for your group health plan.
- **For Coroners, Funeral Directors, and Organ Donation:** We may disclose your PHI to a coroner or medical examiner for identification purposes, determining cause of death or for the coroner or medical examiner to perform other duties authorized by law. We may also disclose PHI to a funeral director, as authorized by law, in order to permit the funeral director to carry out his or her duties. We may disclose such information in reasonable anticipation of death. PHI may be used and disclosed for cadaveric organ, eye, or tissue donation purposes.
- **Research:** We may disclose your PHI to researchers when their research has been approved by an institutional review board that has reviewed the research purposes and established protocols to ensure the privacy of your PHI, or as otherwise permitted by federal privacy law.
- **Fundraising:** We may use your PHI to contact you in order to raise funds for our benefit. You have the right to opt out of receiving such communications.
- **Limited data sets and de-identified information:** We may use or disclose your PHI to create a limited data set or de-identified information, and use and disclose such information as permitted by law.
- **For Workers' Compensation:** We may disclose your PHI as permitted by workers' compensation and similar laws.

**Uses and disclosures of PHI permitted only after authorization is received:**

We will obtain your written authorization, as described below, for: (i) uses and disclosures of your PHI for marketing purposes, including subsidized treatment communications (except for certain activities otherwise permitted by federal privacy law, such as face-to-face communications or promotional gifts of nominal value); (ii) disclosures of your PHI that constitute a sale of PHI under federal privacy law and that requires your authorization; and (iii) other uses and disclosures of your PHI not described in this Notice.

There are also other federal and state laws that may further restrict our disclosure of certain PHI (to the extent we maintain such information) that is deemed highly confidential. Highly confidential PHI may include information pertaining to:

- psychotherapy notes;
- alcohol and drug abuse prevention, treatment and referral;
- HIV/AIDS testing, diagnosis or treatment;
- sexually transmitted diseases; and
- genetic testing.

Our intent is to meet the requirements of these more stringent privacy laws and we will only disclose this type of specially protected PHI with your prior written authorization except when our disclosure of this information is permitted or required by law.

**Authorization:** You may give us written authorization to use your PHI or disclose it to anyone for any purpose not otherwise permitted or required by law. If you give us an authorization, you may revoke it in writing at any time. Your revocation will not affect any use or disclosure permitted by your authorization while it was in effect. In the event that you are incapacitated or are otherwise unable to respond to our request for an authorization, (for example, if you are or become legally incompetent), we may accept an authorization from any person who is legally authorized to give such authorization on your behalf.

**Individual Rights:**

To exercise any of these rights, please call the customer service number on your ID card.

- **Access:** With limited exceptions, you have the right to inspect, or obtain copies of, your PHI. We may charge you a reasonable fee as permitted by law. We will provide you a copy of your PHI in the form and format requested, if it is readily producible in such form or format or, if not, in a readable hard copy form or such format as agreed to by you and us. Where your PHI is contained in one or more designated record sets electronically, you have the right to obtain a copy of such information in the electronic form and format requested, if it is readily producible in such form and format; or if not, in a readable electronic form and format as agreed to by us and you. You may request that we transmit the copy of your PHI directly to another person, provided your request is in writing, signed by you, and you clearly identify the designated person and where to send the copy of the PHI.
- **Amendment:** With limited exceptions, you have the right to request that we amend your PHI.
- **Disclosure Accounting:** You have the right to request and receive a list of certain disclosures made of your PHI. If you request this list more than once in a 12-month period, we may charge you a reasonable fee as permitted by law to respond to any additional request.
- **Use/Disclosure Restriction:** You have the right to request that we restrict our use or disclosure of your PHI for certain purposes. We are required to agree to a request to restrict the disclosure of your PHI to a health plan if you submit the request to us and: (i) the disclosure is for purposes of carrying out payment or health care operations and is not otherwise required by law; and (ii) the PHI pertains solely to a health care item or service for which you, or a person on your behalf other than the health plan, has paid the covered entity out-of-pocket in full. We may not be required to agree to all other restriction requests and, in certain cases, we may deny your request. We will agree to restrict the use or disclosure of your PHI provided the law allows and we determine the restriction does not impact our ability to administer your benefits. Even when we agree to



a restriction request, we may still disclose your PHI in a medical emergency and use or disclose your PHI for public health and safety and other similar public benefit purposes permitted or required by law.

- **Confidential Communication:** You have the right to request that we communicate with you in confidence about your PHI at an alternative address. When you call the customer service number on your ID card to request confidential communications at an alternative address, please ask for a "PHI address."
- **Note:** If you choose to have confidential communications sent to you at a PHI address, we will only respond to inquiries from you. If you receive services from any health care providers, you are responsible for notifying those providers directly if you would like a PHI address from them.
- **Privacy Notice:** You have the right to request and receive a copy of this Notice at any time. For more information or if you have questions about this Notice, please contact us using the information listed at the end of this Notice.
- **Breach:** You have the right to receive, and we are required to provide, written notification of a breach where your unsecured PHI has been accessed, used, acquired, or disclosed to an unauthorized person as a result of such breach, and which compromises the security or privacy of your PHI. Unless specified in writing by you to receive the notification by electronic mail, we will provide such written notification by first class mail or, if necessary, by such other substituted forms of communication permitted under the law.
- **Paper Copy:** You have the right to receive a paper copy of this Notice, upon request, even if you have previously agreed to receive the Notice electronically.

### **Complaints**

If you are concerned that we may have violated your privacy rights, you may complain to us using the contact information listed at the end of this Notice. You may also submit a written complaint to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. We will provide you with the address for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services upon request.

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

**Contact:**                      **Business Ethics, Integrity & Compliance**  
Florida Blue  
PO Box 44283  
Jacksonville, FL 32203-4283  
1-888-574-2583

Si usted desea una copia de esta notificación en español, por favor comuníquese con un representante de servicio al cliente utilizando el número telefónico indicado en su tarjeta de asegurado.



An Independent Licensee of the  
Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association

### **Notice Regarding Coverage for Breast Reconstruction Surgery**

If you have to have a mastectomy, your breast reconstruction surgery is covered under your health coverage. It can be done at the same time as the mastectomy or later. You are covered for both the reconstruction of the breast on which the mastectomy is performed, as well as the other breast to produce a symmetrical appearance. In addition, your health plan covers prosthesis and treatment of physical complications at all stages of the mastectomy, including lymphedema. The type of procedure is determined in consultation between you and your attending physician. Coverage is subject to the terms of your contract.

# Templates Included

Compliance/Notices/Meaningful Access Notice.jld  
 Product/Contracts/HMO/BlueCare/LargeGroup/BCR\_LG\_Health\_Schedule\_of\_Benefits.jld  
 Product/Contracts/HMO/BlueCare/LargeGroup/BCR\_LG\_POL\_Master\_Policy\_0618.jld  
 Product/Contracts/HMO/BlueCare/LargeGroup/BCR\_LG\_Benefit\_Booklet.jld  
 Compliance/Notices/Privacy Notice - Breast Reconstruction Notice.jld

## MATCHING CRITERIA

Record Number	67
Request Type	M
Health Product	BLUECARE
Small Group	N
Rx Product	BLUECARE RX
Rx Plan	43
Health Plan	126
IRX	Y
Generic Choices	N
Generic Only	N/A
Closed Formulary	N
HSA	Y
HSA-BRX	N
Standard	N
Basic	N
ACA	N
RX CoIns	N/A
ICC	N
CP-GF-BEN-IND	N
CP-GF-STATUS-IND	N
CP-GROUP-SUB	G
CP-GENERATION-IND	3
CP-EXCHANGE-IND	N
CP-RX-DED-IND	N

CP-RX-NGF-2012-HCR-IND	Y
CP-RX-GF-2012-HCR-IND	N
TAG-RX-SUFFIX	
AON	N/A
CP-ASO-IND	3
Commerical	Y
CP-BCR-PEP-IND	N
Standard Or Basic	N
ROUTE	GROUP
EFF-YEAR	21
GRP-PKG-EFF-YEAR	21
GRP-NO	B6459
DIV-NO	004
PKG-NO	01
FEEDER1	0
FEEDER2	0
FEEDER3	0
FEEDER4	0
FEEDER5	0
FEEDER6	0
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