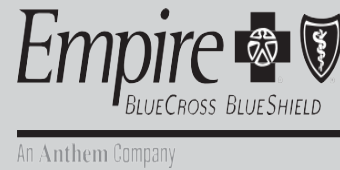


## CERTIFICATE OF COVERAGE

**empireblue.com**

Si necesita ayuda en español para entender este documento, puede solicitarla sin costo adicional, llamando al número de servicio al cliente que aparece al dorso de su tarjeta de identificación o en el folleto de inscripción.



Services provided by Empire HealthChoice Assurance, Inc., and/or Empire HealthChoice HMO, Inc., licensees of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association, an association of independent Blue Cross and Blue Shield Plans

33903NYMENEBC Rev. 10/15



**EMPIRE HEALTHCHOICE ASSURANCE, INC.  
NAME CHANGE RIDER**

This rider changes all the contracts, group plans, certificates and riders initially issued to You by Empire HealthChoice Assurance, Inc.

The company that provides You with benefits under these contracts, group plans, certificates and riders has now been changed to Anthem HealthChoice Assurance, Inc.

Every place in a contract, group plan, certificate or rider You see the official corporate name "Empire HealthChoice Assurance, Inc.", it is replaced with "Anthem HealthChoice Assurance, Inc."

Every place in a contract, group plan, certificate or rider You see the website URL [www.empireblue.com](http://www.empireblue.com), it is replaced with [www.anthembluecross.com](http://www.anthembluecross.com).

Anthem HealthChoice Assurance, Inc. will do business in the region under the name "Anthem BlueCross and Blue Shield".

This rider does not change any of the benefits provided by Your contracts, group plans, certificates and riders.

Jay H. Wagner  
Corporate Secretary

Victor DeStefano  
President

Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield is the trade name of Anthem HealthChoice Assurance, Inc. Independent licensees of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association. Anthem is a registered trademark of Anthem Insurance Companies, Inc.



An Anthem Company

This is Your

## EXCLUSIVE PROVIDER ORGANIZATION CERTIFICATE OF COVERAGE

Issued by: Empire HealthChoice Assurance, Inc.

This Certificate of Coverage ("Certificate") explains the benefits available to You under a Group Contract between Empire HealthChoice Assurance, Inc. (hereinafter referred to as "We", "Us", or "Our") and the Group listed in the Group Contract. This Certificate is not a contract between You and Us. Amendments, riders or endorsements may be delivered with the Certificate or added thereafter.

**In-Network Benefits.** This Certificate only covers in-network benefits. To receive in-network benefits You must receive care exclusively from Participating Providers in the Network applicable to Your plan as indicated in the Schedule of Benefits section of this Certificate and Participating Pharmacies in Our Advantage with R90 Network. Except for care for an Emergency or urgent Condition described in the Emergency Services and Urgent Care section of this Certificate, You will be responsible for paying the cost of all care that is provided by Non-Participating Providers.

**READ THIS ENTIRE CERTIFICATE CAREFULLY. IT DESCRIBES THE BENEFITS AVAILABLE UNDER THE GROUP CONTRACT. IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO UNDERSTAND THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS IN THIS CERTIFICATE.**

This Certificate is governed by the laws of New York State.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jay H. Wagner".

Jay H. Wagner  
Corporate Secretary

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alan J. Murray".

Alan J. Murray  
President

Services provided by Empire HealthChoice Assurance, Inc., a licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association, an association of independent Blue Cross and Blue Shield Plans.

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## SECTION I. DEFINITIONS

Defined terms will appear capitalized throughout this Certificate.

**Acute:** The onset of disease or injury, or a change in the Member's condition that would require prompt medical attention.

**Allowed Amount:** The maximum amount on which Our payment is based for Covered Services. See the Cost-Sharing Expenses and Allowed Amount section of this Certificate for a description of how the Allowed Amount is calculated.

**Ambulatory Surgical Center:** A Facility currently licensed by the appropriate state regulatory agency for the provision of surgical and related medical services on an outpatient basis.

**Appeal:** A request for Us to review a Utilization Review decision or a Grievance again.

**Balance Billing:** When a Non-Participating Provider bills You for the difference between the Non-Participating Provider's charge and the Allowed Amount. A Participating Provider may not Balance Bill You for Covered Services.

**Certificate:** This Certificate issued by Empire HealthChoice Assurance, Inc., including the Schedule of Benefits and any attached riders.

**Child, Children:** The Subscriber's Children, including any natural, adopted or step-children, unmarried disabled Children, newborn Children, or any other Children as described in the Who is Covered section of this Certificate.

**Coinsurance:** Your share of the costs of a Covered Service, calculated as a percent of the Allowed Amount for the service that You are required to pay to a Provider. The amount can vary by the type of Covered Service.

**Copayment:** A fixed amount You pay directly to a Provider for a Covered Service when You receive the service. The amount can vary by the type of Covered Service.

**Cost-Sharing:** Amounts You must pay for Covered Services, expressed as Copayments, Deductibles and/or Coinsurance.

**Cover, Covered or Covered Services:** The Medically Necessary services paid for, arranged, or authorized for You by Us under the terms and conditions of this Certificate.

**Deductible:** The amount You owe before We begin to pay for Covered Services. The Deductible applies before any Copayments or Coinsurance are applied. The Deductible may not apply to all Covered Services. You may also have a Deductible that applies to a specific Covered Service (e.g., a Prescription Drug Deductible) that You owe before

We begin to pay for a particular Covered Service.

**Dependents:** The Subscriber's Spouse and Children.

**Durable Medical Equipment ("DME"):** Equipment which is:

- Designed and intended for repeated use;
- Primarily and customarily used to serve a medical purpose;
- Generally not useful to a person in the absence of disease or injury; and
- Appropriate for use in the home.

**Emergency Condition:** A medical or behavioral condition that manifests itself by Acute symptoms of sufficient severity, including severe pain, such that a prudent layperson, possessing an average knowledge of medicine and health, could reasonably expect the absence of immediate medical attention to result in:

- Placing the health of the person afflicted with such condition or, with respect to a pregnant woman, the health of the woman or her unborn child in serious jeopardy, or in the case of a behavioral condition, placing the health of such person or others in serious jeopardy;
- Serious impairment to such person's bodily functions;
- Serious dysfunction of any bodily organ or part of such person; or
- Serious disfigurement of such person.

**Emergency Department Care:** Emergency Services You get in a Hospital emergency department.

**Emergency Services:** A medical screening examination which is within the capability of the emergency department of a Hospital, including ancillary services routinely available to the emergency department to evaluate such Emergency Condition; and within the capabilities of the staff and facilities available at the Hospital, such further medical examination and treatment as are required to stabilize the patient. "To stabilize" is to provide such medical treatment of an Emergency Condition as may be necessary to assure that, within reasonable medical probability, no material deterioration of the condition is likely to result from or occur during the transfer of the patient from a Facility, or to deliver a newborn child (including the placenta).

**Exclusions:** Health care services that We do not pay for or Cover.

**External Appeal Agent:** An entity that has been certified by the New York State Department of Financial Services to perform external appeals in accordance with New York law.

**Facility:** A Hospital; Ambulatory Surgical Center; birthing center; dialysis center; rehabilitation Facility; Skilled Nursing Facility; hospice; Home Health Agency or home care services agency certified or licensed under New York Public Health Law Article 36; a comprehensive care center for eating disorders pursuant to New York Mental Hygiene Law Article 30; and a Facility defined in New York Mental Hygiene Law

Section 1.03, certified by the New York State Office of Addiction Services and Supports, or certified under New York Public Health Law Article 28 (or, in other states, a similarly licensed or certified Facility). If You receive treatment for substance use disorder outside of New York State, a Facility also includes one which is accredited by the Joint Commission to provide a substance use disorder treatment program.

**Grievance:** A complaint that You communicate to Us that does not involve a Utilization Review determination.

**Group:** The employer or party that has entered into an agreement with Us as a contractholder.

**Habilitation Services:** Health care services that help a person keep, learn or improve skills and functioning for daily living. Habilitation Services include the management of limitations and disabilities, including services or programs that help maintain or prevent deterioration in physical, cognitive, or behavioral function. These services consist of physical therapy, occupational therapy and speech therapy.

**Health Care Professional:** An appropriately licensed, registered or certified Physician; dentist; optometrist; chiropractor; psychologist; social worker; podiatrist; physical therapist; occupational therapist; midwife; speech-language pathologist; audiologist; pharmacist; behavior analyst; nurse practitioner; or any other licensed, registered or certified Health Care Professional under Title 8 of the New York Education Law (or other comparable state law, if applicable) that the New York Insurance Law requires to be recognized who charges and bills patients for Covered Services. The Health Care Professional's services must be rendered within the lawful scope of practice for that type of Provider in order to be covered under this Certificate.

**Home Health Agency:** An organization currently certified or licensed by the State of New York or the state in which it operates and renders home health care services.

**Hospice Care:** Care to provide comfort and support for persons in the last stages of a terminal illness and their families that are provided by a hospice organization certified pursuant to New York Public Health Law Article 40 or under a similar certification process required by the state in which the hospice organization is located.

**Hospital:** A short term, acute, general Hospital, which:

- Is primarily engaged in providing, by or under the continuous supervision of Physicians, to patients, diagnostic services and therapeutic services for diagnosis, treatment and care of injured or sick persons;
- Has organized departments of medicine and major surgery;
- Has a requirement that every patient must be under the care of a Physician or dentist;
- Provides 24-hour nursing service by or under the supervision of a registered professional nurse (R.N.);

- If located in New York State, has in effect a Hospitalization review plan applicable to all patients which meets at least the standards set forth in 42 U.S.C. Section 1395x(k);
- Is duly licensed by the agency responsible for licensing such Hospitals; and
- Is not, other than incidentally, a place of rest, a place primarily for the treatment of tuberculosis, a place for the aged, a place for drug addicts, alcoholics, or a place for convalescent, custodial, educational, or rehabilitative care.

Hospital does not mean health resorts, spas, or infirmaries at schools or camps.

**Hospitalization:** Care in a Hospital that requires admission as an inpatient and usually requires an overnight stay.

**Hospital Outpatient Care:** Care in a Hospital that usually doesn't require an overnight stay.

**Medically Necessary:** See the How Your Coverage Works section of this Certificate for the definition.

**Medicare:** Title XVIII of the Social Security Act, as amended.

**Member:** The Subscriber or a covered Dependent for whom required Premiums have been paid. Whenever a Member is required to provide a notice pursuant to a Grievance or emergency department visit or admission, "Member" also means the Member's designee.

**Network:** The Providers We have contracted with to provide health care services to You.

**Non-Participating Provider:** A Provider who doesn't have a contract with Us or another Blue Cross and/or Blue Shield plan to provide health care services to You. The services of Non-Participating Providers are Covered only for Emergency Services, Urgent Care or when authorized by Us.

**Out-of-Pocket Limit:** The most You pay during a Plan Year in Cost-Sharing before We begin to pay 100% of the Allowed Amount for Covered Services. This limit never includes Your Premium, Balance Billing charges or the cost of health care services We do not Cover.

**Participating Provider:** A Provider who has a contract with Us or another Blue Cross and/or Blue Shield plan to provide health care services to You. A list of Participating Providers and their locations is available on Our website at [www.empireblue.com](http://www.empireblue.com) or upon Your request to Us. The list will be revised from time to time by Us.

**Physician or Physician Services:** Health care services a licensed medical Physician (M.D. – Medical Doctor or D.O. – Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine) provides or coordinates.

**Plan Year:** A calendar year ending on December 31 of each year.

**Preauthorization:** A decision by Us prior to Your receipt of a Covered Service, procedure, treatment plan, device, or Prescription Drug that the Covered Service, procedure, treatment plan, device or Prescription Drug is Medically Necessary. We indicate which Covered Services require Preauthorization in the Schedule of Benefits section of this Certificate.

**Premium:** The amount that must be paid for Your health insurance coverage.

**Prescription Drugs:** A medication, product or device that has been approved by the Food and Drug Administration ("FDA") and that can, under federal or state law, be dispensed only pursuant to a prescription order or refill and is on Our formulary. A Prescription Drug includes a medication that, due to its characteristics, is appropriate for self-administration or administration by a non-skilled caregiver.

**Primary Care Physician: ("PCP"):** A participating nurse practitioner or Physician who typically is an internal medicine, family practice or pediatric Physician and who directly provides or coordinates a range of health care services for You.

**Provider:** A Physician, Health Care Professional or Facility licensed, registered, certified or accredited as required by state law. A Provider also includes a vendor or dispenser of diabetic equipment and supplies, durable medical equipment, medical supplies, or any other equipment or supplies that are Covered under this Certificate that is licensed, registered, certified or accredited as required by state law.

**Referral:** An authorization given to one Participating Provider from another Participating Provider (usually from a PCP to a participating Specialist) in order to arrange for additional care for a Member.

**Rehabilitation Services:** Health care services that help a person keep, get back, or improve skills and functioning for daily living that have been lost or impaired because a person was sick, hurt, or disabled. These services consist of physical therapy, occupational therapy, and speech therapy in an inpatient and/or outpatient setting.

**Schedule of Benefits:** The section of this Certificate that describes the Copayments, Deductibles, Coinsurance, Out-of-Pocket Limits, Preauthorization requirements and other limits on Covered Services.

**Service Area:** The geographical area, designated by Us and approved by the State of New York in which We provide coverage. Our Service Area consists of the following counties in eastern New York State: Bronx, Columbia, Delaware, Dutchess, Greene, Kings, Nassau, New York, Orange, Putnam, Queens, Richmond, Rockland, Suffolk, Sullivan, Ulster, and Westchester.

**Skilled Nursing Facility:** An institution or a distinct part of an institution that is currently licensed or approved under state or local law; primarily engaged in providing skilled nursing care and related services as a Skilled Nursing Facility, extended care Facility, or nursing care Facility approved by the Joint Commission, or the Bureau of Hospitals of the American Osteopathic Association, or as a Skilled Nursing Facility under Medicare; or as otherwise determined by Us to meet the standards of any of these authorities.

**Specialist:** A Physician who focuses on a specific area of medicine or a group of patients to diagnose, manage, prevent or treat certain types of symptoms and conditions.

**Spouse:** The person to whom the Subscriber is legally married, including a same sex Spouse.

**Subscriber:** The person to whom this Certificate is issued.

**UCR (Usual, Customary and Reasonable):** The amount paid for a medical service in a geographic area based on what Providers in the area usually charge for the same or similar medical service.

**Urgent Care:** Medical care for an illness, injury or condition serious enough that a reasonable person would seek care right away, but not so severe as to require Emergency Department Care. Urgent Care may be rendered in a Physician's office or Urgent Care Center.

**Urgent Care Center:** A licensed Facility (other than a Hospital) that provides Urgent Care.

**Us, We, Our:** Empire HealthChoice Assurance, Inc. and anyone to whom We legally delegate performance, on Our behalf, under this Certificate.

**Utilization Review:** The review to determine whether services are or were Medically Necessary or experimental or investigational (i.e., treatment for a rare disease or a clinical trial).

**You, Your:** The Member.

## SECTION II. HOW YOUR COVERAGE WORKS

**A. Your Coverage Under this Certificate.** Your employer (referred to as the “Group”) has purchased a Group health insurance Contract from Us. We will provide the benefits described in this Certificate to covered Members of the Group, that is, to employees of the Group and their covered Dependents. However, this Certificate is not a contract between You and Us. You should keep this Certificate with Your other important papers so that it is available for Your future reference.

**B. Covered Services.** You will receive Covered Services under the terms and conditions of this Certificate only when the Covered Service is:

- Medically Necessary;
- Provided by a Participating Provider;
- Listed as a Covered Service;
- Not in excess of any benefit limitations described in the Schedule of Benefits section of this Certificate; and
- Received while Your Certificate is in force.

**C. Participating Providers.** To find out if a Provider is a Participating Provider:

- Check Our Provider directory, available at Your request;
- Call the number on Your ID card; or
- Visit Our website at [www.empireblue.com](http://www.empireblue.com).

The Provider directory will give You the following information about Our Participating Providers:

- Name, address, and telephone number;
- Specialty;
- Board certification (if applicable);
- Languages spoken; and
- Whether the Participating Provider is accepting new patients.

You are only responsible for any Cost-Sharing that would apply to the Covered Services if You receive Covered Services from a Provider who is not a Participating Provider in the following situations:

- The Provider is listed as a Participating Provider in Our online Provider directory;
- Our paper Provider directory listing the Provider as a Participating Provider is incorrect as of the date of publication;
- We give You written notice that the Provider is a Participating Provider in response to Your telephone request for network status information about the Provider; or
- We do not provide You with a written notice within one (1) business day of Your telephone request for network status information.

In these situations, if a Provider bills You for more than Your Cost-Sharing and You pay the bill, You are entitled to a refund from the Provider, plus interest.

- D. The Role of Primary Care Physicians.** This Certificate does not have a gatekeeper, usually known as a Primary Care Physician (“PCP”). Although You are encouraged to receive care from Your PCP, You do not need a Referral from a PCP before receiving Specialist care.

For purposes of Cost-Sharing, if You seek services from a PCP (or a Physician covering for a PCP) who has a primary or secondary specialty other than general practice, family practice, internal medicine, pediatrics and OB/GYN, You must pay the specialty office visit Cost-Sharing in the Schedule of Benefits section of this Certificate when the services provided are related to specialty care.

- E. Access to Providers and Changing Providers.** Sometimes Providers in Our Provider directory are not available. You should call the Provider to make sure he or she is a Participating Provider and is accepting new patients.

To see a Provider, call his or her office and tell the Provider that You are an Empire Member in the network applicable to Your plan as indicated in the Schedule of Benefits section of this Certificate, and explain the reason for Your visit. Have Your ID card available. The Provider’s office may ask You for Your Group or Member ID number. When You go to the Provider’s office, bring Your ID card with You.

If We do not have a Participating Provider for certain provider types in the county in which You live or in a bordering county that is within approved time and distance standards, We will approve an authorization to a specific Non-Participating Provider until You no longer need the care or We have a Participating Provider in Our Network that meets the time and distance standards and Your care has been transitioned to that Participating Provider. Covered Services rendered by the Non-Participating Provider will be paid as if they were provided by a Participating Provider. You will be responsible only for any applicable In-Network Cost-Sharing.

- F. Services Subject to Preauthorization.** Our Preauthorization is required before You receive certain Covered Services. You are responsible for requesting Preauthorization for the in-network services listed in the Schedule of Benefits section of this Certificate.

- G. Preauthorization/Notification Procedure.** If You seek coverage for services that require Preauthorization or notification, You must call Us at the number on Your ID card.

You must contact Us to request Preauthorization as follows:

- At least two (2) weeks prior to a planned admission or surgery when Your Provider recommends inpatient Hospitalization. If that is not possible, then as soon as reasonably possible during regular business hours prior to the admission.

- At least two (2) weeks prior to ambulatory surgery or any ambulatory care procedure when Your Provider recommends the surgery or procedure be performed in an ambulatory surgical unit of a Hospital or in an Ambulatory Surgical Center. If that is not possible, then as soon as reasonably possible during regular business hours prior to the surgery or procedure.
- Within the first three (3) months of a pregnancy, or as soon as reasonably possible and again within 48 hours after the actual delivery date if Your Hospital stay is expected to extend beyond 48 hours for a vaginal birth or 96 hours for cesarean birth.
- Before air ambulance services are rendered for a non-Emergency Condition.

You must contact Us to provide notification as follows:

- As soon as reasonably possible when air ambulance services are rendered for an Emergency Condition.
- If You are hospitalized in cases of an Emergency Condition, You must call Us within 48 hours after Your admission or as soon thereafter as reasonably possible.

After receiving a request for approval, We will review the reasons for Your planned treatment and determine if benefits are available. Criteria will be based on multiple sources which may include medical policy, clinical guidelines, and pharmacy and therapeutic guidelines.

- H. Medical Management.** The benefits available to You under this Certificate are subject to pre-service, concurrent and retrospective reviews to determine when services should be Covered by Us. The purpose of these reviews is to promote the delivery of cost-effective medical care by reviewing the use of procedures and, where appropriate, the setting or place the services are performed. Covered Services must be Medically Necessary for benefits to be provided.
- I. Medical Necessity.** We Cover benefits described in this Certificate as long as the health care service, procedure, treatment, test, device, Prescription Drug or supply (collectively, “service”) is Medically Necessary. The fact that a Provider has furnished, prescribed, ordered, recommended, or approved the service does not make it Medically Necessary or mean that We have to Cover it.

We may base Our decision on a review of:

- Your medical records;
- Our medical policies and clinical guidelines;
- Medical opinions of a professional society, peer review committee or other groups of Physicians;
- Reports in peer-reviewed medical literature;
- Reports and guidelines published by nationally-recognized health care organizations that include supporting scientific data;
- Professional standards of safety and effectiveness, which are generally-recognized in the United States for diagnosis, care, or treatment; and

- The opinion of Health Care Professionals in the generally-recognized health specialty involved.

Services will be deemed Medically Necessary only if:

- They are clinically appropriate in terms of type, frequency, extent, site, and duration, and considered effective for Your illness, injury, or disease;
- They are required for the direct care and treatment or management of that condition;
- Your condition would be adversely affected if the services were not provided;
- They are provided in accordance with generally-accepted standards of medical practice;
- They are not primarily for the convenience of You, Your family, or Your Provider;
- They are not more costly than an alternative service or sequence of services, that is at least as likely to produce equivalent therapeutic or diagnostic results;
- When setting or place of service is part of the review, services that can be safely provided to You in a lower cost setting will not be Medically Necessary if they are performed in a higher cost setting. For example We will not provide coverage for an inpatient admission for surgery if the surgery could have been performed on an outpatient basis or an infusion or injection of a specialty drug provided in the outpatient department of a Hospital if the drug could be provided in a Physician's office or the home setting.

See the Utilization Review and External Appeal sections of this Certificate for Your right to an internal Appeal and external appeal of Our determination that a service is not Medically Necessary.

#### **J. Protection from Surprise Bills.**

1. **Surprise Bills.** A surprise bill is a bill You receive for Covered Services in the following circumstances:

- For services performed by a non-participating Provider at a participating Hospital or Ambulatory Surgical Center, when:
  - A participating Provider is unavailable at the time the health care services are performed;
  - A non-participating Provider performs services without Your knowledge; or
  - Unforeseen medical issues or services arise at the time the health care services are performed.

A surprise bill does not include a bill for health care services when a participating Provider is available and You elected to receive services from a non-participating Provider.

- You were referred by a participating Physician to a Non-Participating Provider without Your explicit written consent acknowledging that the Referral is to a Non-Participating Provider and it may result in costs not covered by

Us. For a surprise bill, a Referral to a Non-Participating Provider means:

- Covered Services are performed by a Non-Participating Provider in the participating Physician's office or practice during the same visit;
- The participating Physician sends a specimen taken from You in the participating Physician's office to a non-participating laboratory or pathologist; or
- For any other Covered Services performed by a Non-Participating Provider at the participating Physician's request, when Referrals are required under Your Certificate.

You will be held harmless for any Non-Participating Provider charges for the surprise bill that exceed Your Cost-Sharing. The Non-Participating Provider may only bill You for Your Cost-Sharing. You can sign a form to notify Us and the Non-Participating Provider that You received a surprise bill.

The form for surprise bills is available at [www.dfs.ny.gov](http://www.dfs.ny.gov) or You can visit Our website at [www.empireblue.com](http://www.empireblue.com) for a copy of the form. You need to mail a copy of the form to Us at the address for Surprise Bill Certification form in the Important Telephone Numbers and Addresses paragraph below and to Your Provider.

2. **Independent Dispute Resolution Process.** Either We or a Provider may submit a dispute involving a surprise bill to an independent dispute resolution entity ("IDRE") assigned by the state. The IDRE will determine whether Our payment or the Provider's charge is reasonable within 30 days of receiving the dispute.

**K. Delivery of Covered Services Using Telehealth.** If Your Participating Provider offers Covered Services using telehealth, We will not deny the Covered Services because they are delivered using telehealth. Covered Services delivered using telehealth may be subject to utilization review and quality assurance requirements and other terms and conditions of the Certificate that are at least as favorable as those requirements for the same service when not delivered using telehealth. "Telehealth" means the use of electronic information and communication technologies, including telephone or video using smart phones or other devices, by a Participating Provider to deliver Covered Services to You while Your location is different than Your Provider's location.

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

Our case management programs are confidential and voluntary. These programs are given at no extra cost to You and do not change Covered Services. If You meet program criteria and agree to take part, We will help You meet Your identified

health care needs. This is reached through contact and teamwork with You and/or Your authorized representative, treating Physician(s), and other Providers. In addition, We may assist in coordinating care with existing community-based programs and services to meet Your needs, which may include giving You information about external agencies and community-based programs and services.

In certain cases of severe or chronic illness or injury, We may provide benefits for alternate care that is not listed as a Covered Service. We may also extend Covered Services beyond the benefit maximums of this Certificate. We will make Our decision on a case-by-case basis if We determine the alternate or extended benefit is in the best interest of You and Us.

Nothing in this provision shall prevent You from appealing Our decision. A decision to provide extended benefits or approve alternate care in one case does not obligate Us to provide the same benefits again to You or to any other Member. We reserve the right, at any time, to alter or stop providing extended benefits or approving alternate care. In such case, We will notify You or Your representative in writing.

#### **M. Important Telephone Numbers and Addresses**

- **CLAIMS**

Refer to the address on Your ID card.  
(Submit claim forms to this address.)

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

(Submit electronic claim forms to this e-mail address.)

- **COMPLAINTS, GRIEVANCES AND UTILIZATION REVIEW APPEALS**

Call the number on Your ID card.

- **SURPRISE BILL CERTIFICATION FORM**

Empire Member Services  
P.O. Box 1407, Church Street Station  
New York, NY 10008  
(Submit surprise bill certification forms to this address.)

- **MEMBER SERVICES**

Call the number on Your ID card  
Member Services Representatives are available Monday – Friday 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. E.S.T.

- **PREAUTHORIZATION**

Call the number on Your ID card.

- **OUR WEBSITE**

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

### SECTION III. ACCESS TO CARE AND TRANSITIONAL CARE

- A. Authorization to a Non-Participating Provider.** If We determine that We do not have a Participating Provider that has the appropriate training and experience to treat Your condition, We will approve an authorization to an appropriate Non-Participating Provider. Your Participating Provider must request prior approval of the authorization to a specific Non-Participating Provider. Approvals of authorizations to Non-Participating Providers will not be made for the convenience of You or another treating Provider and may not necessarily be to the specific Non-Participating Provider You requested. If We approve the authorization, all services performed by the Non-Participating Provider are subject to a treatment plan approved by Us in consultation with Your PCP, the Non-Participating Provider and You. Covered Services rendered by the Non-Participating Provider will be covered as if they were provided by a Participating Provider. You will be responsible only for any applicable In-Network Cost-Sharing. In the event an authorization is not approved, any services rendered by a Non-Participating Provider will not be Covered.
- B. When Your Provider Leaves the Network.** If You are in an ongoing course of treatment when Your Provider leaves Our network, then You may continue to receive Covered Services for the ongoing treatment from the former Participating Provider for up to 90 days from the date Your Provider's contractual obligation to provide services to You terminates. If You are pregnant, You may continue care with a former Participating Provider through delivery and any postpartum care directly related to the delivery.

The Provider must accept as payment the negotiated fee that was in effect just prior to the termination of Our relationship with the Provider. The Provider must also provide Us necessary medical information related to Your care and adhere to our policies and procedures, including those for assuring quality of care and obtaining Preauthorization, authorizations, and a treatment plan approved by Us. You will receive the Covered Services as if they were being provided by a Participating Provider. You will be responsible only for any applicable Cost-Sharing. Please note that if the Provider was terminated by Us due to fraud, imminent harm to patients or final disciplinary action by a state board or agency that impairs the Provider's ability to practice, continued treatment with that Provider is not available.

- C. New Members In a Course of Treatment.** If You are in an ongoing course of treatment with a Non-Participating Provider when Your coverage under this Certificate becomes effective, You may be able to receive Covered Services for the ongoing treatment from the Non-Participating Provider for up to 60 days from the effective date of Your coverage under this Certificate. This course of treatment must be for a life-threatening disease or condition or a degenerative and disabling condition or disease. You may also continue care with a Non-Participating Provider if You are in the second or third trimester of a pregnancy when Your coverage under this Certificate becomes effective. You may continue care through delivery and any post-partum services directly related to the delivery.

In order for You to continue to receive Covered Services for up to 60 days or through pregnancy, the Non-Participating Provider must agree to accept as payment Our fees for such services. The Provider must also agree to provide Us necessary medical information related to Your care and to adhere to Our policies and procedures including those for assuring quality of care and obtaining Preauthorization, Referrals, and a treatment plan approved by Us. If the Provider agrees to these conditions, You will receive the Covered Services as if they were being provided by a Participating Provider. You will be responsible only for any applicable In-Network Cost-Sharing.

## SECTION IV. COST-SHARING EXPENSES AND ALLOWED AMOUNT

- A. Deductible.** There is no Deductible for Covered Services under this Certificate during each Plan Year.

**Prescription Drug Deductible.** Except where stated otherwise, You must pay the amount in the Schedule of Benefits section of this Certificate for Covered Prescription Drugs during each Plan Year before We provide coverage.

- B. Copayments.** Except where stated otherwise, You must pay the Copayments, or fixed amounts, in the Schedule of Benefits section of this Certificate for Covered Services. However, when the Allowed Amount for a service is less than the Copayment, You are responsible for the lesser amount.

- C. Coinsurance.** Except where stated otherwise, You must pay a percentage of the Allowed Amount for Covered Services. We will pay the remaining percentage of the Allowed Amount as Your benefit as shown in the Schedule of Benefits section of this Certificate.

- D. Out-of-Pocket Limit.** When You have met Your Out-of-Pocket Limit in payment of Cost-Sharing for a Plan Year in the Schedule of Benefits section of this Certificate, We will provide coverage for 100% of the Allowed Amount for Covered Services for the remainder of that Plan Year. If You have other than individual coverage, once a person within a family meets the individual Out-of-Pocket Limit in the Schedule of Benefits section of this Certificate, We will provide coverage for 100% of the Allowed Amount for the rest of that Plan Year for that person. If other than individual coverage applies, when persons in the same family covered under this Certificate have collectively met the family Out-of-Pocket Limit in payment of Cost-Sharing for a Plan Year in the Schedule of Benefits section of this Certificate, We will provide coverage for 100% of the Allowed Amount for the rest of that Plan Year for the entire family.

Cost-Sharing for out-of-network services, except for Emergency Services, out-of-network services approved by Us as an in-network exception and out-of-network dialysis, does not apply toward Your Out-of-Pocket Limit.

- E. Allowed Amount.** "Allowed Amount" means the maximum amount We will pay for the services or supplies Covered under this Certificate, before any applicable Copayment, Deductible and Coinsurance amounts are subtracted. We determine Our Allowed Amount as follows:

The Allowed Amount for Participating Providers will be the amount We have negotiated with the Participating Provider, or the amount approved by another Host Plan, or the Participating Provider's charge, if less.

Our payments to Participating Providers may include financial incentives to help

improve the quality or coordination of care and promote the delivery of Covered Services in a cost-efficient manner. Payments under this financial incentive program are not made as payment for a specific Covered Service provided to You. Your Cost-Sharing will not change based on any payments made to or received from Participating Providers as part of the financial incentive program.

See the Emergency Services and Urgent Care section of this Certificate for the Allowed Amount for Emergency Services rendered by Non-Participating Providers. See the Ambulance and Pre-Hospital Emergency Medical Services section of this Certificate for the Allowed Amount for Pre-Hospital Emergency Medical Services rendered by Non-Participating Providers.

## **F. Inter-Plan Programs**

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

When You receive care outside of the Empire Service Area, You will receive it from one of two kinds of Providers. Most Providers (“Participating Providers”) contract with the local Blue Cross and/or Blue Shield Plan in that geographic area (“Host Blue”). Some Providers (“Non-Participating Providers”) don’t contract with the Host Blue. We explain below how We pay both kinds of Providers.

**Inter-Plan Arrangements Eligibility – Claim Types.** Most claim types are eligible to be processed through Inter-Plan Arrangements, as described above. Examples of claims that are not included are prescription drugs that You obtain from a pharmacy and most dental or vision benefits.

- 2. BlueCard® Program.** Under the BlueCard® Program, when You receive Covered Services within the geographic area served by a Host Blue, We will still fulfill Our contractual obligations. But the Host Blue is responsible for: (a) contracting with its Providers; and (b) handling its interactions with those Providers.

When You receive Covered Services outside the Empire Service Area and the claim is processed through the BlueCard Program, the amount You pay is calculated based on the lower of:

- The billed covered charges for Your Covered Services; or
- The negotiated price that the Host Blue makes available to Us.

Often, this “negotiated price” will be a simple discount that reflects an actual

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

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

- 3. Special Cases: Value-Based Programs, BlueCard<sup>®</sup> Program.** If You receive Covered Services under a value-based program inside a Host Blue's service area, You will not be responsible for paying any of the Provider Incentives, risk-sharing, and/or Care Coordinator Fees that are a part of such an arrangement, except when a Host Blue passes these fees to Empire through average pricing or fee schedule adjustments. Additional information is available upon request.
- 4. Inter-Plan and Intra-Plan Programs: Federal/State Taxes/Surcharges/Fees.** Federal or state laws or regulations may require a surcharge, tax or other fee. If applicable, We will include any such surcharge, tax or other fee as part of the inter-plan or intra-plan claim charge passed on to You.
- 5. Non-Participating Providers Outside Our Service Area.**
  - a. Allowed Amounts and Member Liability Calculation.** When Covered Services are provided outside of Empire's Service Area by non-participating providers, We may determine benefits and make payment based on pricing from either the Host Blue or the pricing arrangements required by applicable state or federal law. In these situations, the amount You pay for such services as Deductible, Copayment or Coinsurance will be based on that allowed amount. Also, You may be responsible for the difference between the amount that the non-participating provider bills and the payment We will make for the Covered Services as set forth in this paragraph. Federal or state law, as applicable, will govern payments for out-of-network emergency services.
  - b. Exceptions.** In certain situations, We may use other pricing methods, such as billed charges, the pricing We would use if the healthcare services had been obtained within the Empire Service Area, or a special negotiated price to determine the amount We will pay for services provided by non-participating providers. In these situations, You may be liable for the difference between the amount that the non-participating provider bills and the payment We make for the Covered Services as set forth in this paragraph.

- 6. Blue Cross Blue Shield Global Core<sup>®</sup> Program.** If You plan to travel outside the United States, call Member Services to find out Your Blue Cross Blue Shield Global Core<sup>®</sup> benefits. Benefits for services received outside of the United States may be different from services received in the United States. The plan only covers Emergency, including ambulance, and Urgent Care outside of the United States. Remember to take an up to date health ID card with You.

When You are traveling abroad and need medical care, You can call the Blue Cross Blue Shield Global Core<sup>®</sup> Service Center any time. They are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The toll free number is 800-810-2583. Or You can call them collect at 804-673-1177.

**How Claims Are Paid With Blue Cross Blue Shield Global Core<sup>®</sup>.** In most cases, when You arrange inpatient hospital care with Blue Cross Blue Shield Global Core<sup>®</sup>, claims will be filed for You. The only amounts that You may need to pay up front are any Copayment, Coinsurance or Deductible amounts that may apply. You will typically need to pay for the following services up front:

- Doctors services;
- Inpatient hospital care not arranged through Blue Cross Blue Shield Global Core<sup>®</sup>; and
- Outpatient services.

You will need to file a claim form for any payments made up front.

When You need Blue Cross Blue Shield Global Core<sup>®</sup> claim forms, You can get international claim forms in the following ways:

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

You will find the address for mailing the claim on the form.

## SECTION V. WHO IS COVERED

**A. Who is Covered Under this Certificate.** You, the Subscriber to whom this Certificate is issued, are covered under this Certificate. Members of Your family may also be covered depending on the type of coverage You selected.

**B. Types of Coverage.** We offer the following types of coverage:

1. **Individual.** If You selected individual coverage, then You are covered.
2. **Individual and Spouse.** If You selected individual and Spouse coverage, then You and Your Spouse are covered.
3. **Parent and Child/Children.** If You selected parent and child/children coverage, then You and Your Child or Children, as described below, are covered.
4. **Family.** If You selected family coverage, then You and Your Spouse and Your Child or Children, as described below, are covered.

**C. Children Covered Under this Certificate.** If You selected parent and child/children or family coverage, Children covered under this Certificate include Your natural Children, legally adopted Children, step Children, and Children for whom You are the proposed adoptive parent without regard to financial dependence, residency with You, student status or employment. A proposed adopted Child is eligible for coverage on the same basis as a natural Child during any waiting period prior to the finalization of the Child's adoption. Coverage lasts until the end of the month in which the Child turns 26 years of age. Coverage also includes Children for whom You are a legal guardian if the Children are chiefly dependent upon You for support and You have been appointed the legal guardian by a court order. Foster children are not covered. Grandchildren who are chiefly dependent upon You for support and who live with You are covered.

Any unmarried dependent Child, regardless of age, who is incapable of self-sustaining employment by reason of mental illness, developmental disability, intellectual disability (as defined in the New York Mental Hygiene Law), or physical disability and who became so incapable prior to attainment of the age at which the Child's coverage would otherwise terminate and who is chiefly dependent upon You for support and maintenance, will remain covered while Your insurance remains in force and Your Child remains in such condition. You have 31 days from the date of Your Child's attainment of the termination age to submit an application to request that the Child be included in Your coverage and proof of the Child's incapacity. We have the right to check whether a Child qualifies and continues to qualify under this section.

We have the right to request and be furnished with such proof as may be needed to determine eligibility status of a prospective or covered Subscriber and all other prospective or covered Members in relation to eligibility for coverage under this Certificate at any time.

**D. When Coverage Begins.** Coverage under this Certificate will begin as follows:

1. If You, the Subscriber, elect coverage before becoming eligible, or within 31 days of becoming eligible for other than a special enrollment period, coverage begins on the date You become eligible, or on the date determined by Your Group. Groups cannot impose waiting periods that exceed 90 days.
2. If You, the Subscriber do not elect coverage upon becoming eligible, or within 31 days of becoming eligible for other than a special enrollment period, You must wait until the Group's next open enrollment period to enroll, except as provided below.
3. If You, the Subscriber, marry while covered, and We receive notice of such marriage and any Premium payment within 31 days thereafter, coverage for Your Spouse and Child starts on the date of marriage. If We do not receive notice within 31 days of the marriage, You must wait until the Group's next open enrollment period to add Your Spouse or Child.
4. If You, the Subscriber, have a newborn or adopted newborn Child and We receive notice of such birth within 60 days thereafter, coverage for Your newborn starts at the moment of birth; otherwise, coverage begins on the date on which We receive notice. Your adopted newborn Child will be covered from the moment of birth if You take physical custody of the infant as soon as the infant is released from the Hospital after birth and You file a petition pursuant to Section 115-c of the New York Domestic Relations Law within 60 days of the infant's birth; and provided further that no notice of revocation to the adoption has been filed pursuant to Section 115-b of the New York Domestic Relations Law, and consent to the adoption has not been revoked. However, We will not provide Hospital benefits for the adopted newborn's initial Hospital stay if one of the infant's natural parents has coverage for the newborn's initial Hospital stay. If You have individual or individual and Spouse coverage, You must also notify Us of Your desire to switch to parent and child/children or family coverage and pay any additional Premium within 60 days of the birth or adoption in order for coverage to start at the moment of birth. Otherwise, coverage begins on the date on which We receive notice provided that You pay any additional Premium when due.

**E. Special Enrollment Periods.** You, Your Spouse or Child, can also enroll for coverage within 31 days of the loss of coverage in another group health plan if coverage was terminated because You, Your Spouse or Child are no longer eligible for coverage under the other group health plan due to:

1. Termination of employment;
2. Termination of the other group health plan;
3. Death of the Spouse;
4. Legal separation, divorce or annulment;
5. Reduction of hours of employment;
6. Employer contributions toward the group health plan were terminated for You or Your Dependents' coverage; or
7. A Child no longer qualifies for coverage as a Child under the other group health plan.

You, Your Spouse or Child can also enroll 31 days from exhaustion of Your COBRA or

continuation coverage or if You gain a Dependent or become a Dependent through marriage, birth adoption, or placement for adoption.

We must receive notice and Premium payment within 31 days of one of these events. Your coverage will begin on the first day of the following month after We receive Your application. If You gain a Dependent or become a Dependent due to a birth, adoption, or placement for adoption, Your coverage will begin on the date of the birth, adoption or placement for adoption.

In addition, You, Your Spouse or Child, can also enroll for coverage within 60 days of the occurrence of one of the following events:

1. You or Your Spouse or Child loses eligibility for Medicaid or Child Health Plus; or
2. You or Your Spouse or Child becomes eligible for Medicaid or Child Health Plus.

We must receive notice and Premium payment within 60 days of one of these events. Your coverage will begin on the first day of the following month after We receive Your application.

## SECTION VI. PREVENTIVE CARE

Please refer to the Schedule of Benefits section of this Certificate for Cost-Sharing requirements, day or visit limits, and any Preauthorization or Referral requirements that apply to these benefits.

**Preventive Care.** We Cover the following services for the purpose of promoting good health and early detection of disease. Preventive services are not subject to Cost-Sharing (Copayments, Deductibles or Coinsurance) when performed by a Participating Provider and provided in accordance with the comprehensive guidelines supported by the Health Resources and Services Administration (“HRSA”), or if the items or services have an “A” or “B” rating from the United States Preventive Services Task Force (“USPSTF”), or if the immunizations are recommended by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (“ACIP”). However, Cost-Sharing may apply to services provided during the same visit as the preventive services. Also, if a preventive service is provided during an office visit wherein the preventive service is not the primary purpose of the visit, the Cost-Sharing amount that would otherwise apply to the office visit will still apply. You may contact Us at the number on Your ID card or visit Our website at [www.empireblue.com](http://www.empireblue.com) for a copy of the comprehensive guidelines supported by HRSA, items or services with an “A” or “B” rating from USPSTF, and immunizations recommended by ACIP.

**A. Well-Baby and Well-Child Care.** We Cover well-baby and well-child care which consists of routine physical examinations including vision screenings and hearing screenings, developmental assessment, anticipatory guidance, and laboratory tests ordered at the time of the visit as recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics. We also Cover preventive care and screenings as provided for in the comprehensive guidelines supported by HRSA and items or services with an “A” or “B” rating from USPSTF. If the schedule of well-child visits referenced above permits one (1) well-child visit per Plan Year, We will not deny a well-child visit if 365 days have not passed since the previous well-child visit. Immunizations and boosters as recommended by ACIP are also Covered. This benefit is provided to Members from birth through attainment of age 19 and is not subject to Copayments, Deductibles or Coinsurance.

**B. Adult Annual Physical Examinations.** We Cover adult annual physical examinations and preventive care and screenings as provided for in the comprehensive guidelines supported by HRSA and items or services with an “A” or “B” rating from USPSTF.

Examples of items or services with an “A” or “B” rating from USPSTF include, but are not limited to, blood pressure screening for adults, lung cancer screening, colorectal cancer screening, alcohol misuse screening, depression screening, and diabetes screening. A complete list of the Covered preventive Services is available on Our website at [www.empireblue.com](http://www.empireblue.com), or will be mailed to You upon request.

You are eligible for a physical examination once every Plan Year, regardless of whether

or not 365 days have passed since the previous physical examination visit. Vision screenings do not include refractions.

This benefit is not subject to Copayments, Deductibles or Coinsurance when provided in accordance with the comprehensive guidelines supported by HRSA and items or services with an “A” or “B” rating from USPSTF.

**C. Adult Immunizations.** We Cover adult immunizations as recommended by ACIP. This benefit is not subject to Copayments, Deductibles or Coinsurance when provided in accordance with the recommendations of ACIP.

**D. Well-Woman Examinations.** We Cover well-woman examinations which consist of a routine gynecological examination, breast examination and annual screening for cervical cancer, including laboratory and diagnostic services in connection with evaluating cervical cancer screening tests. We also Cover preventive care and screenings as provided for in the comprehensive guidelines supported by HRSA and items or services with an “A” or “B” rating from USPSTF. A complete list of the Covered preventive Services is available on Our website at [www.empireblue.com](http://www.empireblue.com), or will be mailed to You upon request. This benefit is not subject to Copayments, Deductibles or Coinsurance when provided in accordance with the comprehensive guidelines supported by HRSA and items or services with an “A” or “B” rating from USPSTF, which may be less frequent than described above.

**E. Mammograms, Screening and Diagnostic Imaging for the Detection of Breast Cancer.** We Cover mammograms, which may be provided by breast tomosynthesis (i.e., 3D mammograms), for the screening of breast cancer as follows:

- One (1) baseline screening mammogram for Members age 35 through 39; and
- One (1) screening mammogram annually for Members age 40 and over.

If a Member of any age has a history of breast cancer or a first degree relative has a history of breast cancer, We Cover mammograms as recommended by the Member’s Provider. However, in no event will more than one (1) preventive screening per Plan Year be Covered.

Mammograms for the screening of breast cancer are not subject to Copayments, Deductibles or Coinsurance.

We also Cover additional screening and diagnostic imaging for the detection of breast cancer, including diagnostic mammograms, breast ultrasounds and MRIs. Screening and diagnostic imaging for the detection of breast cancer, including diagnostic mammograms, breast ultrasounds and MRIs are not subject to Copayments, Deductibles or Coinsurance.

**F. Family Planning and Reproductive Health Services.** We Cover family planning services which consist of FDA-approved contraceptive methods prescribed by a Provider not otherwise Covered under the Prescription Drug Coverage section of this

Certificate; patient education and counseling on use of contraceptives and related topics; follow-up services related to contraceptive methods, including management of side effects, counseling for continued adherence, and device insertion and removal; and sterilization procedures for women. Such services are not subject to Copayments, Deductibles or Coinsurance.

We also Cover vasectomies subject to Copayments, Deductibles or Coinsurance.

We do not Cover services related to the reversal of elective sterilizations.

**G. Bone Mineral Density Measurements or Testing.** We Cover bone mineral density measurements or tests, and Prescription Drugs and devices approved by the FDA or generic equivalents as approved substitutes. Coverage of Prescription Drugs is subject to the Prescription Drug Coverage section of this Certificate. Bone mineral density measurements or tests, drugs or devices shall include those covered under the federal Medicare program or those in accordance with the criteria of the National Institutes of Health. You will qualify for Coverage if You meet the criteria under the federal Medicare program or the criteria of the National Institutes of Health or if You meet any of the following:

- Previously diagnosed as having osteoporosis or having a family history of osteoporosis;
- With symptoms or conditions indicative of the presence or significant risk of osteoporosis;
- On a prescribed drug regimen posing a significant risk of osteoporosis;
- With lifestyle factors to a degree as posing a significant risk of osteoporosis; or
- With such age, gender, and/or other physiological characteristics which pose a significant risk for osteoporosis.

We also Cover osteoporosis screening as provided for in the comprehensive guidelines supported by HRSA and items or services with an “A” or “B” rating from USPSTF.

This benefit is not subject to Copayments, Deductibles or Coinsurance when provided in accordance with the comprehensive guidelines supported by HRSA and items or services with an “A” or “B” rating from USPSTF, which may not include all of the above services such as drugs and devices.

**H. Screening for Prostate Cancer.** We Cover an annual standard diagnostic examination including, but not limited to, a digital rectal examination and a prostate specific antigen test for men age 50 and over who are asymptomatic and for men age 40 and over with a family history of prostate cancer or other prostate cancer risk factors. We also Cover standard diagnostic testing including, but not limited to, a digital rectal examination and a prostate-specific antigen test, at any age for men having a prior history of prostate cancer.

This benefit is not subject to Copayments, Deductibles or Coinsurance.

## SECTION VII. AMBULANCE AND PRE-HOSPITAL EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

Please refer to the Schedule of Benefits section of this Certificate for Cost-Sharing requirements, day or visit limits, and any Preauthorization or Referral requirements that apply to these benefits. Pre-Hospital Emergency Medical Services and ambulance services for the treatment of an Emergency Condition do not require Preauthorization.

### A. Emergency Ambulance Transportation.

- 1. Pre-Hospital Emergency Medical Services.** We Cover Pre-Hospital Emergency Medical Services worldwide for the treatment of an Emergency Condition when such services are provided by an ambulance service.

“Pre-Hospital Emergency Medical Services” means the prompt evaluation and treatment of an Emergency Condition and/or non-airborne transportation to a Hospital. The services must be provided by an ambulance service issued a certificate under the New York Public Health Law. We will, however, only Cover transportation to a Hospital provided by such an ambulance service when a prudent layperson, possessing an average knowledge of medicine and health, could reasonably expect the absence of such transportation to result in:

- Placing the health of the person afflicted with such condition or, with respect to a pregnant woman, the health of the woman or her unborn child in serious jeopardy, or in the case of a behavioral condition, placing the health of such person or others in serious jeopardy;
- Serious impairment to such person’s bodily functions;
- Serious dysfunction of any bodily organ or part of such person; or
- Serious disfigurement of such person.

An ambulance service must hold You harmless and may not charge or seek reimbursement from You for Pre-Hospital Emergency Medical Services except for the collection of any applicable Copayment, Deductible, or Coinsurance.

In the absence of negotiated rates, We will pay a Non-Participating Provider the usual and customary charge for Pre-Hospital Emergency Medical Services, which shall not be excessive or unreasonable. The usual and customary charge for Pre-Hospital Emergency Medical Services is the lesser of the FAIR Health rate at the 80th percentile calculated using the place of pickup or the Provider’s billed charges.

- 2. Emergency Ambulance Transportation.** In addition to Pre-Hospital Emergency Medical Services, We also Cover emergency ambulance transportation worldwide by a licensed ambulance service (either ground, water or air ambulance) to the nearest Hospital where Emergency Services can be performed. This coverage includes emergency ambulance transportation to a Hospital when the originating Facility does not have the ability to treat Your Emergency Condition.

**B. Non-Emergency Ambulance Transportation.** We Cover non-emergency ambulance transportation by a licensed ambulance service (either ground or air ambulance, as appropriate) between Facilities when the transport is any of the following:

- From a non-participating Hospital to a participating Hospital;
- To a Hospital that provides a higher level of care that was not available at the original Hospital;
- To a more cost-effective Acute care Facility; or
- From an Acute care Facility to a sub-Acute setting.

**C. Limitations/Terms of Coverage.**

- We do not Cover travel or transportation expenses, unless connected to an Emergency Condition or due to a Facility transfer approved by Us, even though prescribed by a Physician.
- We do not Cover non-ambulance transportation such as ambulette, van or taxi cab.
- Coverage for air ambulance related to an Emergency Condition or air ambulance related to non-emergency transportation is provided when Your medical condition is such that transportation by land ambulance is not appropriate; **and** Your medical condition requires immediate and rapid ambulance transportation that cannot be provided by land ambulance; **and** one (1) of the following is met:
  - The point of pick-up is inaccessible by land vehicle; or
  - Great distances or other obstacles (e.g., heavy traffic) prevent Your timely transfer to the nearest Hospital with appropriate facilities.

**D. Payments for Air Ambulance Services.** We will pay a Participating Provider the amount We have negotiated with the Participating Provider for the air ambulance service.

We will pay a Non-Participating Provider an amount We have determined is reasonable for the air ambulance service. However, the amount We determine is reasonable will not exceed the Non-Participating Provider's charge.

If a dispute involving a payment for air ambulance services is submitted to an independent dispute resolution entity (IDRE), We will pay the amount, if any, determined by the IDRE for the air ambulance services.

You are responsible for any Cost-Sharing for air ambulance services. The Non-Participating Provider may only bill You for Your Cost-Sharing. If You receive a bill from a Non-Participating Provider that is more than Your Cost-Sharing, You should contact Us.

## SECTION VIII. EMERGENCY SERVICES AND URGENT CARE

Please refer to the Schedule of Benefits section of this Certificate for Cost-Sharing requirements, day or visit limits, and any Preauthorization or Referral requirements that apply to these benefits.

**A. Emergency Services.** We Cover Emergency Services for the treatment of an Emergency Condition in a Hospital.

We define an “Emergency Condition” to mean: A medical or behavioral condition that manifests itself by Acute symptoms of sufficient severity, including severe pain, such that a prudent layperson, possessing an average knowledge of medicine and health, could reasonably expect the absence of immediate medical attention to result in:

- Placing the health of the person afflicted with such condition or, with respect to a pregnant woman, the health of the woman or her unborn child in serious jeopardy, or in the case of a behavioral condition, placing the health of such person or others in serious jeopardy;
- Serious impairment to such person’s bodily functions;
- Serious dysfunction of any bodily organ or part of such person; or
- Serious disfigurement of such person.

For example, an Emergency Condition may include, but is not limited to, the following conditions:

- Severe chest pain
- Severe or multiple injuries
- Severe shortness of breath
- Sudden change in mental status (e.g., disorientation)
- Severe bleeding
- Acute pain or conditions requiring immediate attention such as suspected heart attack or appendicitis
- Poisonings
- Convulsions

Coverage of Emergency Services for treatment of Your Emergency Condition will be provided regardless of whether the Provider is a Participating Provider. We will also Cover Emergency Services to treat Your Emergency Condition worldwide. However, We will Cover only those Emergency Services and supplies that are Medically Necessary and are performed to treat or stabilize Your Emergency Condition in a Hospital.

Please follow the instructions listed below regardless of whether or not You are in Our Service Area at the time Your Emergency Condition occurs:

- 1. Hospital Emergency Department Visits.** In the event that You require treatment for an Emergency Condition, seek immediate care at the nearest Hospital emergency department or call 911. Emergency Department Care does not require

Preauthorization. However, **only Emergency Services for the treatment of an Emergency Condition are Covered in an emergency department.**

**We do not Cover follow-up care or routine care provided in a Hospital emergency department.**

- 2. Emergency Hospital Admissions.** In the event that You are **admitted** to the Hospital, You or someone on Your behalf must notify Us at the number on Your ID card within 48 hours of Your admission, or as soon as is reasonably possible.

We Cover inpatient Hospital services following Emergency Department Care at a non-participating Hospital at the In-Network Cost-Sharing. If Your medical condition permits Your transfer to a participating Hospital, We will notify You and work with You to arrange the transfer.

- 3. Payments Relating to Emergency Services .** We will pay a Participating Provider the amount We have negotiated with the Participating Provider for the Emergency Services.

We will pay a Non-Participating Provider an amount We have determined is reasonable for the Emergency Service. However, the amount We determine is reasonable will not exceed the Non-Participating Provider's charge.

If a dispute involving a payment for Emergency Services is submitted to an independent dispute resolution entity (IDRE), We will pay the amount, if any, determined by the IDRE for the services.

You are responsible for any Cost-Sharing. You will be held harmless for any Non-Participating Provider charges that exceed Your Cost-Sharing. The Non-Participating Provider may only bill You for Your Cost-Sharing. If You receive a bill from a Non-Participating Provider that is more than Your Cost-Sharing, You should contact Us.

- B. Urgent Care.** Urgent Care is medical care for an illness, injury or condition serious enough that a reasonable person would seek care right away, but not so severe as to require Emergency Department Care. If You need care after normal business hours, including evenings, weekends or holidays, You have options. You can call Your Provider's office for instructions or visit an Urgent Care Center. If You have an Emergency Condition, seek immediate care at the nearest Hospital emergency department or call 911.

**Urgent Care is Covered in or out of Our Service Area.**

- 1. In-Network.** We Cover Urgent Care from a participating Physician or a participating Urgent Care Center. You do not need to contact Us prior to, or after Your visit.
- 2. Out-of-Network.** We Cover Urgent Care from a non-participating Urgent Care

Center or Physician outside Our Service Area.

**If Urgent Care results in an emergency admission, please follow the instructions for emergency Hospital admissions described above.**

## SECTION IX. OUTPATIENT AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

Please refer to the Schedule of Benefits section of this Certificate for Cost-Sharing requirements, day or visit limits, and any Preauthorization or Referral requirements that apply to these benefits.

- A. Acupuncture.** We Cover acupuncture services rendered by a Health Care Professional licensed to provide such services.
- B. Advanced Imaging Services.** We Cover PET scans, MRI, nuclear medicine and CAT scans.
- C. Allergy Testing and Treatment.** We Cover testing and evaluations including injections, and scratch and prick tests to determine the existence of an allergy. We also Cover allergy treatment, including desensitization treatments, routine allergy injections and serums.
- D. Ambulatory Surgical Center Services.** We Cover surgical procedures performed at Ambulatory Surgical Centers including services and supplies provided by the center the day the surgery is performed.
- E. Chemotherapy and Immunotherapy.** We Cover chemotherapy and immunotherapy in an outpatient Facility or in a Health Care Professional's office. Chemotherapy and immunotherapy may be administered by injection or infusion. Orally-administered anti-cancer drugs are Covered under the Prescription Drug Coverage section of this Certificate.
- F. Chiropractic Services.** We Cover chiropractic care when performed by a Doctor of Chiropractic ("chiropractor") or a Physician in connection with the detection or correction by manual or mechanical means of structural imbalance, distortion or subluxation in the human body for the purpose of removing nerve interference and the effects thereof, where such interference is the result of or related to distortion, misalignment or subluxation of the vertebral column. This includes assessment, manipulation and any modalities. Any laboratory tests will be Covered in accordance with the terms and conditions of this Certificate.
- G. Clinical Trials.** We Cover the routine patient costs for Your participation in an approved clinical trial and such coverage shall not be subject to Utilization Review if You are:
  - Eligible to participate in an approved clinical trial to treat either cancer or other life-threatening disease or condition; and
  - Referred by a Participating Provider who has concluded that Your participation in the approved clinical trial would be appropriate.

All other clinical trials, including when You do not have cancer or other life-threatening disease or condition, may be subject to the Utilization Review and External Appeal

sections of this Certificate.

We do not Cover: the costs of the investigational drugs or devices; the costs of non-health services required for You to receive the treatment; the costs of managing the research; or costs that would not be covered under this Certificate for non-investigational treatments provided in the clinical trial.

An “approved clinical trial” means a phase I, II III, or IV clinical trial that is:

- A federally funded or approved trial;
- Conducted under an investigational drug application reviewed by the federal Food and Drug Administration; or
- A drug trial that is exempt from having to make an investigational new drug application.

**H. Dialysis.** We Cover dialysis treatments of an Acute or chronic kidney ailment.

We also Cover dialysis treatments provided by a Non-Participating Provider subject to all the following conditions:

- The Non-Participating Provider is duly licensed to practice and authorized to provide such treatment.
- The Non-Participating Provider is located outside Our Service Area.
- The Participating Provider who is treating You has issued a written order indicating that dialysis treatment by the Non-Participating Provider is necessary.
- You notify Us in writing at least 30 days in advance of the proposed treatment date(s) and include the written order referred to above. The 30-day advance notice period may be shortened when You need to travel on sudden notice due to a family or other emergency, provided that We have a reasonable opportunity to review Your travel and treatment plans.
- We have the right to Preauthorize the dialysis treatment and schedule.
- We will provide benefits for no more than 10 dialysis treatments by a Non-Participating Provider per Member per Plan Year.
- Benefits for services of a Non-Participating Provider are Covered when all the above conditions are met and are subject to any applicable Cost-Sharing that applies to dialysis treatments by a Participating Provider. However, You are also responsible for paying any difference between the amount We would have paid had the service been provided by a Participating Provider and the Non-Participating Provider’s charge.

**I. Habilitation Services.** We Cover Habilitation Services consisting of physical therapy, speech therapy and occupational therapy in the outpatient department of a Facility or in a Health Care Professional’s office for up to 60 visits per Plan Year. The visit limit applies to all therapies combined.

**J. Home Health Care.** We Cover care provided in Your home by a Home Health Agency certified or licensed by the appropriate state agency. The care must be provided pursuant to Your Physician’s written treatment plan and must be in lieu of

Hospitalization or confinement in a Skilled Nursing Facility. Home care includes:

- Part-time or intermittent nursing care by or under the supervision of a registered professional nurse;
- Part-time or intermittent services of a home health aide;
- Physical, occupational or speech therapy provided by the Home Health Agency; and
- Medical supplies, Prescription Drugs and medications prescribed by a Physician, and laboratory services by or on behalf of the Home Health Agency to the extent such items would have been Covered during a Hospitalization or confinement in a Skilled Nursing Facility.

Home Health Care is limited to 40 visits per Plan Year. Each visit by a member of the Home Health Agency is considered one (1) visit. Each visit of up to four (4) hours by a home health aide is considered one (1) visit. Any Rehabilitation Services or Habilitation Services received under this benefit will not reduce the amount of services available under the Rehabilitation Services or Habilitation Services benefits.

**K. Infertility Treatment.** We Cover services for the diagnosis and treatment (surgical and medical) of infertility. "Infertility" is a disease or condition characterized by the incapacity to impregnate another person or to conceive, defined by the failure to establish a clinical pregnancy after 12 months of regular, unprotected sexual intercourse or therapeutic donor insemination, or after six (6) months of regular, unprotected sexual intercourse or therapeutic donor insemination for a female 35 years of age or older. Earlier evaluation and treatment may be warranted based on a Member's medical history or physical findings.

Such Coverage is available as follows:

**1. Basic Infertility Services.** Basic infertility services will be provided to a Member who is an appropriate candidate for infertility treatment. In order to determine eligibility, We will use guidelines established by the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, the American Society for Reproductive Medicine, and the State of New York.

Basic infertility services include:

- Initial evaluation;
- Semen analysis;
- Laboratory evaluation;
- Evaluation of ovulatory function;
- Postcoital test;
- Endometrial biopsy;
- Pelvic ultrasound;
- Hysterosalpingogram;
- Sono-hystogram;
- Testis biopsy;
- Blood tests; and

- Medically appropriate treatment of ovulatory dysfunction.

Additional tests may be Covered if the tests are determined to be Medically Necessary.

**2. Comprehensive Infertility Services.** If the basic infertility services do not result in increased fertility, We Cover comprehensive infertility services.

Comprehensive infertility services include:

- Ovulation induction and monitoring;
- Pelvic ultrasound;
- Artificial insemination;
- Hysteroscopy;
- Laparoscopy; and
- Laparotomy.

**3. Fertility Preservation Services.** We Cover standard fertility preservation services when a medical treatment will directly or indirectly lead to iatrogenic infertility. Standard fertility preservation services include the collecting, preserving, and storing of ova and sperm. “Iatrogenic infertility” means an impairment of Your fertility by surgery, radiation, chemotherapy or other medical treatment affecting reproductive organs or processes.

**4. Exclusions and Limitations.** We do not Cover:

- In vitro fertilization;
- Gamete intrafallopian tube transfers or zygote intrafallopian tube transfers;
- Costs associated with an ovum or sperm donor, including the donor’s medical expenses;
- Cryopreservation and storage of sperm and ova except when performed as fertility preservation services;
- Cryopreservation and storage of embryos;
- Ovulation predictor kits;
- Reversal of tubal ligations;
- Reversal of vasectomies;
- Costs for services relating to surrogate motherhood that are not otherwise Covered Services under this Certificate;
- Cloning; or
- Medical and surgical procedures that are experimental or investigational unless Our denial is overturned by an External Appeal Agent.

All services must be provided by Providers who are qualified to provide such services in accordance with the guidelines established and adopted by the American Society for Reproductive Medicine. We will not discriminate based on Your expected length of life, present or predicted disability, degree of medical dependency, perceived quality of life, other health conditions, or based on personal characteristics including age, sex, sexual

orientation, marital status or gender identity, when determining coverage under this benefit.

- L. Infusion Therapy.** We Cover infusion therapy which is the administration of drugs using specialized delivery systems. Drugs or nutrients administered directly into the veins are considered infusion therapy. Drugs taken by mouth or self-injected are not considered infusion therapy. The services must be ordered by a Physician or other authorized Health Care Professional and provided in an office or by an agency licensed or certified to provide infusion therapy. Any visits for home infusion therapy count toward Your home health care visit limit.
- M. Interruption of Pregnancy.** We Cover medically necessary abortions including abortions in cases of rape, incest or fetal malformation. We Cover elective abortions.
- N. Laboratory Procedures, Diagnostic Testing and Radiology Services.** We Cover x-ray, laboratory procedures and diagnostic testing, services and materials, including diagnostic x-rays, x-ray therapy, fluoroscopy, electrocardiograms, electroencephalograms, laboratory tests, and therapeutic radiology services.
- O. Maternity and Newborn Care.** We Cover services for maternity care provided by a Physician or midwife, nurse practitioner, Hospital or birthing center. We Cover prenatal care (including one (1) visit for genetic testing), postnatal care, delivery, and complications of pregnancy. In order for services of a midwife to be Covered, the midwife must be licensed pursuant to Article 140 of the New York Education Law, practicing consistent with Section 6951 of the New York Education Law and affiliated or practicing in conjunction with a Facility licensed pursuant to Article 28 of the New York Public Health Law. We will not pay for duplicative routine services provided by both a midwife and a Physician. See the Inpatient Services section of this Certificate for Coverage of inpatient maternity care.
- We Cover breastfeeding support, counseling and supplies, including the cost of renting or the purchase of one (1) breast pump per pregnancy for the duration of breast feeding from a Participating Provider.
- P. Office Visits.** We Cover office visits for the diagnosis and treatment of injury, disease and medical conditions. Office visits may include house calls.

**Specialist e-Consultations Program.** If Your Participating Provider is rendering primary care services to You, he or she may conduct an electronic consultation with a Specialist to help evaluate Your condition or diagnosis. The electronic consultation will be provided by a Participating Provider in Our consultation program who will be selected by Your Participating Provider in his or her clinical judgement. The electronic consultation will be at no cost to You. Your Participating Provider may consider the information provided by the Specialist in determining Your treatment. The consultation will be conducted using electronic information and communication technologies such as secure web-based email, fax and/or exchange of electronic medical records. The results may be documented in an

electronic health record.

**Q. Outpatient Hospital Services.** We Cover Hospital services and supplies as described in the Inpatient Services section of this Certificate that can be provided to You while being treated in an outpatient Facility. For example, Covered Services include but are not limited to inhalation therapy, pulmonary rehabilitation, infusion therapy and cardiac rehabilitation.

**R. Preadmission Testing.** We Cover preadmission testing ordered by Your Physician and performed in Hospital outpatient Facilities prior to a scheduled surgery in the same Hospital provided that:

- The tests are necessary for and consistent with the diagnosis and treatment of the condition for which the surgery is to be performed;
- Reservations for a Hospital bed and operating room were made prior to the performance of the tests;
- Surgery takes place within seven (7) days of the tests; and
- The patient is physically present at the Hospital for the tests.

**S. Prescription Drugs for Use in the Office and Outpatient Facilities.** We Cover Prescription Drugs (excluding self-injectable drugs) used by Your Provider in the Provider's office and Outpatient Facility for preventive and therapeutic purposes. This benefit applies when Your Provider orders the Prescription Drug and administers it to You. When Prescription Drugs are Covered under this benefit, they will not be Covered under the Prescription Drug Coverage section of this Certificate.

**T. Retail Health Clinics.** We Cover basic health care services provided to You on a "walk-in" basis at retail health clinics, normally found in major pharmacies or retail stores. Covered Services are typically provided by a physician's assistant or nurse practitioner. Covered Services available at retail health clinics are limited to routine care and treatment of common illnesses. Retail health clinics are not a replacement for Your PCP. Your PCP should be Your first choice for care and for regular visits.

**U. Rehabilitation Services.** We Cover Rehabilitation Services consisting of physical therapy, speech therapy, and occupational therapy, in the outpatient department of a Facility or in a Health Care Professional's office for up to 60 visits per Plan Year. The visit limit applies to all therapies combined.

We Cover speech and physical therapy only when:

- Such therapy is related to the treatment or diagnosis of Your illness or injury (in the case of a covered Child, this includes a medically diagnosed congenital defect); and
- The therapy is ordered by a Physician.

Covered Rehabilitation Services must begin within six (6) months of the later to occur:

- The date of the injury or illness that caused the need for the therapy;

- The date You are discharged from a Hospital where surgical treatment was rendered; or
- The date outpatient surgical care is rendered.

In no event will the therapy continue beyond 365 days after such event.

## **V. Second Opinions.**

- 1. Second Cancer Opinion.** We Cover a second medical opinion by an appropriate Specialist, including but not limited to a Specialist affiliated with a specialty care center, in the event of a positive or negative diagnosis of cancer or a recurrence of cancer or a recommendation of a course of treatment for cancer. You may obtain a second opinion from a Non-Participating Provider on an in-network basis when Your attending Physician provides a written Referral to a non-participating Specialist.
- 2. Second Surgical Opinion.** We Cover a second surgical opinion by a qualified Physician on the need for surgery.
- 3. Required Second Surgical Opinion.** We may require a second opinion before We preauthorize a surgical procedure. There is no cost to You when We request a second opinion.
  - The second opinion must be given by a board certified Specialist who personally examines You.
  - If the first and second opinions do not agree You may obtain a third opinion.
  - The second and third surgical opinion consultants may not perform the surgery on You.
- 4. Second Opinions in Other Cases.** There may be other instances when You will disagree with a Provider's recommended course of treatment. In such cases, You may request that we designate another Provider to render a second opinion. If the first and second opinions do not agree, We will designate another Provider to render a third opinion. After completion of the second opinion process, We will preauthorize Covered Services supported by a majority of the Providers reviewing Your case.

**W. Surgical Services.** We Cover Physicians' services for surgical procedures, including operating and cutting procedures for the treatment of a sickness or injury, and closed reduction of fractures and dislocations of bones, endoscopies, incisions, or punctures of the skin on an inpatient and outpatient basis, including the services of the surgeon or Specialist, assistant (including a Physician's assistant or a nurse practitioner), and anesthetist or anesthesiologist, together with preoperative and post-operative care. Benefits are not available for anesthesia services provided as part of a surgical procedure, when rendered by the surgeon or the surgeon's assistant.

Sometimes two (2) or more surgical procedures can be performed during the same operation.

1. **Through the Same Incision.** If Covered multiple surgical procedures are performed through the same incision, We will pay for the procedure with the highest Allowed Amount.
2. **Through Different Incisions.** If Covered multiple surgical procedures are performed during the same operative session but through different incisions, We will pay:
  - For the procedure with the highest Allowed Amount; and
  - 50% of the amount We would otherwise pay for the other procedures.

**X. Oral Surgery.** We Cover the following limited dental and oral surgical procedures:

- Oral surgical procedures for jaw bones or surrounding tissue and dental services for the repair or replacement of sound natural teeth that are required due to accidental injury. Replacement is Covered only when repair is not possible.
- Oral surgical procedures for jaw bones or surrounding tissue and dental services necessary due to congenital disease or anomaly.
- Oral surgical procedures required for the correction of a non-dental physiological condition which has resulted in a severe functional impairment.
- Removal of tumors and cysts requiring pathological examination of the jaws, cheeks, lips, tongue, roof and floor of the mouth. Cysts related to teeth are not Covered.
- Surgical/nonsurgical medical procedures for temporomandibular joint disorders and orthognathic surgery.

**Y. Reconstructive Breast Surgery.** We Cover breast reconstruction surgery after a mastectomy or partial mastectomy. Coverage includes: all stages of reconstruction of the breast on which the mastectomy or partial mastectomy has been performed; surgery and reconstruction of the other breast to produce a symmetrical appearance; and physical complications of the mastectomy or partial mastectomy, including lymphedemas, in a manner determined by You and Your attending Physician to be appropriate. We also Cover implanted breast prostheses following a mastectomy or partial mastectomy.

**Z. Other Reconstructive and Corrective Surgery.** We Cover reconstructive and corrective surgery other than reconstructive breast surgery only when it is:

- Performed to correct a congenital birth defect of a covered Child which has resulted in a functional defect;
- Incidental to surgery or follows surgery that was necessitated by trauma, infection or disease of the involved part; or
- Otherwise Medically Necessary.

**AA. Telemedicine Program.** In addition to providing Covered Services via telehealth, We Cover online internet consultations between You and Providers who participate in Our telemedicine program for medical conditions that are not an Emergency Condition. Not all Participating Providers participate in Our telemedicine program.

Covered Services include a visit with a Provider using the internet via a web application that supports a one on one webcam video conversation or allows You

to have a “text chat”. A “text chat” is an online exchange of messages in real time. Services are provided by board certified, licensed Providers. Online visits are not for specialist care. Common types of diagnoses and conditions treated online are: cough, fever, headaches, sore throat, routine child health issues, influenza, upper respiratory infections, sinusitis, bronchitis and urinary tract infections, when uncomplicated in nature.

You can receive telemedicine services through:

**Live Health Online Virtual Video Visit.** A video visit with a Provider using the internet via a webcam with online video functions.

**K Health Virtual Video or Text Visit.** A visit with a Provider using Our mobile app where You have an online video visit or “text chat” with a Provider to diagnose or treat Your condition.

**Member Access.** To begin the Virtual Video Visit, go to [www.empireblue.com](http://www.empireblue.com) and log in to Your member account or, if You do not already have one, set up an online account by providing some basic information about You and Your insurance plan. Then follow the prompts that will guide You to an online visit. Before You connect to a Provider, You will be asked to provide some basic information, agree to the terms of use, and select an available Provider. Please refer to the Schedule of Benefits for any Cost-Sharing requirements that apply.

To begin a K-Health Virtual Video or Text Visit with a Provider, download Our mobile app in the App Store or Google Play on Your smartphone. After opening the app and registering, click on the “Find Care” icon. For a Virtual Text Visit, click on “Symptom Searches and Doctor Texts” to enter Your symptoms. At the end of the symptom assessment, You will be provided the option for a Virtual Text Visit. For a Virtual Video Visit, click on “Virtual Visit with a Doctor”. Enter Your location and then select from the available services to begin Your visit.

The visit with the Provider will not start until You provide the above information and click “connect.” The visit will be documented in an electronic health record. You may access Your records and print them, and may email or fax them to Your Primary Care Physician.

**Note about Covered Services.** Telemedicine visits do not include:

- Reporting normal lab or other test results that were not referred to by the online physician;
- Requesting an office appointment;
- Getting answers on billing, insurance coverage or payment questions;
- Asking for a referral to a specialist Provider;
- Benefit precertification; or
- Provider to Provider discussions.

**BB. Transplants.** We Cover only those transplants determined to be non-experimental and

non-investigational. Covered transplants include but are not limited to: kidney, corneal, liver, heart, pancreas and lung transplants; and bone marrow transplants.

**All transplants must be prescribed by Your Specialist(s). Additionally, all transplants must be performed at Hospitals that We have specifically approved and designated to perform these procedures.**

We Cover the Hospital and medical expenses, including donor search fees, of the Member-recipient. We Cover transplant services required by You when You serve as an organ donor only if the recipient is a Member. We do not Cover the medical expenses of a non-Member acting as a donor for You if the non-Member's expenses will be Covered under another health plan or program.

We do not Cover: travel expenses, lodging, meals, or other accommodations for donors or guests; donor fees in connection with organ transplant surgery; or routine harvesting and storage of stem cells from newborn cord blood.

## SECTION X. ADDITIONAL BENEFITS, EQUIPMENT AND DEVICES

Please refer to the Schedule of Benefits section of this Certificate for Cost-Sharing requirements, day or visit limits, and any Preauthorization or Referral requirements that apply to these benefits.

**A. Diabetic Equipment, Supplies and Self-Management Education.** We Cover diabetic equipment, supplies, and self-management education if recommended or prescribed by a Physician or other licensed Health Care Professional legally authorized to prescribe under Title 8 of the New York Education Law as described below:

**1. Equipment and Supplies.** We Cover the following equipment and related supplies for the treatment of diabetes when prescribed by Your Physician or other Provider legally authorized to prescribe:

- Acetone reagent strips
- Acetone reagent tablets
- Alcohol or peroxide by the pint
- Alcohol wipes
- All insulin preparations
- Automatic blood lance kit
- Cartridges for the visually impaired
- Diabetes data management systems
- Disposable insulin and pen cartridges
- Drawing-up devices for the visually impaired
- Equipment for use of the pump
- Glucagon for injection to increase blood glucose concentration
- Glucose acetone reagent strips
- Glucose kit
- Glucose monitor with or without special features for visually impaired, control solutions, and strips for home glucose monitor
- Glucose reagent tape
- Glucose test or reagent strips
- Injection aides
- Injector (Busher) Automatic
- Insulin
- Insulin cartridge delivery
- Insulin infusion devices
- Insulin pump
- Lancets
- Oral agents such as glucose tablets and gels
- Oral anti-diabetic agents used to reduce blood sugar levels
- Syringe with needle; sterile 1 cc box
- Urine testing products for glucose and ketones
- Additional supplies, as the New York State Commissioner of Health shall designate by regulation as appropriate for the treatment of diabetes.

**2. Self-Management Education.** Diabetes self-management education is designed to educate persons with diabetes as to the proper self-management and treatment of their diabetic condition, including information on proper diets. We Cover education on self-management and nutrition when: diabetes is initially diagnosed; a Physician diagnoses a significant change in Your symptoms or condition which necessitates a change in your self-management education; or when a refresher course is necessary. It must be provided in accordance with the following:

- By a Physician, other health care Provider authorized to prescribe under Title 8 of the New York Education Law, or their staff during an office visit;
- Upon the Referral of Your Physician or other health care Provider authorized to prescribe under Title 8 of the New York Education Law to the following non-Physician, medical educators: certified diabetes nurse educators; certified nutritionists; certified dietitians; and registered dietitians in a group setting when practicable; and
- Education will also be provided in Your home when Medically Necessary.

**3. Limitations.** The items will only be provided in amounts that are in accordance with the treatment plan developed by the Physician for You. We Cover only basic models of glucose monitors unless You have special needs relating to poor vision or blindness or as otherwise Medically Necessary.

**B. Durable Medical Equipment and Braces.** We Cover the rental or purchase of durable medical equipment and braces.

**1. Durable Medical Equipment.** Durable Medical Equipment is equipment which is:

- Designed and intended for repeated use;
- Primarily and customarily used to serve a medical purpose;
- Generally not useful to a person in the absence of disease or injury; and
- Appropriate for use in the home.

Coverage is for standard equipment only. We Cover the cost of repair or replacement when made necessary by normal wear and tear. We do not Cover the cost of repair or replacement that is the result of misuse or abuse by You. We will determine whether to rent or purchase such equipment. We do not Cover over-the-counter durable medical equipment.

We do not Cover equipment designed for Your comfort or convenience (e.g., pools, hot tubs, air conditioners, saunas, humidifiers, dehumidifiers, exercise equipment), as it does not meet the definition of durable medical equipment.

**2. Braces.** We Cover braces, including orthotic braces, that are worn externally and that temporarily or permanently assist all or part of an external body part function that has been lost or damaged because of an injury, disease or defect. Coverage is for standard equipment only. We Cover replacements when growth or a change in Your medical condition make replacement necessary. We do not Cover the cost of

repair or replacement that is the result of misuse or abuse by You.

**C. Hearing Aids.**

- 1. External Hearing Aids.** We Cover hearing aids required for the correction of a hearing impairment (a reduction in the ability to perceive sound which may range from slight to complete deafness). Hearing aids are electronic amplifying devices designed to bring sound more effectively into the ear. A hearing aid consists of a microphone, amplifier and receiver.

Covered services are available for a hearing aid that is purchased as a result of a written recommendation by a Physician and include the hearing aid and the charges for associated fitting and testing. We Cover a single purchase (including repair and/or replacement) of hearing aids for one (1) or both ears once every three (3) years.

- 2. Cochlear Implants.** We Cover bone anchored hearing aids (i.e., cochlear implants) when they are Medically Necessary to correct a hearing impairment. Examples of when bone anchored hearing aids are Medically Necessary include the following:
  - Craniofacial anomalies whose abnormal or absent ear canals preclude the use of a wearable hearing aid; or
  - Hearing loss of sufficient severity that it would not be adequately remedied by a wearable hearing aid.

Coverage is provided for one (1) hearing aid per ear during the entire period of time that You are enrolled under this Certificate. We Cover repair and/or replacement of a bone anchored hearing aid only for malfunctions.

- D. Hospice.** Hospice Care is available if Your primary attending Physician has certified that You have 12 months or less to live. You may access Hospice Care while also participating in a clinical trial or continuing treatment, as ordered by Your treating Provider. We Cover inpatient Hospice Care in a Hospital or hospice and home care and outpatient services provided by the hospice, including drugs and medical supplies. We also Cover five (5) visits for supportive care and guidance for the purpose of helping You and Your immediate family cope with the emotional and social issues related to Your death, either before or after Your death.

We Cover Hospice Care only when provided as part of a Hospice Care program certified pursuant to Article 40 of the New York Public Health Law. If care is provided outside New York State, the hospice must be certified under a similar certification process required by the state in which the hospice is located. We do not Cover: funeral arrangements; pastoral, financial, or legal counseling; or homemaker, caretaker, or respite care.

- E. Medical Supplies.** We Cover medical supplies that are required for the treatment of a disease or injury which is Covered under this Certificate. We also Cover maintenance supplies (e.g., ostomy supplies) for conditions Covered under this Certificate. All such

supplies must be in the appropriate amount for the treatment or maintenance program in progress. We do not Cover over-the-counter medical supplies. See the Diabetic Equipment, Supplies, and Self-Management Education section above for a description of diabetic supply Coverage.

## **F. Prosthetics.**

- 1. External Prosthetic Devices.** We Cover prosthetic devices (including wigs) that are worn externally and that temporarily or permanently replace all or part of an external body part that has been lost or damaged because of an injury or disease. We Cover wigs only when You have severe hair loss due to injury or disease or as a side effect of the treatment of a disease (e.g., chemotherapy). We do not Cover wigs made from human hair unless You are allergic to all synthetic wig materials.

We do not Cover dentures or other devices used in connection with the teeth unless required due to an accidental injury to sound natural teeth or necessary due to congenital disease or anomaly.

Eyeglasses and contact lenses are not Covered under this section of the Certificate and are only Covered under the Vision Care sections of this Certificate.

We do not Cover shoe inserts.

We Cover external breast prostheses following a mastectomy, which are not subject to any lifetime limit.

Coverage is for standard equipment only.

We Cover the cost of one (1) prosthetic device, per limb, per lifetime. We also Cover the cost of repair and replacement of the prosthetic device and its parts. We do not Cover the cost of repair or replacement covered under warranty or if the repair or replacement is the result of misuse or abuse by You.

- 2. Internal Prosthetic Devices.** We Cover surgically implanted prosthetic devices and special appliances if they improve or restore the function of an internal body part which has been removed or damaged due to disease or injury. This includes implanted breast prostheses following a mastectomy or partial mastectomy in a manner determined by You and Your attending Physician to be appropriate.

Coverage also includes repair and replacement due to normal growth or normal wear and tear.

Coverage is for standard equipment only.

## SECTION XI. INPATIENT SERVICES

Please refer to the Schedule of Benefits section of this Certificate for Cost-Sharing requirements, day or visit limits, and any Preauthorization or Referral requirements that apply to these benefits.

**A. Hospital Services.** We Cover inpatient Hospital services for Acute care or treatment given or ordered by a Health Care Professional for an illness, injury or disease of a severity that must be treated on an inpatient basis, including:

- Semiprivate room and board;
- General, special and critical nursing care;
- Meals and special diets;
- The use of operating, recovery and cystoscopic rooms and equipment;
- The use of intensive care, special care or cardiac care units and equipment;
- Diagnostic and therapeutic items, such as drugs and medications, sera, biologicals and vaccines, intravenous preparations and visualizing dyes and administration, but not including those which are not commercially available for purchase and readily obtainable by the Hospital;
- Dressings and casts;
- Supplies and the use of equipment in connection with oxygen, anesthesia, physiotherapy, chemotherapy, electrocardiographs, electroencephalographs, x-ray examinations and radiation therapy, laboratory and pathological examinations;
- Blood and blood products except when participation in a volunteer blood replacement program is available to You;
- Radiation therapy, inhalation therapy, chemotherapy, pulmonary rehabilitation, infusion therapy and cardiac rehabilitation;
- Short-term physical, speech and occupational therapy; and
- Any additional medical services and supplies which are provided while You are a registered bed patient and which are billed by the Hospital.

The Cost-Sharing requirements in the Schedule of Benefits section of this Certificate apply to a continuous Hospital confinement, which is consecutive days of in-Hospital service received as an inpatient or successive confinements when discharge from and readmission to the Hospital occur within a period of not more than 90 days for the same or related causes.

**B. Observation Services.** We Cover observation services in a Hospital. Observation services are Hospital outpatient services provided to help a Physician decide whether to admit or discharge You. These services include use of a bed and periodic monitoring by nursing or other licensed staff.

**C. Inpatient Medical Services.** We Cover medical visits by a Health Care Professional on any day of inpatient care Covered under this Certificate.

**D. Inpatient Stay for Maternity Care.** We Cover inpatient maternity care in a Hospital for

the mother, and inpatient newborn care in a Hospital for the infant, for at least 48 hours following a normal delivery and at least 96 hours following a caesarean section delivery, regardless of whether such care is Medically Necessary. The care provided shall include parent education, assistance, and training in breast or bottle-feeding, and the performance of any necessary maternal and newborn clinical assessments. We will also Cover any additional days of such care that We determine are Medically Necessary. In the event the mother elects to leave the Hospital and requests a home care visit before the end of the 48-hour or 96-hour minimum Coverage period, We will Cover a home care visit. The home care visit will be provided within 24 hours after the mother's discharge, or at the time of the mother's request, whichever is later. Our Coverage of this home care visit shall be in addition to home health care visits under this Certificate and shall not be subject to any Cost-Sharing amounts in the Schedule of Benefits section of this Certificate that apply to home care benefits.

We also Cover the inpatient use of pasteurized donor human milk, which may include fortifiers as Medically Necessary, for which a Health Care Professional has issued an order for an infant who is medically or physically unable to receive maternal breast milk, participate in breast feeding, or whose mother is medically or physically unable to produce maternal breast milk at all or in sufficient quantities or participate in breast feeding despite optimal lactation support. Such infant must have a documented birth weight of less than one thousand five hundred grams, or a congenital or acquired condition that places the infant at a high risk for development of necrotizing enterocolitis.

- E. Inpatient Stay for Mastectomy Care.** We Cover inpatient services for Members undergoing a lymph node dissection, lumpectomy, mastectomy or partial mastectomy for the treatment of breast cancer and any physical complications arising from the mastectomy, including lymphedema, for a period of time determined to be medically appropriate by You and Your attending Physician.
- F. Autologous Blood Banking Services.** We Cover autologous blood banking services only when they are being provided in connection with a scheduled, Covered inpatient procedure for the treatment of a disease or injury. In such instances, We Cover storage fees for a reasonable storage period that is appropriate for having the blood available when it is needed.
- G. Habilitation Services.** We Cover inpatient Habilitation Services consisting of physical therapy, speech therapy and occupational therapy for 60 days per Plan Year. The visit limit applies to all therapies combined.
- H. Rehabilitation Services.** We Cover inpatient Rehabilitation Services consisting of physical therapy, speech therapy and occupational therapy for 60 days per Plan Year. The visit limit applies to all therapies combined.

We Cover speech and physical therapy only when:

1. Such therapy is related to the treatment or diagnosis of Your illness or injury (in the case of a covered Child, this includes a medically diagnosed congenital defect); and
2. The therapy is ordered by a Physician.

Covered Rehabilitation Services must begin within six (6) months of the later to occur:

1. The date of the injury or illness that caused the need for the therapy;
2. The date You are discharged from a Hospital where surgical treatment was rendered; or
3. The date outpatient surgical care is rendered.

**I. Skilled Nursing Facility.** We Cover services provided in a Skilled Nursing Facility, including care and treatment in a semi-private room, as described in "Hospital Services" above. Custodial, convalescent or domiciliary care is not Covered (see the Exclusions and Limitations section of this Certificate). An admission to a Skilled Nursing Facility must be supported by a treatment plan prepared by Your Provider and approved by Us. We Cover up to 365 days per Plan Year for non-custodial care.

**J. End of Life Care.** If You are diagnosed with advanced cancer and You have fewer than 60 days to live, We will Cover Acute care provided in a licensed Article 28 Facility or Acute care Facility that specializes in the care of terminally ill patients. Your attending Physician and the Facility's medical director must agree that Your care will be appropriately provided at the Facility. If We disagree with Your admission to the Facility, We have the right to initiate an expedited external appeal to an External Appeal Agent. We will Cover and reimburse the Facility for Your care, subject to any applicable limitations in this Certificate until the External Appeal Agent renders a decision in Our favor.

We will reimburse Non-Participating Providers for this end of life care as follows:

1. We will reimburse a rate that has been negotiated between Us and the Provider.
2. If there is no negotiated rate, We will reimburse Acute care at the Facility's current Medicare Acute care rate.
3. If it is an alternate level of care, We will reimburse at 75% of the appropriate Medicare Acute care rate.

**K. Centers of Excellence.** Centers of Excellence are Hospitals that We have approved and designated for certain services. We Cover the following transplant procedures only when performed at Centers of Excellence:

- Heart;
- Lung;
- Heart/lung;
- Liver;
- Kidney;
- Pancreas;
- Kidney/pancreas;
- Autologous stem cell/bone marrow;
- Allogeneic stem cell/bone marrow; and

- Cord blood.

In addition, We encourage, but do not require Members to use a Center of Excellence for the following conditions:

- Bariatric Surgery;
- Cancer Care;
- Cardiac Care;
- Spine Surgery;
- Knee and Hip Replacement; and
- Transplants.

**L. Limitations/Terms of Coverage.**

1. When You are receiving inpatient care in a Facility, We will not cover additional charges for special duty nurses, charges for private rooms (unless a private room is Medically Necessary), or medications and supplies You take home from the Facility. If You occupy a private room, and the private room is not Medically Necessary, Our Coverage will be based on the Facility's maximum semi-private room charge. You will have to pay the difference between that charge and the private room charge.
2. We do not Cover radio, telephone or television expenses, or beauty or barber services.
3. We do not Cover any charges incurred after the day We advise You it is no longer Medically Necessary for you to receive inpatient care, unless Our denial is overturned by an External Appeal Agent.

## SECTION XII. MENTAL HEALTH CARE AND SUBSTANCE USE SERVICES

Please refer to the Schedule of Benefits section of this Certificate for Cost-Sharing requirements, day or visit limits, and any Preauthorization or Referral requirements that apply to these benefits which are no more restrictive than those that apply to medical and surgical benefits in accordance with the federal Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act of 2008.

**A. Mental Health Care Services.** We Cover the following mental health care services to treat a mental health condition. For purposes of this benefit, “mental health condition” means any mental health disorder as defined in the most recent edition of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders.

**1. Inpatient Services.** We Cover inpatient mental health care services relating to the diagnosis and treatment of mental health conditions comparable to other similar Hospital, medical and surgical coverage provided under this Certificate. Coverage for inpatient services for mental health care is limited to Facilities defined in New York Mental Hygiene Law Section 1.03(10), such as:

- A psychiatric center or inpatient Facility under the jurisdiction of the New York State Office of Mental Health;
- A state or local government run psychiatric inpatient Facility;
- A part of a Hospital providing inpatient mental health care services under an operating certificate issued by the New York State Commissioner of Mental Health;
- A comprehensive psychiatric emergency program or other Facility providing inpatient mental health care that has been issued an operating certificate by the New York State Commissioner of Mental Health;

and, in other states, to similarly licensed or certified Facilities. In the absence of a similarly licensed or certified Facility, the Facility must be accredited by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Health Care Organizations or a national accreditation organization recognized by Us.

We also Cover inpatient mental health care services relating to the diagnosis and treatment of mental health conditions received at Facilities that provide residential treatment, including room and board charges. Coverage for residential treatment services is limited to Facilities defined in New York Mental Hygiene Law Section 1.03 and to residential treatment facilities that are part of a comprehensive care center for eating disorders identified pursuant to New York Mental Hygiene Law Article 30; and, in other states, to Facilities that are licensed or certified to provide the same level of treatment. In the absence of a licensed or certified Facility that provides the same level of treatment, the Facility must be accredited by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Health Care Organizations or a national accreditation organization recognized by Us.

**2. Outpatient Services.** We Cover outpatient mental health care services, including

but not limited to partial hospitalization program services and intensive outpatient program services, relating to the diagnosis and treatment of mental health conditions. Coverage for outpatient services for mental health care includes Facilities that have been issued an operating certificate pursuant to New York Mental Hygiene Law Article 31 or are operated by the New York State Office of Mental Health, and crisis stabilization centers licensed pursuant to New York Mental Hygiene Law section 36.01 and, in other states, to similarly licensed or certified Facilities; and services provided by a licensed psychiatrist or psychologist; a licensed clinical social worker; a licensed nurse practitioner; a licensed mental health counselor; a licensed marriage and family therapist; a licensed psychoanalyst; or a professional corporation or a university faculty practice corporation thereof. In the absence of a similarly licensed or certified Facility, the Facility must be accredited by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Health Care Organizations or a national accreditation organization recognized by Us. Outpatient services also include nutritional counseling to treat a mental health condition.

- 3. Autism Spectrum Disorder.** We Cover the following services when such services are prescribed or ordered by a licensed Physician or a licensed psychologist and are determined by Us to be Medically Necessary for the screening, diagnosis, or treatment of autism spectrum disorder. For purposes of this benefit, “autism spectrum disorder” means any pervasive developmental disorder defined in the most recent edition of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders at the time services are rendered.
- i. Screening and Diagnosis.** We Cover assessments, evaluations, and tests to determine whether someone has autism spectrum disorder.
  - ii. Assistive Communication Devices.** We Cover a formal evaluation by a speech-language pathologist to determine the need for an assistive communication device. Based on the formal evaluation, We Cover the rental or purchase of assistive communication devices when ordered or prescribed by a licensed Physician or a licensed psychologist if You are unable to communicate through normal means (i.e., speech or writing) when the evaluation indicates that an assistive communication device is likely to provide You with improved communication. Examples of assistive communication devices include communication boards and speech-generating devices. Coverage is limited to dedicated devices. We will only Cover devices that generally are not useful to a person in the absence of a communication impairment. We do not Cover items, such as, but not limited to, laptop, desktop or tablet computers. We Cover software and/or applications that enable a laptop, desktop or tablet computer to function as a speech-generating device. Installation of the program and/or technical support is not separately reimbursable. We will determine whether the device should be purchased or rented.

We Cover repair, replacement fitting and adjustments of such devices when made necessary by normal wear and tear or significant change in Your physical

condition. We do not Cover the cost of repair or replacement made necessary because of loss or damage caused by misuse, mistreatment, or theft. Coverage will be provided for the device most appropriate to Your current functional level. We do not Cover delivery or service charges or routine maintenance.

- iii. **Behavioral Health Treatment.** We Cover counseling and treatment programs that are necessary to develop, maintain, or restore, to the maximum extent practicable, the functioning of an individual. We will provide such Coverage when provided by a licensed Provider. We Cover applied behavior analysis when provided by a licensed or certified applied behavior analysis Health Care Professional. "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 the use of direct observation, measurement, and functional analysis of the relationship between environment and behavior.
- iv. **Psychiatric and Psychological Care.** We Cover direct or consultative services provided by a psychiatrist, psychologist or a licensed clinical social worker with the experience required by the New York Insurance Law, licensed in the state in which they are practicing.
- v. **Therapeutic Care.** We Cover therapeutic services necessary to develop, maintain, or restore, to the greatest extent practicable, functioning of the individual when such services are provided by licensed or certified speech therapists, occupational therapists, physical therapists and social workers to treat autism spectrum disorder and when the services provided by such Providers are otherwise Covered under this Certificate. Except as otherwise prohibited by law, services provided under this paragraph shall be included in any visit maximums applicable to services of such therapists or social workers under this Certificate.
- vi. **Pharmacy Care.** We Cover Prescription Drugs to treat autism spectrum disorder that are prescribed by a Provider legally authorized to prescribe under Title 8 of the New York Education Law. Coverage of such Prescription Drugs is subject to all the terms, provisions, and limitations that apply to Prescription Drug benefits under this Certificate.
- vii. **Limitations.** We do not Cover any services or treatment set forth above when such services or treatment are provided pursuant to an individualized education plan under the New York Education Law. The provision of services pursuant to an individualized family service plan under New York Public Health Law Section 2545, an individualized education plan under New York Education Law Article 89, or an individualized service plan pursuant to regulations of the New York State Office for People With Developmental Disabilities shall not affect coverage under this Certificate for services provided on a supplemental basis outside of an

educational setting if such services are prescribed by a licensed Physician or licensed psychologist.

You are responsible for any applicable Copayment, Deductible or Coinsurance provisions under this Certificate for similar services. For example, any Copayment, Deductible or Coinsurance that applies to physical therapy visits will generally also apply to physical therapy services Covered under this benefit; and any Copayment, Deductible or Coinsurance for Prescription Drugs will generally also apply to Prescription Drugs Covered under this benefit. See the Schedule of Benefits section of this Certificate for the Cost-Sharing requirements that apply to applied behavior analysis services and assistive communication devices.

**B. Substance Use Services.** We Cover the following substance use services to treat a substance use disorder. For purposes of this benefit, “substance use disorder” means any substance use disorder as defined in the most recent edition of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders.

**1. Inpatient Services.** We Cover inpatient substance use services relating to the diagnosis and treatment of substance use disorders. This includes Coverage for detoxification and rehabilitation services for substance use disorders. Inpatient substance use services are limited to Facilities in New York State which are licensed, certified or otherwise authorized by the Office of Addiction Services and Supports (“OASAS”); and, in other states, to those Facilities that are licensed, certified or otherwise authorized by a similar state agency and accredited by the Joint Commission or a national accreditation organization recognized by Us as alcoholism, substance abuse or chemical dependence treatment programs.

We also Cover inpatient substance use services relating to the diagnosis and treatment of substance use disorders received at Facilities that provide residential treatment, including room and board charges. Coverage for residential treatment services is limited to Facilities that are licensed, certified or otherwise authorized by OASAS; and, in other states, to those Facilities that are licensed, certified or otherwise authorized by a similar state agency and accredited by the Joint Commission or a national accreditation organization recognized by Us as alcoholism, substance abuse or chemical dependence treatment programs to provide the same level of treatment.

**2. Outpatient Services.** We Cover outpatient substance use services relating to the diagnosis and treatment of substance use disorders, including but not limited to partial hospitalization program services, intensive outpatient program services, opioid treatment programs including peer support services, counseling, and medication-assisted treatment. Such Coverage is limited to Facilities in New York State that are licensed, certified or otherwise authorized by OASAS to provide outpatient substance use disorder services and crisis stabilization centers licensed pursuant to New York Mental Hygiene Law section 36.01 and, in other states, to those that are licensed, certified or otherwise authorized by a similar state agency

and accredited by the Joint Commission or a national accreditation organization recognized by Us as alcoholism, substance abuse or chemical dependence treatment programs. Coverage in an OASAS-certified Facility includes services relating to the diagnosis and treatment of a substance use disorder provided by an OASAS credentialed Provider. Coverage is also available in a professional office setting for outpatient substance use disorder services relating to the diagnosis and treatment of alcoholism, substance use and dependency or by Physicians who have been granted a waiver pursuant to the federal Drug Addiction Treatment Act of 2000 to prescribe Schedule III, IV and V narcotic medications for the treatment of opioid addiction during the Acute detoxification stage of treatment or during stages of rehabilitation.

**Additional Family Counseling.** We also Cover up to 20 outpatient visits per calendar year for family counseling. A family member will be deemed to be covered, for the purpose of this provision, so long as that family member: 1) identifies himself or herself as a family member of a person suffering from a substance use disorder; and 2) is covered under the same family Certificate that covers the person receiving, or in need of, treatment for a substance use disorder. Our payment for a family member therapy session will be the same amount, regardless of the number of family members who attend the family therapy session.

### SECTION XIII. PRESCRIPTION DRUG COVERAGE

Please refer to the Schedule of Benefits section of this Certificate for Cost-Sharing requirements, day or visit limits, and any Preauthorization or Referral requirements that apply to these benefits.

**A. Covered Prescription Drugs.** We Cover Medically Necessary Prescription Drugs that, except as specifically provided otherwise, can be dispensed only pursuant to a prescription and are:

- Required by law to bear the legend “Caution – Federal Law prohibits dispensing without a prescription”;
- FDA approved;
- Ordered by a Provider authorized to prescribe and within the Provider’s scope of practice;
- Prescribed within the approved FDA administration and dosing guidelines;
- On Our Formulary; and
- Dispensed by a licensed pharmacy.

Covered Prescription Drugs include, but are not limited to:

- Self-injectable/administered Prescription Drugs.
- Inhalers (with spacers).
- Topical dental preparations.
- Pre-natal vitamins, vitamins with fluoride, and single entity vitamins.
- Osteoporosis drugs and devices approved by the FDA, or generic equivalents as approved substitutes, for the treatment of osteoporosis and consistent with the criteria of the federal Medicare program or the National Institutes of Health.
- Nutritional formulas for the treatment of phenylketonuria, branched-chain ketonuria, galactosemia and homocystinuria.
- Prescription or non-prescription enteral formulas for home use, whether administered orally or via tube feeding, for which a Physician or other licensed Provider has issued a written order. The written order must state that the enteral formula is Medically Necessary and has been proven effective as a disease-specific treatment regimen. Specific diseases and disorders include but are not limited to: inherited diseases of amino acid or organic acid metabolism; Crohn’s disease; gastroesophageal reflux; gastroesophageal motility such as chronic intestinal pseudo-obstruction; and multiple severe food allergies. Multiple food allergies include but are not limited to: immunoglobulin E and nonimmunoglobulin E-mediated allergies to multiple food proteins; severe food protein induced enterocolitis syndrome; eosinophilic disorders and impaired absorption of nutrients caused by disorders affecting the absorptive surface, function, length, and motility of the gastrointestinal tract.
- Modified solid food products that are low in protein, contain modified protein, or are amino acid based to treat certain inherited diseases of amino acid and organic acid metabolism and severe protein allergic conditions.

- Prescription Drugs prescribed in conjunction with treatment or services Covered under the infertility treatment benefit in the Outpatient and Professional Services section of this Certificate.
- Off-label cancer drugs, so long as the Prescription Drug is recognized for the treatment of the specific type of cancer for which it has been prescribed in one (1) of the following reference compendia: the American Hospital Formulary Service-Drug Information; National Comprehensive Cancer Networks Drugs and Biologics Compendium; Thomson Micromedex DrugDex; Elsevier Gold Standard's Clinical Pharmacology; or other authoritative compendia as identified by the Federal Secretary of Health and Human Services or the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services; or recommended by review article or editorial comment in a major peer reviewed professional journal.
- Orally administered anticancer medication used to kill or slow the growth of cancerous cells.
- Smoking cessation drugs, including over-the-counter drugs for which there is a written order and Prescription Drugs prescribed by a Provider.
- Preventive Prescription Drugs, including over-the-counter drugs for which there is a written order, provided in accordance with the comprehensive guidelines supported by the Health Resources and Services Administration ("HRSA") or that have an "A" or "B" rating from the United States Preventive Services Task Force ("USPSTF").
- Prescription Drugs for the treatment of mental health and substance use disorders, including drugs for detoxification, maintenance and overdose reversal.
- Contraceptive drugs, devices and other products, including over-the-counter contraceptive drugs, devices and other products, approved by the FDA and as prescribed or otherwise authorized under State or Federal law. "Over-the-counter contraceptive products" means those products provided for in comprehensive guidelines supported by HRSA. Coverage also includes emergency contraception when provided pursuant to a prescription or order or when lawfully provided over-the-counter. You may request coverage for an alternative version of a contraceptive drug, device and other product if the Covered contraceptive drug, device and other product is not available or is deemed medically inadvisable, as determined by Your attending Health Care Provider.

You may request a copy of Our Formulary. Our Formulary is also available on Our website at [www.empireblue.com](http://www.empireblue.com). You may inquire if a specific drug is Covered under this Certificate by contacting us at the number on Your ID card.

**B. Refills.** We Cover Refills of Prescription Drugs only when dispensed at a retail, mail order or designated pharmacy as ordered by an authorized Provider and only after  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the original Prescription Drug has been used. Benefits for Refills will not be provided beyond one (1) year from the original prescription date. For prescription eye drop medication, We allow for the limited refilling of the prescription prior to the last day of the approved dosage period without regard to any coverage restrictions on early Refill of renewals. To the extent practicable, the quantity of eye drops in the early Refill will

be limited to the amount remaining on the dosage that was initially dispensed. Your Cost-Sharing for the limited Refill is the amount that applies to each prescription or Refill as set forth in the Schedule of Benefits section of this Certificate.

### **C. Benefit and Payment Information.**

- 1. Cost-Sharing Expenses.** You are responsible for paying the costs outlined in the Schedule of Benefits section of this Certificate when Covered Prescription Drugs are obtained from a retail, mail order or designated pharmacy.

You have a three (3) tier plan design, which means that Your out-of-pocket expenses will generally be lowest for Prescription Drugs on tier 1 and highest for Prescription Drugs on tier 3. Your out-of-pocket expense for Prescription Drugs on tier 2 will generally be more than for tier 1 but less than tier 3.

You are responsible for paying the full cost (the amount the pharmacy charges You) for any non-Covered Prescription Drug and Our contracted rates (Our Prescription Drug Cost) will not be available to You.

- 2. Participating Pharmacies.** For Prescription Drugs purchased at a retail, mail order or designated Participating Pharmacy, You are responsible for paying the lower of:
  - The applicable Cost-Sharing; or
  - The Prescription Drug Cost for that Prescription Drug.(Your Cost-Sharing will never exceed the Usual and Customary Charge of the Prescription Drug.)

In the event that Our Participating Pharmacies are unable to provide the Covered Prescription Drug, and cannot order the Prescription Drug within a reasonable time, You may, with Our prior written approval, go to a Non-Participating Pharmacy that is able to provide the Prescription Drug. We will pay You the Prescription Drug Cost for such approved Prescription Drug less Your required In-Network Cost-Sharing upon receipt of a complete Prescription Drug claim form. Contact Us at the number on Your ID card or visit our website at [www.empireblue.com](http://www.empireblue.com) to request approval.

- 3. Non-Participating Pharmacies.** We will not pay for any Prescription Drugs that You purchase at a Non-Participating retail or mail order Pharmacy other than as described above.
- 4. Designated Pharmacies.** If You require certain Prescription Drugs including, but not limited to specialty Prescription Drugs, We may direct You to a Designated Pharmacy with whom We have an arrangement to provide those Prescription Drugs. However, We will provide benefits that apply to Prescription Drugs dispensed by a Designated Pharmacy to Prescription Drugs that are purchased from a retail pharmacy when that retail pharmacy is a Participating Pharmacy and agrees to the same reimbursement amount as the Designated Pharmacy.

Generally, specialty Prescription Drugs are Prescription Drugs that are approved to

treat limited patient populations or conditions; are normally injected, infused or require close monitoring by a Provider; or have limited availability, special dispensing and delivery requirements and/or require additional patient supports.

If You are directed to a Designated Pharmacy and You choose not to obtain Your Prescription Drug from a Designated Pharmacy, You will not have coverage for that Prescription Drug.

Following are the therapeutic classes of Prescription Drugs or conditions that are included in this program:

- Age-related macular edema;
- Eye conditions;
- Anemia, neutropenia, thrombocytopenia;
- Contraceptives;
- Cardiovascular;
- Crohn's disease;
- Cystic fibrosis;
- Cytomegalovirus;
- Endocrine disorders/neurologic disorders such as infantile spasms;
- Enzyme deficiencies/liposomal storage disorders;
- Gaucher's disease;
- Growth hormone;
- Hemophilia;
- Hepatitis B, hepatitis C;
- Hereditary angioedema;
- Immune deficiency;
- Immune modulator;
- Infertility;
- Iron overload;
- Iron toxicity;
- Multiple sclerosis;
- Oncology;
- Osteoarthritis;
- Osteoporosis;
- Parkinson's disease;
- Pulmonary arterial hypertension;
- Respiratory condition;
- Rheumatologic and related conditions (rheumatoid arthritis, psoriatic arthritis, ankylosing spondylitis, juvenile rheumatoid arthritis, psoriasis);
- Transplant;
- RSV prevention.

- 5. Designated Retail Pharmacy for Maintenance Drugs.** You may also fill Your Prescription Order for Maintenance Drugs for up to a 90-day supply at a Designated retail Pharmacy, with the exception of contraceptive drugs, devices, or products

which are available for a 12-month supply. You are responsible for paying the lower of:

- The applicable Cost-Sharing; or
  - The Prescription Drug Cost for that Prescription Drug.
- (Your Cost-Sharing will never exceed the Usual and Customary Charge of the Prescription Drug.)

To maximize Your benefit, ask Your Provider to write Your Prescription Order or Refill for a 90-day supply, with Refills when appropriate (not a 30-day supply with three (3) Refills).

Following are the therapeutic classes of Prescription Drugs or conditions that are included in this program:

- Asthma;
- Blood pressure;
- Contraceptives;
- Diabetes;
- High cholesterol.

You or Your Provider may obtain a copy of the list of Prescription Drugs available through a Designated retail Pharmacy by visiting Our website at [www.empireblue.com](http://www.empireblue.com) or by calling the number on Your ID card. The Maintenance Drug list is updated periodically. Visit Our website at [www.empireblue.com](http://www.empireblue.com) or call the number on Your ID card to find out if a particular Prescription Drug is on the maintenance list.

**6. Mail Order.** Certain Prescription Drugs may be ordered through Our mail order pharmacy. You are responsible for paying the lower of:

- The applicable Cost-Sharing; or
- The Prescription Drug Cost for that Prescription Drug.

(Your Cost-Sharing will never exceed the Usual and Customary Charge of the Prescription Drug.)

To maximize Your benefit, ask Your Provider to write Your Prescription Order or Refill for a 90-day supply, with Refills when appropriate (not a 30-day supply with three (3) Refills). You will be charged the mail order Cost-Sharing for any Prescription Orders or Refills sent to the mail order pharmacy regardless of the number of days' supply written on the Prescription Order or Refill.

Prescription Drugs purchased through mail order will be delivered directly to Your home or office.

We will provide benefits that apply to Prescription Drugs dispensed by a mail order pharmacy to Prescription Drugs that are purchased from a retail pharmacy when that retail pharmacy is a Participating Pharmacy and agrees to the same reimbursement amount as a participating mail order pharmacy.

You or Your Provider may obtain a copy of the list of Prescription Drugs available through mail order by visiting Our website at [www.empireblue.com](http://www.empireblue.com) or by calling the number on Your ID card.

- 7. Formulary Changes.** Our Formulary is subject to Our periodic review and modification. However, a Prescription Drug will not be removed from Our Formulary during the Plan Year, except when the FDA determines that such Prescription Drug should be removed from the market. Before We remove a Prescription Drug from Our Formulary at the beginning of the upcoming Plan Year, We will provide at least 90 days' notice prior to the start of the Plan Year. We will also post such notice on Our website at [www.empireblue.com](http://www.empireblue.com).

We will not add utilization management restrictions (e.g., step therapy or Preauthorization requirements) to a Prescription Drug on Our Formulary during a Plan Year unless the requirements are added pursuant to FDA safety concerns.

- 8. Tier Status.** A Prescription Drug will not be moved to a tier with a higher Cost-Sharing during the Plan Year, except a Brand-Name Drug may be moved to a tier with higher Cost-Sharing if an AB-rated generic equivalent or interchangeable biological product for that Prescription Drug is added to the Formulary at the same time. Additionally, a Prescription Drug may be moved to a tier with a higher Copayment during the Plan Year, although the change will not apply to You if You are already taking the Prescription Drug or You have been diagnosed or presented with a condition on or prior to the start of the Plan Year which is treated by such Prescription Drug or for which the Prescription Drug is or would be part of Your treatment regimen.

Before We move a Prescription Drug to a different tier, We will provide at least 90 days' notice prior to the start of the Plan Year. We will also post such notice on Our website at [www.empireblue.com](http://www.empireblue.com). If a Prescription Drug is moved to a different tier during the Plan Year for one of reasons described above, We will provide at least 30 days' notice before the change is effective. You will pay the Cost-Sharing applicable to the tier to which the Prescription Drug is assigned. You may access the most up to date tier status on Our website at [www.empireblue.com](http://www.empireblue.com) or by calling the number on Your ID card.

- 9. Formulary Exception Process.** If a Prescription Drug is not on Our Formulary, You, Your designee or Your prescribing Health Care Professional may request a Formulary exception for a clinically-appropriate Prescription Drug in writing, electronically or telephonically. The request should include a statement from Your prescribing Health Care Professional that all Formulary drugs will be or have been ineffective, would not be as effective as the non-Formulary drug, or would have adverse effects. If coverage is denied under Our standard or expedited Formulary exception process, You are entitled to an external appeal as outlined in the External

Appeal section of this Certificate. Visit Our website at [www.empireblue.com](http://www.empireblue.com) or call the number on Your ID card to find out more about this process.

**Standard Review of a Formulary Exception.** We will make a decision and notify You or Your designee and the prescribing Health Care Professional by telephone no later than 72 hours after Our receipt of Your request. We will notify You in writing within three (3) business days of receipt of Your request. If We approve the request, We will Cover the Prescription Drug while You are taking the Prescription Drug, including any refills.

**Expedited Review of a Formulary Exception.** If You are suffering from a health condition that may seriously jeopardize Your health, life or ability to regain maximum function or if You are undergoing a current course of treatment using a non-Formulary Prescription Drug, You may request an expedited review of a Formulary exception. The request should include a statement from Your prescribing Health Care Professional that harm could reasonably come to You if the requested drug is not provided within the timeframes for Our standard Formulary exception process. We will make a decision and notify You or Your designee and the prescribing Health Care Professional by telephone no later than 24 hours after Our receipt of Your request. We will notify You in writing within three (3) business days of receipt of Your request. If We approve the request, We will Cover the Prescription Drug while You suffer from the health condition that may seriously jeopardize Your health, life or ability to regain maximum function or for the duration of Your current course of treatment using the non-Formulary Prescription Drug.

**10. Supply Limits.** Except for contraceptive drugs, devices, or products, We will pay for no more than a 30-day supply of a Prescription Drug purchased at a retail pharmacy or Designated Pharmacy. You are responsible for one (1) Cost-Sharing amount for up to a 30-day supply. However, for Maintenance Drugs We will pay for up to a 90-day supply of a drug purchased at a retail pharmacy. You are responsible for up to three (3) Cost-Sharing amounts for a 90-day supply at a retail pharmacy.

You may have the entire supply (of up to 12 months) of the contraceptive drug, device, or product dispensed at the same time. Contraceptive drugs, devices, or products are not subject to Cost-Sharing when provided by a Participating Pharmacy.

Benefits will be provided for Prescription Drugs dispensed by a mail order pharmacy in a quantity of up to a 90-day supply. You are responsible for one (1) Cost-Sharing amount for a 30-day supply up to a maximum of three (3) Cost-Sharing amounts for a 90-day supply.

Specialty Prescription Drugs may be limited to a 30-day supply when obtained at a retail or mail order pharmacy. You may access Our website at [www.empireblue.com](http://www.empireblue.com) or by calling the number on Your ID card for more information on supply limits for specialty Prescription Drugs.

Some Prescription Drugs may be subject to quantity limits based on criteria that We have developed, subject to Our periodic review and modification. The limit may restrict the amount dispensed per Prescription Order or Refill and/or the amount dispensed per month's supply. You can determine whether a Prescription Drug has been assigned a maximum quantity level for dispensing by accessing Our website at [www.empireblue.com](http://www.empireblue.com) or by calling the number on Your ID card. If We deny a request to Cover an amount that exceeds Our quantity level, You are entitled to an Appeal pursuant to the Utilization Review and External Appeal sections of this Certificate.

**11. Initial Limited Supply of Prescription Opioid Drugs.** If You receive an initial limited prescription for a seven (7) day supply or less of any schedule II, III, or IV opioid prescribed for Acute pain, and You have a Copayment, Your Copayment will be the same Copayment that would apply to a 30-day supply of the Prescription Drug. If You receive an additional supply of the Prescription Drug within the same 30-day period in which You received the seven (7) day supply, You will not be responsible for an additional Copayment for the remaining 30-day supply of that Prescription Drug.

**12. Cost-Sharing for Orally-Administered Anti-Cancer Drugs.** Your Cost-Sharing for orally-administered anti-cancer drugs is at least as favorable to You as the Cost-Sharing amount, if any, that applies to intravenous or injected anti-cancer medications Covered under the Outpatient and Professional Services section of this Certificate.

**13. Half Tablet Program.** Certain Prescription Drugs may be designated as eligible for Our voluntary half tablet program. This program provides the opportunity to reduce Your Prescription Drug out-of-pocket expenses by up to 50% by using higher strength tablets and splitting them in half. If You are taking an eligible Prescription Drug, and You would like to participate in this program, please call Your Physician to see if the half tablet program is appropriate for Your condition. If Your Physician agrees, he or she must write a new prescription for Your medication to enable Your participation.

You can determine whether a Prescription Drug is eligible for the voluntary half tablet program by accessing Our website at [www.empireblue.com](http://www.empireblue.com) or by calling the number on Your ID card.

**14. Split Fill Dispensing Program.** The split fill dispensing program is designed to prevent wasted Prescription Drugs if Your Prescription Drug or dose changes or if We contact You and You confirm that You have leftover Prescription Drugs from a previous fill. The Prescription Drugs that are included under this program have been identified as requiring more frequent follow up to monitor response to treatment and reactions. You will initially get up to a 15-day supply (or appropriate amount of medication needed for an average infertility treatment cycle) of Your Prescription

Order for certain drugs filled at a retail, mail order or Designated Pharmacy instead of the full Prescription Order. You initially pay a lesser Cost-Sharing based on what is dispensed. The therapeutic classes of Prescription Drugs that are included in this program are: Antivirals/Anti-infectives, Infertility, Iron Toxicity, Mental/Neurologic Disorders, Multiple Sclerosis, and Oncology. With the exception of Infertility drugs, this program applies for the first 90 days when You start a new Prescription Drug. For Infertility drugs, the program applies to Your infertility treatment cycle. This program will not apply upon You or Your Provider's request. You or Your Provider can opt out by visiting Our website at [www.empireblue.com](http://www.empireblue.com) or by calling the number on Your ID card.

**D. Medical Management.** This Certificate includes certain features to determine when Prescription Drugs should be Covered, which are described below. As part of these features, Your prescribing Provider may be asked to give more details before We can decide if the Prescription Drug is Medically Necessary.

- 1. Preauthorization.** Preauthorization may be needed for certain Prescription Drugs to make sure proper use and guidelines for Prescription Drug coverage are followed. When appropriate, Your Provider will be responsible for obtaining Preauthorization for the Prescription Drug. Preauthorization is not required for Covered medications to treat substance use disorder, including opioid overdose reversal medications prescribed or dispensed to You.

For a list of Prescription Drugs that need Preauthorization, please visit Our website at [www.empireblue.com](http://www.empireblue.com) or call the number on Your ID card. The list will be reviewed and updated from time to time. We also reserve the right to require Preauthorization for any new Prescription Drug on the market. However, We will not add Preauthorization requirements to a Prescription Drug on Our Formulary during a Plan Year unless the requirements are added pursuant to FDA safety concerns. Your Provider may check with Us to find out which Prescription Drugs are Covered.

- 2. Step Therapy.** Step therapy is a process in which You may need to use one (1) or more types of Prescription Drugs before We will Cover another as Medically Necessary. A "step therapy protocol" means Our policy, protocol or program that establishes the sequence in which We approve Prescription Drugs for Your medical condition. When establishing a step therapy protocol, We will use recognized evidence-based and peer reviewed clinical review criteria that also takes into account the needs of atypical patient populations and diagnoses. We check certain Prescription Drugs to make sure that proper prescribing guidelines are followed. These guidelines help You get high quality and cost-effective Prescription Drugs. The Prescription Drugs that require Preauthorization under the step therapy program are also included on the Preauthorization drug list. If a step therapy protocol is applicable to Your request for coverage of a Prescription Drug, You, Your designee, or Your Health Care Professional can request a step therapy override determination as outlined in the Utilization Review section of this Certificate. We will

not add step therapy requirements to a Prescription Drug on Our Formulary during a Plan Year unless the requirements are added pursuant to FDA safety concerns.

3. **Therapeutic Substitution.** Therapeutic substitution is an optional program that tells You and Your Providers about alternatives to certain prescribed drugs. We may contact You and Your Provider to make You aware of these choices. Only You and Your Provider can determine if the therapeutic substitute is right for You. We have a therapeutic drug substitutes list, which We review and update from time to time. For questions or issues about therapeutic drug substitutes, visit Our website at [www.empireblue.com](http://www.empireblue.com) or call the number on Your ID card.

#### **E. Limitations/Terms of Coverage.**

1. We reserve the right to limit quantities, day supply, early Refill access and/or duration of therapy for certain medications based on Medical Necessity including acceptable medical standards and/or FDA recommended guidelines.
2. If We determine that You may be using a Prescription Drug in a harmful or abusive manner, or with harmful frequency, Your selection of Participating Pharmacies may be limited. If this happens, We may require You to select a single Participating Pharmacy that will provide and coordinate all future pharmacy services. Benefits will be paid only if You use the selected single Participating Pharmacy. If You do not make a selection within 31 days of the date We notify You, We will select a single Participating Pharmacy for You.
3. Compounded Prescription Drugs will be Covered only when they contain at least one (1) ingredient that is a Covered legend Prescription Drug, they are not essentially the same as a Prescription Drug from a manufacturer, and are obtained from a pharmacy that is approved for compounding. All compounded Prescription Drugs over \$300 require Your Provider to obtain Preauthorization. Compounded Prescription Drugs are on tier 3.
4. Various specific and/or generalized “use management” protocols will be used from time to time in order to ensure appropriate utilization of medications. Such protocols will be consistent with standard medical/drug treatment guidelines. The primary goal of the protocols is to provide Our Members with a quality-focused Prescription Drug benefit. In the event a use management protocol is implemented, and You are taking the drug(s) affected by the protocol, You will be notified in advance.
5. Injectable drugs (other than self-administered injectable drugs) and diabetic insulin, oral hypoglycemics, and diabetic supplies and equipment are not Covered under this section but are Covered under other sections of this Certificate.
6. We do not Cover charges for the administration or injection of any Prescription Drug. Prescription Drugs given or administered in a Physician’s office are Covered under the Outpatient and Professional Services section of this Certificate.

7. We do not Cover drugs that do not by law require a prescription, except for smoking cessation drugs, over-the-counter preventive drugs or devices provided in accordance with the comprehensive guidelines supported by HRSA or with an “A” or “B” rating from USPSTF, or as otherwise provided in this Certificate. We do not Cover Prescription Drugs that have over-the-counter non-prescription equivalents, except if specifically designated as Covered in the drug Formulary. Non-prescription equivalents are drugs available without a prescription that have the same name/chemical entity as their prescription counterparts. We do not Cover repackaged products such as therapeutic kits or convenience packs that contain a Covered Prescription Drug unless the Prescription Drug is only available as part of a therapeutic kit or convenience pack. Therapeutic kits or convenience packs contain one or more Prescription Drug(s) and may be packaged with over-the-counter items, such as gloves, finger cots, hygienic wipes or topical emollients.
8. We do not Cover Prescription Drugs to replace those that may have been lost or stolen.
9. We do not Cover Prescription Drugs dispensed to You while in a Hospital, nursing home, other institution, Facility, or if You are a home care patient, except in those cases where the basis of payment by or on behalf of You to the Hospital, nursing home, Home Health Agency or home care services agency, or other institution, does not include services for drugs.
10. We reserve the right to deny benefits as not Medically Necessary or experimental or investigational for any drug prescribed or dispensed in a manner contrary to standard medical practice. If coverage is denied, You are entitled to an Appeal as described in the Utilization Review and External Appeal sections of this Certificate.
11. A pharmacy need not dispense a Prescription Order that, in the pharmacist’s professional judgment, should not be filled.

**F. General Conditions.**

1. You must show Your ID card to a retail pharmacy at the time You obtain Your Prescription Drug or You must provide the pharmacy with identifying information that can be verified by Us during regular business hours. You must include Your identification number on the forms provided by the mail order pharmacy from which You make a purchase.
2. **Drug Utilization, Cost Management and Rebates.** We conduct various utilization management activities designed to ensure appropriate Prescription Drug usage, to avoid inappropriate usage, and to encourage the use of cost-effective drugs. Through these efforts, You benefit by obtaining appropriate Prescription Drugs in a cost-effective manner. The cost savings resulting from these activities are reflected in the Premiums for Your coverage.

We may also, from time to time, enter into agreements that result in Us receiving rebates or other funds (“rebates”) directly or indirectly from Prescription Drug manufacturers, Prescription Drug distributors or others. Any rebates are based upon utilization of Prescription Drugs across all of Our business and not solely on any one Member’s utilization of Prescription Drugs. Any rebates received by Us may or may not be applied, in whole or part, to reduce premiums either through an adjustment to claims costs or as an adjustment to the administrative expenses component of Our Prescription Drug premiums. Any such rebates may be retained by Us, in whole or part, in order to fund such activities as new utilization management activities, community benefit activities and increasing reserves for the protection of Members. Rebates may change or reduce the amount of any Copayment or Coinsurance applicable under Our Prescription Drug coverage. If a Prescription Drug is eligible for a rebate, most of the projected value of the rebate will be used to reduce the Allowed Amount for the Prescription Drug. Your Deductible or Coinsurance is calculated using that reduced Allowed Amount. The remaining value of that rebate will be used to reduce costs for all Members enrolled in coverage. Not all Prescription Drugs are eligible for a rebate, and rebates can be discontinued or applied at any time based on the terms of the rebate agreements. Because the exact value of the rebate will not be known at the time You purchase the Prescription Drug, the amount of the rebate applied to Your claim will be based on an estimate. Payment on Your claim and Your Cost-Sharing will not be adjusted if the later-determined rebate value is higher or lower than Our estimate.

**G. Definitions.** Terms used in this section are defined as follows. (Other defined terms can be found in the Definitions section of this Certificate).

- 1. Brand-Name Drug:** A Prescription Drug that: 1) is manufactured and marketed under a trademark or name by a specific drug manufacturer; or 2) We identify as a Brand-Name Prescription Drug, based on available data resources. All Prescription Drugs identified as “brand name” by the manufacturer, pharmacy, or Your Physician may not be classified as a Brand-Name Drug by Us.
- 2. Designated Pharmacy:** A pharmacy that has entered into an agreement with Us or with an organization contracting on Our behalf, to provide specific Prescription Drugs, including but not limited to, specialty Prescription Drugs. The fact that a pharmacy is a Participating Pharmacy does not mean that it is a Designated Pharmacy.
- 3. Formulary:** The list that identifies those Prescription Drugs for which coverage may be available under this Certificate. To determine which tier a particular Prescription Drug has been assigned, visit Our website at [www.empireblue.com](http://www.empireblue.com) or call the number on Your ID card.
- 4. Generic Drug:** A Prescription Drug that: 1) is chemically equivalent to a Brand-Name Drug; or 2) We identify as a Generic Prescription Drug based on available data resources. All Prescription Drugs identified as “generic” by the manufacturer,

pharmacy or Your Physician may not be classified as a Generic Drug by Us.

- 5. Maintenance Drug:** A Prescription Drug used to treat a condition that is considered chronic or long-term and which usually requires daily use of Prescription Drugs.
- 6. Non-Participating Pharmacy:** A pharmacy that has not entered into an agreement with Us to provide Prescription Drugs to Members. We will not make any payment for prescriptions or Refills filled at a Non-Participating Pharmacy other than as described above.
- 7. Participating Pharmacy:** A pharmacy that has:
- Entered into an agreement with Us or Our designee to provide Prescription Drugs to Members;
  - Agreed to accept specified reimbursement rates for dispensing Prescription Drugs; and
  - Been designated by Us as a Participating Pharmacy.

A Participating Pharmacy can be either a retail or mail-order pharmacy.

- 8. Prescription Drug:** A medication, product or device that has been approved by the FDA and that can, under federal or state law, be dispensed only pursuant to a Prescription Order or Refill and is on Our Formulary. A Prescription Drug includes a medication that, due to its characteristics, is appropriate for self-administration or administration by a non-skilled caregiver.
- 9. Prescription Drug Cost:** The amount, including a dispensing fee and any sales tax, as contracted between Us and Our pharmacy benefit manager for a Covered Prescription Drug dispensed at a Participating Pharmacy. If Your Certificate includes coverage at Non-Participating Pharmacies, the Prescription Drug Cost for a Prescription Drug dispensed at a Non-Participating Pharmacy is calculated using the Prescription Drug Cost that applies for that particular Prescription Drug at most Participating Pharmacies.
- 10. Prescription Order or Refill:** The directive to dispense a Prescription Drug issued by a duly licensed Health Care Professional who is acting within the scope of his or her practice.
- 11. Usual and Customary Charge:** The usual fee that a pharmacy charges individuals for a Prescription Drug without reference to reimbursement to the pharmacy by third parties as required by New York Education Law Section 6826-a.

## SECTION XIV. WELLNESS BENEFITS

- A. Exercise Facility Reimbursement.** We will partially reimburse the Subscriber and each eligible Dependent for certain exercise facility fees or membership fees but only if such fees are paid to exercise facilities which maintain equipment and programs that promote cardiovascular wellness. In addition to traditional Fitness Center fees, fees for online, virtual or live streamed fitness classes or subscriptions are also eligible for reimbursement. Online, virtual, at-home workout classes, and live streamed classes will be accepted and counted toward Fitness Center visits.

Reimbursement is limited to actual workout visits or online workouts. We do not reimburse:

- Memberships in tennis clubs, country clubs, weight loss clinics, spas or any other similar facilities;
- Lifetime memberships;
- Equipment, clothing, vitamins or other services that may be offered by the facility (e.g., massages, etc.); or
- Services that are amenities, such as a gym, that are included in Your rent or homeowners association fees.

In order to be eligible for reimbursement, You must:

- Be an active member of the exercise facility, and
- Complete 50 visits or online workouts in a six (6)-month period.

In order to obtain reimbursement, at the end of the six (6)-month period You must submit:

- A completed reimbursement form and documentation of the visits from the facility. Each time You visit the exercise facility, a facility representative must sign and date the reimbursement form; and
- A copy of Your current facility bill which shows the fee paid for Your membership.

Once We receive the completed reimbursement form, documentation of the visits and the bill, You will be reimbursed the lesser of \$200 for the Subscriber and \$200 for each eligible Dependent or the actual cost of the membership per six (6)-month period. Reimbursement must be requested within 120 days of the end of the six (6)-month period.

### **B. Wellness Program.**

- 1. Purpose.** The purpose of this wellness program is to encourage You to take a more active role in managing Your health and well-being.
- 2. Description.** We provide benefits in connection with the use of or participation in any of the following wellness and health promotion actions and activities:
  - **Health Assessment.** A Health Assessment is an online health tool. You will

answer questions about Your lifestyle, current health and history. You will have access to a personal report with health tips and available online programs. You will receive a \$20 reward upon completion of the Health Assessment.

- **Empire Login.** You can earn a \$5 reward once per year for logging into [www.empireblue.com](http://www.empireblue.com) or the Our mobile app.
- **Update Contact Info.** You can earn a \$10 reward for updating Your contact information once per year, such as Your email and phone number/text number.
- **Connecting a Device.** You can earn a \$5 reward for connecting a device, such as a Fitbit or Apple watch to track Your daily activities, such as steps, nutrition, and/or sleep.
- **Steps Tracking.** You can earn up to a \$60 reward for tracking Your daily steps. For every 50,000 steps, You earn \$2, up to a maximum of \$60 per year.
- **Action Plans.** You can earn rewards by starting an action plan. Action plans guide You along a path of activities developed by health experts. Move at Your own pace and make progress on Your goals in 30 days or less. You can earn \$5 for each completed action plan, up to a \$25 maximum per year.
- **Well-being Coach Digital.** Our Well-being Coach Digital program is a personalized app to help You improve Your well-being through Your smartphone. Through interacting with You, the Well-being Coach can learn about Your habits and lifestyle, and can provide customized, immediate advice to make small changes to help You meet Your health and wellness goals. You can get support to maintain a healthy weight, quit tobacco and receive additional help on well-being topics like nutrition, activity, mindfulness and sleep. Program elements may include:
  - One on one text coaching, day or night;
  - Feedback on food choices, general nutrition, and meal planning;
  - Support for quitting or abstaining from tobacco use;
  - Activity tracking and recommendations;
  - Coaching for other well-being issues, like sleep and mindfulness.You can earn up to \$20 for participating in the program.
- **Well-being Coach Telephonic - Weight.** Our Well-being Coach program provides access to a health coach to help You develop strategies for identifying and meeting Your health goals related to healthy weight loss. You will receive a \$25 reward once the program is completed.

**Participation.** You may call Us toll free at the number on Your ID card. A health coach will help You get started. In addition, We may use claims history to identify and contact potential candidates by phone to discuss whether the program is right for them.

- **Well-being Coach Telephonic - Tobacco.** Our Well-being Coach program provides access to a health coach to help You develop strategies for identifying and meeting Your health goals related to tobacco cessation. You will receive a \$25 reward once the program is completed.

**Participation.** You may call Us toll free at the number on Your ID card. A health coach will help You get started. In addition, We may use claims history to identify and contact potential candidates by phone to discuss whether the program is right for them.
- **Future Moms.** Future Moms is a maternity management program which provides individualized support to eligible members to help achieve healthier pregnancies and deliveries. The program provides education and support for high-risk and non-high-risk expectant mothers. Eligible members will receive a \$40 reward once the program is completed.

**Participation.** Eligible members can sign up and enroll by calling Us toll free at 800-828-5891. One of Our registered nurses will help You get started.
- **Condition Care** The ConditionCare program provides education and goal-oriented health coaching from Our clinical team. The conditions included in the ConditionCare program are coronary heart disease, heart failure, diabetes, asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD). You will receive a \$50 reward once the program is completed.

**Participation.** Eligible members can participate in one (1) program per year. You can self-enroll in ConditionCare if You've been diagnosed with one of the given conditions listed above by calling Us toll free at 866-962-0951. One of Our nurse care managers will help You get started.
- **Adult Wellness Exam, including Well Woman Exam.** When You receive an annual wellness physical examination from Your Primary Care Physician or a well-woman exam within the first 90 days of the effective date of Your plan, You are eligible to receive a \$25 reward during the Plan Year. When Empire receives a claim an annual wellness physical examination or an annual well woman exam, You will receive the reward.
- **Flu shot.** When You get Your annual flu shot, You are eligible to receive a \$20 reward during the Plan Year. When Empire receives a claim for the flu shot, You will receive the reward.
- **Screening Mammogram.** Eligible members who get their screening mammogram will receive a \$25 reward during the Plan Year. When Empire receives a claim for a screening mammogram, You will receive the reward.
- **Colorectal cancer screening.** Eligible members who get their colorectal cancer screening (i.e., colonoscopy or Cologuard) are eligible to receive a \$25 reward during the Plan Year. When Empire receives a claim for a colorectal cancer screening, You will receive the reward.

- **Eye exam.** Eligible members who get their eye exam are eligible to receive a \$25 reward during the Plan Year. When Empire receives a claim for an eye exam, You will receive the reward.
  - **Cholesterol screening.** Eligible members who get a cholesterol screening are eligible to receive a \$20 reward during the Plan Year. When Empire receives a claim for a cholesterol screening, You will receive the reward.
3. **Eligibility.** You, the Subscriber and the Subscriber's covered Spouse can participate in the wellness program.
  4. **Participation.** Unless otherwise noted, the preferred method for accessing the wellness program is through Our website at [www.empireblue.com](http://www.empireblue.com). Or You can access the Wellness Program through Our mobile app in the App Store or Google Play on Your smartphone. You need to have access to a device with internet access in order to participate in the website or app program. However, if You do not have internet access, please call Us at the number on Your ID card and We will provide You with information regarding how to participate without internet access.
  5. **Rewards.** Rewards for participation in a wellness program or activity include monetary rewards in the form of a digital Retailer Health Rewards card. If You choose to receive a physical gift card, a \$3 processing fee will be deducted from Your reward. You are encouraged to use the reward for a product or service that promotes good health. The maximum amount per year that You can earn is \$200.
- C. Voluntary Clinical Quality Programs.** The purpose of these voluntary clinical quality programs is to promote good health and early detection of disease. They are designed to encourage eligible Members to obtain certain covered Preventive Care or other recommended care covered under this Certificate that was not received within the recommended timeframe. For instance, a program may be designed to encourage You to bring Your child to his or her PCP for a well-child or well-baby care visit if You missed a recommended check-up, or may encourage You to get certain screening tests such as a mammogram if You have not been tested within the recommended age range. Or, a program may encourage You to have a medical visit within a specific time period such as a postpartum checkup within a set number of days after delivery of a newborn, or a home visit so You can provide a blood sample for a recommended laboratory test.
1. **Description.** These voluntary clinical quality programs are designed to encourage You to get certain preventive, wellness, or other recommended care when You need it based on recommended clinical guidelines. These programs are not guaranteed and Your participation is optional. We will give You the choice, and if You choose to participate in any program for which You qualify, and obtain the recommended care within the program's timeframe, You will receive an incentive. The incentive may take the form of:

- a. a gift card in the amount of \$50 or retailer coupons, such as for discounts on eye glasses; or
- b. a home test kit at no cost to allow You to conveniently collect a specimen for certain covered laboratory tests at home and mail it to the laboratory for processing. In this case, You may need to pay any cost shares that normally apply to covered laboratory tests under Your benefit plan, but the home test kit will be free to You; or
- c. a home visit to allow You to provide a specimen for certain covered laboratory tests, or for certain biometric screenings. In this case, You may need to pay any cost shares that normally apply to covered laboratory tests, but the home visit will be free to You.

If You have any questions about whether receipt of a gift card or retailer coupon results in taxable income to You, We recommend that You consult Your tax advisor.

2. **Eligibility.** You, the Subscriber, and the Subscriber's covered Spouse, and each covered Dependent may participate in the Voluntary Clinical Quality Program(s) if the targeted service applies, based on the recommended clinical guidelines the program promotes. These programs will be offered to Members who have certain conditions, who fall within certain age ranges, or who are due to receive certain recommended preventive or other care based on a recommended timeframe. For example:
  - a. Members age 50-75 years who have not undergone colorectal cancer screening as recommended by the American Cancer Society may be eligible to participate in a program designed to encourage these members to obtain a recommended preventive colorectal cancer screening, such as a fecal occult blood screening test.
  - b. Members age 50-74 years who have not had a mammography screening as recommended by the United States Preventive Services Task Force may be eligible to participate in a program designed to encourage these members to obtain the screening through the offer of a gift card awarded upon receipt of documentation that the screening was completed.
3. **Participation.** If You are eligible for a clinical quality program We offer, We will contact You by phone or mail to offer You the chance to participate. You may also call Us at the phone number on Your ID card if You have any questions regarding program participation. We will explain to You the care You are recommended to receive and the time frame within which You need to receive it to be eligible for the reward if applicable.
4. **Rewards.** Rewards for participation in a clinical quality program and completion of the identified services within the specified timeframe may include monetary rewards in the form of a gift card or retailer coupon such as for discounts on eye glasses, so long as the recipient is encouraged to use the reward for a product or service that promotes good health. In other cases, You will receive a home test kit at no cost to make it more convenient for You to receive the recommended care.

**D. Member Discount Programs.** We have agreements with various vendors that provide Members with various discounts on the products and services they offer. Discounts are available primarily for health related services, such as fitness centers, hearing aids, vitamins, weight loss programs, childbirth classes, and dental and vision services. Discounts will not be available if a service is an otherwise Covered benefit under this Contract. You can view the discounts available to You by visiting Our website at [www.empireblue.com](http://www.empireblue.com). You must present your ID card to the vendor at the time a service is purchased. The vendor will then apply the applicable discount.

## SECTION XV. VISION CARE

Please refer to the Schedule of Benefits section of this Certificate for Cost-Sharing requirements, day or visit limits and any Preauthorization or Referral requirements that apply to these benefits.

**A. Pediatric Vision Care.** We Cover emergency, preventive and routine vision care for Members through the end of the month in which the Member turns 19 years of age.

**B. Pediatric Vision Examinations.** We Cover vision examinations for the purpose of determining the need for corrective lenses, and if needed, to provide a prescription for corrective lenses. We Cover a vision examination one (1) time in any 12-month period, unless more frequent examinations are Medically Necessary as evidenced by appropriate documentation. The vision examination may include, but is not limited to:

- Case history;
- External examination of the eye or internal examination of the eye;
- Ophthalmoscopic exam;
- Determination of refractive status;
- Binocular distance;
- Tonometry tests for glaucoma;
- Gross visual fields and color vision testing; and
- Summary findings and recommendation for corrective lenses.

**C. Pediatric Prescribed Lenses and Frames.** We Cover standard prescription lenses or contact lenses one (1) time in any 12-month period, unless it is Medically Necessary for You to have new lenses or contact lenses more frequently, as evidenced by appropriate documentation. Prescription lenses may be constructed of either glass or plastic.

We also Cover standard frames adequate to hold lenses one (1) time in any 12-month period, unless it is Medically Necessary for You to have new frames more frequently, as evidenced by appropriate documentation. If You choose a non-standard frame, We will pay the amount that We would have paid for a standard frame and You will be responsible for the difference in cost between the standard frame and the non-standard frame. The difference in cost does not apply toward Your Out-of-Pocket Limit.

**D. Vision Examinations for Adults.** We Cover vision examinations for Members over age 18 for the purpose of determining the need for corrective lenses, and if needed, to provide a prescription for corrective lenses. We Cover a vision examination one (1) time per Plan Year, unless more frequent examinations are Medically Necessary as evidenced by appropriate documentation. The vision examination may include, but is not limited to:

- Case history;
- External examination of the eye or internal examination of the eye;
- Ophthalmoscopic exam;
- Determination of refractive status;

- Binocular distance;
- Tonometry tests for glaucoma;
- Gross visual fields and color vision testing; and
- Summary findings and recommendation for corrective lenses.

## SECTION XVI. PEDIATRIC DENTAL CARE

Please refer to the Schedule of Benefits section of this Certificate for Cost-Sharing requirements, day or visit limits, and any Preauthorization or Referral requirements that apply to these benefits.

We Cover the following dental care services for Members through the end of the month in which the Member turns 19 years of age:

- A. Emergency Dental Care.** We Cover emergency dental care, which includes emergency dental treatment required to alleviate pain and suffering caused by dental disease or trauma. Emergency dental care is not subject to Our Preauthorization.
- B. Preventive Dental Care.** We Cover preventive dental care that includes procedures which help to prevent oral disease from occurring, including:
- Prophylaxis (scaling and polishing the teeth) two (2) times per Plan Year;
  - Topical fluoride application two (2) times per Plan Year where the local water supply is not fluoridated;
  - Sealants on unrestored permanent molar teeth; and
  - Unilateral or bilateral space maintainers for placement in a restored deciduous and/or mixed dentition to maintain space for normally developing permanent teeth.
- C. Routine Dental Care.** We Cover routine dental care provided in the office of a dentist, including:
- Dental examinations, visits and consultations two (2) times per Plan Year;
  - X-rays, full mouth x-rays or panoramic x-rays at 36-month intervals, bitewing x-rays at six (6) month intervals, and other x-rays if Medically Necessary (once primary teeth erupt);
  - Procedures for simple extractions and other routine dental surgery not requiring Hospitalization, including preoperative care and postoperative care;
  - In-office conscious sedation;
  - Amalgam, composite restorations and stainless steel crowns; and
  - Other restorative materials appropriate for children.
- D. Endodontics.** We Cover routine endodontic services, including procedures for treatment of diseased pulp chambers and pulp canals, where Hospitalization is not required.
- E. Periodontics.** We Cover limited periodontic services. We Cover non-surgical periodontic services. We Cover periodontic surgical services necessary for treatment related to hormonal disturbances, drug therapy, or congenital defects. We also Cover periodontic services in anticipation of, or leading to orthodontics that are otherwise Covered under this Certificate.

**F. Prosthodontics.** We Cover prosthodontic services as follows:

- Removable complete or partial dentures for Members 15 years of age and above, including six (6) months follow-up care;
- Additional services including insertion of identification slips, repairs, relines and rebases and treatment of cleft palate, and
- Interim prosthesis for Members five (5) to 15 years of age.

We do not Cover implants or implant related services.

Fixed bridges are not Covered unless they are required:

- For replacement of a single upper anterior (central/lateral incisor or cuspid) in a patient with an otherwise full complement of natural, functional and/or restored teeth
- For cleft palate stabilization; or
- Due to the presence of any neurologic or physiologic condition that would preclude the placement of a removable prosthesis, as demonstrated by medical documentation.

**G. Oral Surgery.** We Cover non-routine oral surgery, such as partial and complete bony extractions, tooth re-implantation, tooth transplantation, surgical access of an unerupted tooth, mobilization of erupted or malpositioned tooth to aid eruption, and placement of device to facilitate eruption of an impacted tooth. We also Cover oral surgery in anticipation of, or leading to orthodontics that are otherwise Covered under this Certificate.

**H. Orthodontics.** We Cover orthodontics used to help restore oral structures to health and function and to treat serious medical conditions such as: cleft palate and cleft lip; maxillary/mandibular micrognathia (underdeveloped upper or lower jaw); extreme mandibular prognathism; severe asymmetry (craniofacial anomalies); ankylosis of the temporomandibular joint; and other significant skeletal dysplasias.

Procedures include but are not limited to:

- Rapid Palatal Expansion (RPE);
- Placement of component parts (e.g., brackets, bands);
- Interceptive orthodontic treatment;
- Comprehensive orthodontic treatment (during which orthodontic appliances are placed for active treatment and periodically adjusted);
- Removable appliance therapy; and
- Orthodontic retention (removal of appliances, construction and placement of retainers).

## SECTION XVII. EXCLUSIONS AND LIMITATIONS

No coverage is available under this Certificate for the following:

- A. Aviation.** We do not Cover services arising out of aviation, other than as a fare-paying passenger on a scheduled or charter flight operated by a scheduled airline.
- B. Convalescent and Custodial Care.** We do not Cover services related to rest cures, custodial care or transportation. "Custodial care" means help in transferring, eating, dressing, bathing, toileting and other such related activities. Custodial care does not include Covered Services determined to be Medically Necessary.
- C. Conversion Therapy.** We do not Cover conversion therapy. Conversion therapy is any practice by a mental health professional that seeks to change the sexual orientation or gender identity of a Member under 18 years of age, including efforts to change behaviors, gender expressions, or to eliminate or reduce sexual or romantic attractions or feelings toward individuals of the same sex. Conversion therapy does not include counseling or therapy for an individual who is seeking to undergo a gender transition or who is in the process of undergoing a gender transition, that provides acceptance, support, and understanding of an individual or the facilitation of an individual's coping, social support, and identity exploration and development, including sexual orientation-neutral interventions to prevent or address unlawful conduct or unsafe sexual practices, provided that the counseling or therapy does not seek to change sexual orientation or gender identity.
- D. Cosmetic Services.** We do not Cover cosmetic services, Prescription Drugs, or surgery, unless otherwise specified, except that cosmetic surgery shall not include reconstructive surgery when such service is incidental to or follows surgery resulting from trauma, infection or diseases of the involved part, and reconstructive surgery because of congenital disease or anomaly of a covered Child which has resulted in a functional defect. We also Cover services in connection with reconstructive surgery following a mastectomy, as provided elsewhere in this Certificate. Cosmetic surgery does not include surgery determined to be Medically Necessary. If a claim for a procedure listed in 11 NYCRR 56 (e.g., certain plastic surgery and dermatology procedures) is submitted retrospectively and without medical information, any denial will not be subject to the Utilization Review process in the Utilization Review and External Appeal sections of this Certificate unless medical information is submitted.
- E. Coverage Outside of the United States, Canada or Mexico.** We do not Cover care or treatment provided outside of the United States, its possessions, Canada or Mexico except for Emergency Services, Pre-Hospital Emergency Medical Services and ambulance services to treat Your Emergency Condition.
- F. Dental Services.** We do not Cover dental services except for: care or treatment due to accidental injury to sound natural teeth within 12 months of the accident; dental care or treatment necessary due to congenital disease or anomaly; or dental care or treatment

specifically stated in the Outpatient and Professional Services and Dental Care sections of this Certificate.

- G. Experimental or Investigational Treatment.** We do not Cover any health care service, procedure, treatment, device, or Prescription Drug that is experimental or investigational. However, We will Cover experimental or investigational treatments, including treatment for Your rare disease or patient costs for Your participation in a clinical trial as described in the Outpatient and Professional Services section of this Certificate, when Our denial of services is overturned by an External Appeal Agent certified by the State. However, for clinical trials, We will not Cover the costs of any investigational drugs or devices, non-health services required for You to receive the treatment, the costs of managing the research, or costs that would not be Covered under this Certificate for non-investigational treatments. See the Utilization Review and External Appeal sections of this Certificate for a further explanation of Your Appeal rights.
- H. Felony Participation.** We do not Cover any illness, treatment or medical condition due to Your participation in a felony, riot or insurrection. This exclusion does not apply to Coverage for services involving injuries suffered by a victim of an act of domestic violence or for services as a result of Your medical condition (including both physical and mental health conditions).
- I. Foot Care.** We do not Cover routine foot care in connection with corns, calluses, flat feet, fallen arches, weak feet, chronic foot strain or symptomatic complaints of the feet. However, We will Cover foot care when You have a specific medical condition or disease resulting in circulatory deficits or areas of decreased sensation in Your legs or feet.
- J. Government Facility.** We do not Cover care or treatment provided in a Hospital that is owned or operated by any federal, state or other governmental entity, except as otherwise required by law unless You are taken to the Hospital because it is close to the place where You were injured or became ill and Emergency Services are provided to treat Your Emergency Condition.
- K. Medically Necessary.** In general, We will not Cover any health care service, procedure, treatment, test, device or Prescription Drug that We determine is not Medically Necessary. If an External Appeal Agent certified by the State overturns Our denial, however, We will Cover the service, procedure, treatment, test, device or Prescription Drug for which coverage has been denied, to the extent that such service, procedure, treatment, test, device or Prescription Drug is otherwise Covered under the terms of this Certificate.
- L. Medicare or Other Governmental Program.** We do not Cover services if benefits are provided for such services under the federal Medicare program or other governmental program (except Medicaid). When You are eligible for Medicare, We will reduce Our benefits by the amount Medicare would have paid for the Covered Services. Except as

otherwise required by law, this reduction is made even if You fail to enroll in Medicare or You do not pay Your Medicare premium. Benefits for Covered Services will not be reduced if We are required by federal law to pay first or if You are not eligible for premium-free Medicare Part A.

- M. Military Service.** We do not Cover an illness, treatment or medical condition due to service in the Armed Forces or auxiliary units.
- N. No-Fault Automobile Insurance.** We do not Cover any benefits to the extent provided for any loss or portion thereof for which mandatory automobile no-fault benefits are recovered or recoverable. This exclusion applies even if You do not make a proper or timely claim for the benefits available to You under a mandatory no-fault policy.
- O. Services Not Listed.** We do not Cover services that are not listed in this Certificate as being Covered.
- P. Services Provided by a Family Member.** We do not Cover services performed by a covered person's immediate family member. "Immediate family member" means a child, stepchild, spouse, parent, stepparent, sibling, stepsibling, parent-in-law, child-in-law, sibling-in-law, grandparent, grandparent's spouse, grandchild, or grandchild's spouse.
- Q. Services Separately Billed by Hospital Employees.** We do not Cover services rendered and separately billed by employees of Hospitals, laboratories or other institutions.
- R. Services with No Charge.** We do not Cover services for which no charge is normally made.
- S. Vision Services.** We do not Cover the examination or fitting of eyeglasses or contact lenses, except as specifically stated in the Vision Care sections of this Certificate.
- T. War.** We do not Cover an illness, treatment or medical condition due to war, declared or undeclared.
- U. Workers' Compensation.** We do not Cover services if benefits for such services are provided under any state or federal Workers' Compensation, employers' liability or occupational disease law.

## SECTION XVIII. CLAIM DETERMINATIONS

- A. Claims.** A claim is a request that benefits or services be provided or paid according to the terms of this Certificate. When You receive services from a Participating Provider, You will not need to submit a claim form. However, if You receive services from a Non-Participating Provider either You or the Provider must file a claim form with Us. If the Non-Participating Provider is not willing to file the claim form, You will need to file it with Us. See the Coordination of Benefits section of this Certificate for information on how We coordinate benefit payments when You also have group health coverage with another plan.
- B. Notice of Claim.** Claims for services must include all information designated by Us as necessary to process the claim, including, but not limited to: Member identification number; name; date of birth; date of service; type of service; the charge for each service; procedure code for the service as applicable; diagnosis code; name and address of the Provider making the charge; and supporting medical records, when necessary. A claim that fails to contain all necessary information will not be accepted and must be resubmitted with all necessary information. Claim forms are available from Us by calling the number on Your ID card or visiting Our website at [www.empireblue.com](http://www.empireblue.com). Completed claim forms should be sent to the address in the How Your Coverage Works section of this Certificate or on Your ID card. You may also submit a claim to Us electronically by sending it to the e-mail address in the How Your Coverage Works section of this Certificate, on Your ID card or visiting Our website at [www.empireblue.com](http://www.empireblue.com).
- C. Timeframe for Filing Claims.** Claims for services must be submitted to Us for payment within 180 days after You receive the services for which payment is being requested. If it is not reasonably possible to submit a claim within the 180-day period, You must submit it as soon as reasonably possible.
- D. Claims for Prohibited Referrals.** We are not required to pay any claim, bill or other demand or request by a Provider for clinical laboratory services, pharmacy services, radiation therapy services, physical therapy services or x-ray or imaging services furnished pursuant to a referral prohibited by New York Public Health Law Section 238-a(1).
- E. Claim Determinations.** Our claim determination procedure applies to all claims that do not relate to a medical necessity or experimental or investigational determination. For example, Our claim determination procedure applies to contractual benefit denials. If You disagree with Our claim determination, You may submit a Grievance pursuant to the Grievance Procedures section of this Certificate.

For a description of the Utilization Review procedures and Appeal process for medical necessity or experimental or investigational determinations, see the Utilization Review

and External Appeal sections of this Certificate.

**F. Pre-Service Claim Determinations.**

1. A pre-service claim is a request that a service or treatment be approved before it has been received.

If We have all the information necessary to make a determination regarding a pre-service claim (e.g., a covered benefit determination), We will make a determination and provide notice to You (or Your designee) within 15 days from receipt of the claim.

If We need additional information, We will request it within 15 days from receipt of the claim. You will have 45 calendar days to submit the information. If We receive the information within 45 days, We will make a determination and provide notice to You (or Your designee) in writing, within 15 days of Our receipt of the information. If all necessary information is not received within 45 days, We will make a determination within 15 calendar days of the end of the 45-day period.

2. **Urgent Pre-Service Reviews.** With respect to urgent pre-service requests, if We have all information necessary to make a determination, We will make a determination and provide notice to You (or Your designee) by telephone, within 72 hours of receipt of the request. Written notice will follow within three (3) calendar days of the decision. If We need additional information, We will request it within 24 hours. You will then have 48 hours to submit the information. We will make a determination and provide notice to You (or Your designee) by telephone within 48 hours of the earlier of Our receipt of the information or the end of the 48-hour period. Written notice will follow within three (3) calendar days of the decision.

- G. Post-Service Claim Determinations.** A post-service claim is a request for a service or treatment that You have already received. If We have all information necessary to make a determination regarding a post-service claim, We will make a determination and notify You (or Your designee) within 30 calendar days of the receipt of the claim if We deny the claim in whole or in part. If We need additional information, We will request it within 30 calendar days. You will then have 45 calendar days to provide the information. We will make a determination and provide notice to You (or Your designee) in writing within 15 calendar days of the earlier of Our receipt of the information or the end of the 45-day period if We deny the claim in whole or in part.

- H. Payment of Claims.** Where Our obligation to pay a claim is reasonably clear, We will pay the claim within 30 days of receipt of the claim (when submitted through the internet or e-mail) and 45 days of receipt of the claim (when submitted through other means, including paper or fax). If We request additional information, We will pay the claim within 15 days of Our determination that payment is due but no later than 30 days (for claims submitted through the internet or e-mail) or 45 days (for claims submitted through other means, including paper or fax) of receipt of the information.

## SECTION XIX. GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES

- A. Grievances.** Our Grievance procedure applies to any issue not relating to a Medical Necessity or experimental or investigational determination by Us. For example, it applies to contractual benefit denials or issues or concerns You have regarding Our administrative policies or access to Providers.
- B. Filing a Grievance.** You can contact Us by phone at the number on Your ID card, in person, or in writing to file a Grievance. You may submit an oral Grievance in connection with a denial of a Referral or a covered benefit determination. We may require that You sign a written acknowledgement of Your oral Grievance, prepared by Us. You or Your designee has up to 180 calendar days from when You received the decision You are asking Us to review to file the Grievance.

When We receive Your Grievance, We will mail an acknowledgment letter within 15 business days. The acknowledgment letter will include the name, address, and telephone number of the person handling Your Grievance, and indicate what additional information, if any, must be provided.

We keep all requests and discussions confidential and We will take no discriminatory action because of Your issue. We have a process for both standard and expedited Grievances, depending on the nature of Your inquiry.

You may ask that We send You electronic notification of a Grievance or Grievance Appeal determination instead of notice in writing or by telephone. You must tell Us in advance if You want to receive electronic notifications. To opt into electronic notifications, call the number on Your ID card or visit Our website at [www.empireblue.com](http://www.empireblue.com). You can opt out of electronic notifications at any time.

- C. Grievance Determination.** Qualified personnel will review Your Grievance, or if it is a clinical matter, a licensed, certified or registered Health Care Professional will look into it. We will decide the Grievance and notify You within the following timeframes:

**Expedited/Urgent Grievances:**

By phone, within the earlier of 48 hours of receipt of all necessary information or 72 hours of receipt of Your Grievance. Written notice will be provided within 72 hours of receipt of Your Grievance.

**Pre-Service Grievances:**

(A request for a service or treatment that has not yet been provided.)

In writing, within 15 calendar days of receipt of Your Grievance.

**Post-Service Grievances:**

In writing, within 30 calendar days of receipt of

(A claim for a service or treatment that has already been provided.)

Your Grievance.

**All Other Grievances:** (That are not in relation to a claim or request for a service or treatment.)

In writing, within 45 calendar days of receipt of all necessary information but no more than 60 calendar days of receipt of Your Grievance.

- D. Grievance Appeals.** If You are not satisfied with the resolution of Your Grievance, You or Your designee may file an Appeal by phone at the number on Your ID card, in person, or in writing. You have up to 60 business days from receipt of the Grievance determination to file an Appeal.

When We receive Your Appeal, We will mail an acknowledgment letter within 15 business days. The acknowledgement letter will include the name, address, and telephone number of the person handling Your Appeal and indicate what additional information, if any, must be provided.

One or more qualified personnel at a higher level than the personnel that rendered the Grievance determination will review it, or if it is a clinical matter, a clinical peer reviewer will look into it. We will decide the Appeal and notify You in writing within the following timeframes:

**Expedited/Urgent Grievances:**

The earlier of two (2) business days of receipt of all necessary information or 72 hours of receipt of Your Appeal.

**Pre-Service Grievances:**

(A request for a service or treatment that has not yet been provided.)

15 calendar days of receipt of Your Appeal

**Post-Service Grievances:**

(A claim for a service or treatment that has already been provided.)

30 calendar days of receipt of Your Appeal

**All Other Grievances:**

(That are not in relation to a claim or request for a service or treatment.)

30 business days of receipt of all necessary information to make a determination

- E. Assistance.** If You remain dissatisfied with Our Appeal determination or at any other time You are dissatisfied, You may:

**Call the New York State Department of Financial Services at 1-800-342-3736 or write them at:**

New York State Department of Financial Services  
Consumer Assistance Unit  
One Commerce Plaza  
Albany, NY 12257  
Website: [www.dfs.ny.gov](http://www.dfs.ny.gov)

If You need assistance filing a Grievance or Appeal, You may also contact the state independent Consumer Assistance Program at:

Community Health Advocates  
633 Third Avenue, 10<sup>th</sup> Floor  
New York, NY 10017  
Or call toll free: 1-888-614-5400, or e-mail [cha@cssny.org](mailto:cha@cssny.org)  
Website: [www.communityhealthadvocates.org](http://www.communityhealthadvocates.org)

## SECTION XX. UTILIZATION REVIEW

**A. Utilization Review.** We review health services to determine whether the services are or were Medically Necessary or experimental or investigational ("Medically Necessary"). This process is called Utilization Review. Utilization Review includes all review activities, whether they take place prior to the service being performed (Preauthorization); when the service is being performed (concurrent); or after the service is performed (retrospective). If You have any questions about the Utilization Review process, please call the number on Your ID card. The toll-free telephone number is available at least 40 hours a week with an after-hours answering machine.

All determinations that services are not Medically Necessary will be made by: 1) licensed Physicians; or 2) licensed, certified, registered or credentialed Health Care Professionals who are in the same profession and same or similar specialty as the Provider who typically manages Your medical condition or disease or provides the health care service under review; or 3) with respect to mental health or substance use disorder treatment, licensed Physicians or licensed, certified, registered or credentialed Health Care Professionals who specialize in behavioral health and have experience in the delivery of mental health or substance use disorder courses of treatment. We do not compensate or provide financial incentives to Our employees or reviewers for determining that services are not Medically Necessary.

We have developed guidelines and protocols to assist Us in this process. We will use evidence-based and peer reviewed clinical review criteria that are appropriate to the age of the patient and designated by OASAS for substance use disorder treatment or approved for use by OMH for mental health treatment. Specific guidelines and protocols are available for Your review upon request. For more information, call the number on Your ID card or visit Our website at [www.empireblue.com](http://www.empireblue.com).

You may ask that We send You electronic notification of a Utilization Review determination instead of notice in writing or by telephone. You must tell Us in advance if You want to receive electronic notifications. To opt into electronic notifications, call the number on Your ID card or visit Our website at [www.empireblue.com](http://www.empireblue.com). You can opt out of electronic notifications at any time.

### **B. Preauthorization Reviews.**

**1. Non-Urgent Preauthorization Reviews.** If We have all the information necessary to make a determination regarding a Preauthorization review, We will make a determination and provide notice to You (or Your designee) and Your Provider, by telephone and in writing, within three (3) business days of receipt of the request.

If We need additional information, We will request it within three (3) business days. You or Your Provider will then have 45 calendar days to submit the information. If We receive the requested information within 45 days, We will make a determination and provide notice to You (or Your designee) and Your Provider, by telephone and

in writing, within three (3) business days of Our receipt of the information. If all necessary information is not received within 45 days, We will make a determination within 15 calendar days of the earlier of the receipt of part of the requested information or the end of the 45-day period.

- 2. Urgent Preauthorization Reviews.** With respect to urgent Preauthorization requests, if We have all information necessary to make a determination, We will make a determination and provide notice to You (or Your designee) and Your Provider, by telephone, within 72 hours of receipt of the request. Written notice will be provided within three (3) business days of receipt of the request. If We need additional information, We will request it within 24 hours. You or Your Provider will then have 48 hours to submit the information. We will make a determination and provide notice to You (or Your designee) and Your Provider by telephone and in writing within 48 hours of the earlier of Our receipt of the information or the end of the 48-hour period.
- 3. Court Ordered Treatment.** With respect to requests for mental health and/or substance use disorder services that have not yet been provided, if You (or Your designee) certify, in a format prescribed by the Superintendent of Financial Services, that You will be appearing, or have appeared, before a court of competent jurisdiction and may be subject to a court order requiring such services, We will make a determination and provide notice to You (or Your designee) and Your Provider by telephone within 72 hours of receipt of the request. Written notification will be provided within three (3) business days of Our receipt of the request. Where feasible, the telephonic and written notification will also be provided to the court.
- 4. Inpatient Rehabilitation Services Reviews.** After receiving a Preauthorization request for coverage of inpatient rehabilitation services following an inpatient Hospital admission provided by a Hospital or skilled nursing facility, We will make a determination and provide notice to You (or Your designee) and Your Provider, by telephone and in writing, within one (1) business day of receipt of the necessary information.
- 5. Crisis Stabilization Centers.** Coverage for services provided at participating crisis stabilization centers licensed under New York Mental Hygiene Law section 36.01 is not subject to Preauthorization. We may review the treatment provided at crisis stabilization centers retrospectively to determine whether it is Medically Necessary and We will use clinical review tools designated by OASAS or approved by OMH. If any treatment at a participating crisis stabilization center is denied as not Medically Necessary, You are only responsible for the In-Network Cost-Sharing that would otherwise apply to Your treatment.

#### **C. Concurrent Reviews.**

- 1. Non-Urgent Concurrent Reviews.** Utilization Review decisions for services during the course of care (concurrent reviews) will be made, and notice provided to You (or Your designee) and Your Provider, by telephone and in writing, within one (1)

business day of receipt of all necessary information. If We need additional information, We will request it within one (1) business day. You or Your Provider will then have 45 calendar days to submit the information. We will make a determination and provide notice to You (or Your designee) and Your Provider, by telephone and in writing, within one (1) business day of Our receipt of the information or, if We do not receive the information, within the earlier of 15 calendar days of the receipt of part of the requested information or 15 calendar days of the end of the 45-day period.

- 2. Urgent Concurrent Reviews.** For concurrent reviews that involve an extension of urgent care, if the request for coverage is made at least 24 hours prior to the expiration of a previously approved treatment, We will make a determination and provide notice to You (or Your designee) and Your Provider by telephone within 24 hours of receipt of the request. Written notice will be provided within one (1) business day of receipt of the request.

If the request for coverage is not made at least 24 hours prior to the expiration of a previously approved treatment and We have all the information necessary to make a determination, We will make a determination and provide written notice to You (or Your designee) and Your Provider within the earlier of 72 hours or one (1) business day of receipt of the request. If We need additional information, We will request it within 24 hours. You or Your Provider will then have 48 hours to submit the information. We will make a determination and provide written notice to You (or Your designee) and Your Provider within the earlier of one (1) business day or 48 hours of Our receipt of the information or, if we do not receive the information, within 48 hours of the end of the 48-hour period.

- 3. Inpatient Substance Use Disorder Treatment Reviews.** If a request for inpatient substance use disorder treatment is submitted to Us at least 24 hours prior to discharge from an inpatient substance use disorder treatment admission, We will make a determination within 24 hours of receipt of the request and We will provide coverage for the inpatient substance use disorder treatment while Our determination is pending.
- 4. Inpatient Mental Health Treatment for Members under 18 at Participating Hospitals Licensed by the Office of Mental Health (OMH).** Coverage for inpatient mental health treatment at a participating OMH-licensed Hospital is not subject to Preauthorization. Coverage will not be subject to concurrent review for the first 14 days of the inpatient admission if the OMH-licensed Hospital notifies Us of both the admission and the initial treatment plan within two (2) business days of the admission. After the first 14 days of the inpatient admission, We may review the entire stay to determine whether it is Medically Necessary, and We will use clinical review tools approved by OMH. If any portion of the stay is denied as not Medically Necessary, You are only responsible for the In-Network Cost-Sharing that would otherwise apply to Your inpatient admission.

**5. Inpatient Substance Use Disorder Treatment at Participating OASAS-Certified Facilities.** Coverage for inpatient substance use disorder treatment at a participating OASAS-certified Facility is not subject to Preauthorization. Coverage will not be subject to concurrent review for the first 28 days of the inpatient admission if the OASAS-certified Facility notifies Us of both the admission and the initial treatment plan within two (2) business days of the admission. After the first 28 days of the inpatient admission, We may review the entire stay to determine whether it is Medically Necessary and We will use clinical review tools designated by OASAS. If any portion of the stay is denied as not Medically Necessary, You are only responsible for the In-Network Cost-Sharing that would otherwise apply to Your inpatient admission.

**6. Outpatient Substance Use Disorder Treatment at Participating OASAS-Certified Facilities.** Coverage for outpatient, intensive outpatient, outpatient rehabilitation and opioid treatment at a participating OASAS-certified Facility is not subject to Preauthorization. Coverage will not be subject to concurrent review for the first four (4) weeks of continuous treatment, not to exceed 28 visits, if the OASAS-certified Facility notifies Us of both the start of treatment and the initial treatment plan within two (2) business days. After the first four (4) weeks of continuous treatment, not to exceed 28 visits, We may review the entire outpatient treatment to determine whether it is Medically Necessary and We will use clinical review tools designated by OASAS. If any portion of the outpatient treatment is denied as not Medically Necessary, You are only responsible for the In-Network Cost-Sharing that would otherwise apply to Your outpatient treatment.

**D. Retrospective Reviews.** If We have all information necessary to make a determination regarding a retrospective claim, We will make a determination and notify You and Your Provider within 30 calendar days of the receipt of the request. If We need additional information, We will request it within 30 calendar days. You or Your Provider will then have 45 calendar days to provide the information. We will make a determination and provide notice to You and Your Provider in writing within 15 calendar days of the earlier of Our receipt of all or part of the requested information or the end of the 45-day period.

Once We have all the information to make a decision, Our failure to make a Utilization Review determination within the applicable time frames set forth above will be deemed an adverse determination subject to an internal Appeal.

**E. Retrospective Review of Preauthorized Services.** We may only reverse a preauthorized treatment, service or procedure on retrospective review when:

- The relevant medical information presented to Us upon retrospective review is materially different from the information presented during the Preauthorization review;
- The relevant medical information presented to Us upon retrospective review existed at the time of the Preauthorization but was withheld or not made available to Us;

- We were not aware of the existence of such information at the time of the Preauthorization review; and
- Had We been aware of such information, the treatment, service or procedure being requested would not have been authorized. The determination is made using the same specific standards, criteria or procedures as used during the Preauthorization review.

**F. Step Therapy Override Determinations.** You, Your designee, or Your Health Care Professional may request a step therapy protocol override determination for Coverage of a Prescription Drug selected by Your Health Care Professional. When conducting Utilization Review for a step therapy protocol override determination, We will use recognized evidence-based and peer reviewed clinical review criteria that is appropriate for You and Your medical condition.

**1. Supporting Rationale and Documentation.** A step therapy protocol override determination request must include supporting rationale and documentation from a Health Care Professional, demonstrating that:

- The required Prescription Drug(s) is contraindicated or will likely cause an adverse reaction or physical or mental harm to You;
- The required Prescription Drug(s) is expected to be ineffective based on Your known clinical history, condition, and Prescription Drug regimen;
- You have tried the required Prescription Drug(s) while covered by Us or under Your previous health insurance coverage, or another Prescription Drug in the same pharmacologic class or with the same mechanism of action, and that Prescription Drug(s) was discontinued due to lack of efficacy or effectiveness, diminished effect, or an adverse event;
- You are stable on a Prescription Drug(s) selected by Your Health Care Professional for Your medical condition, provided this does not prevent Us from requiring You to try an AB-rated generic equivalent; or
- The required Prescription Drug(s) is not in Your best interest because it will likely cause a significant barrier to Your adherence to or compliance with Your plan of care, will likely worsen a comorbid condition, or will likely decrease Your ability to achieve or maintain reasonable functional ability in performing daily activities.

**2. Standard Review.** We will make a step therapy protocol override determination and provide notification to You (or Your designee) and where appropriate, Your Health Care Professional, within 72 hours of receipt of the supporting rationale and documentation.

**3. Expedited Review.** If You have a medical condition that places Your health in serious jeopardy without the Prescription Drug prescribed by Your Health Care Professional, We will make a step therapy protocol override determination and provide notification to You (or Your designee) and Your Health Care Professional within 24 hours of receipt of the supporting rationale and documentation.

If the required supporting rationale and documentation are not submitted with a step therapy protocol override determination request, We will request the information within 72 hours for Preauthorization and retrospective reviews, the lesser of 72 hours or one (1) business day for concurrent reviews, and 24 hours for expedited reviews. You or Your Health Care Professional will have 45 calendar days to submit the information for Preauthorization, concurrent and retrospective reviews, and 48 hours for expedited reviews. For Preauthorization reviews, We will make a determination and provide notification to You (or Your designee) and Your Health Care Professional within the earlier of 72 hours of Our receipt of the information or 15 calendar days of the end of the 45-day period if the information is not received. For concurrent reviews, We will make a determination and provide notification to You (or Your designee) and Your Health Care Professional within the earlier of 72 hours or one (1) business day of Our receipt of the information or 15 calendar days of the end of the 45-day period if the information is not received. For retrospective reviews, We will make a determination and provide notification to You (or Your designee) and Your Health Care Professional within the earlier of 72 hours of Our receipt of the information or 15 calendar days of the end of the 45-day period if the information is not received. For expedited reviews, We will make a determination and provide notification to You (or Your designee) and Your Health Care Professional within the earlier of 24 hours of Our receipt of the information or 48 hours of the end of the 48-hour period if the information is not received.

If We do not make a determination within 72 hours (or 24 hours for expedited reviews) of receipt of the supporting rationale and documentation, the step therapy protocol override request will be approved.

If We determine that the step therapy protocol should be overridden, We will authorize immediate coverage for the Prescription Drug prescribed by Your treating Health Care Professional. An adverse step therapy override determination is eligible for an Appeal.

- G. Reconsideration.** If We did not attempt to consult with Your Provider who recommended the Covered Service before making an adverse determination, the Provider may request reconsideration by the same clinical peer reviewer who made the adverse determination or a designated clinical peer reviewer if the original clinical peer reviewer is unavailable. For Preauthorization and concurrent reviews, the reconsideration will take place within one (1) business day of the request for reconsideration. If the adverse determination is upheld, a notice of adverse determination will be given to You and Your Provider, by telephone and in writing.
- H. Utilization Review Internal Appeals.** You, Your designee, and, in retrospective review cases, Your Provider, may request an internal Appeal of an adverse determination, either by phone, in person, or in writing.

You have up to 180 calendar days after You receive notice of the adverse determination to file an Appeal. We will acknowledge Your request for an internal Appeal within 15 calendar days of receipt. This acknowledgment will include the name, address, and phone number of the person handling Your Appeal and, if necessary,

inform You of any additional information needed before a decision can be made. The Appeal will be decided by a clinical peer reviewer who is not subordinate to the clinical peer reviewer who made the initial adverse determination and who is 1) a Physician or 2) a Health Care Professional in the same or similar specialty as the Provider who typically manages the disease or condition at issue.

**1. Out-of-Network Service Denial.** You also have the right to Appeal the denial of a Preauthorization request for an out-of-network health service when We determine that the out-of-network health service is not materially different from an available in-network health service. A denial of an out-of-network health service is a service provided by a Non-Participating Provider, but only when the service is not available from a Participating Provider. For a Utilization Review Appeal of denial of an out-of-network health service, You or Your designee must submit:

- A written statement from Your attending Physician, who must be a licensed, board-certified or board-eligible Physician qualified to practice in the specialty area of practice appropriate to treat Your condition, that the requested out-of-network health service is materially different from the alternate health service available from a Participating Provider that We approved to treat Your condition; and
- Two (2) documents from the available medical and scientific evidence that the out-of-network service: 1) is likely to be more clinically beneficial to You than the alternate in-network service; and 2) that the adverse risk of the out-of-network service would likely not be substantially increased over the in-network health service.

**2. Out-of-Network Authorization Denial.** You also have the right to Appeal the denial of a request for an authorization to a Non-Participating Provider when We determine that We have a Participating Provider with the appropriate training and experience to meet Your particular health care needs who is able to provide the requested health care service. For a Utilization Review Appeal of an out-of-network authorization denial, You or Your designee must submit a written statement from Your attending Physician, who must be a licensed, board-certified or board-eligible Physician qualified to practice in the specialty area of practice appropriate to treat Your condition:

- That the Participating Provider recommended by Us does not have the appropriate training and experience to meet Your particular health care needs for the health care service; and
- Recommending a Non-Participating Provider with the appropriate training and experience to meet Your particular health care needs who is able to provide the requested health care service.

#### **I. Standard Appeal.**

**1. Preauthorization Appeal.** If Your Appeal relates to a Preauthorization request, We will decide the Appeal within 30 calendar days of receipt of the Appeal request. Written notice of the determination will be provided to You (or Your designee), and

where appropriate, Your Provider, within two (2) business days after the determination is made, but no later than 30 calendar days after receipt of the Appeal request.

- 2. Retrospective Appeal.** If Your Appeal relates to a retrospective claim, We will decide the Appeal within the earlier of 30-calendar days of receipt of the information necessary to conduct the Appeal or 60 days of receipt of the Appeal. Written notice of the determination will be provided to You (or Your designee), and where appropriate, Your Provider within two (2) business days after the determination is made, but no later than 60 calendar days after receipt of the Appeal request.
- 3. Expedited Appeal.** An Appeal of a review of continued or extended health care services, additional services rendered in the course of continued treatment, home health care services following discharge from an inpatient Hospital admission, services in which a Provider requests an immediate review, mental health and/or substance use disorder services that may be subject to a court order, or any other urgent matter will be handled on an expedited basis. An expedited Appeal is not available for retrospective reviews. For an expedited Appeal, Your Provider will have reasonable access to the clinical peer reviewer assigned to the Appeal within one (1) business day of receipt of the request for an Appeal. Your Provider and a clinical peer reviewer may exchange information by telephone or fax. An expedited Appeal will be determined within the earlier of 72 hours of receipt of the Appeal or two (2) business days of receipt of the information necessary to conduct the Appeal. Written notice of the determination will be provided to You (or Your designee) within 24 hours after the determination is made, but no later than 72 hours after receipt of the Appeal request.

If You are not satisfied with the resolution of Your expedited Appeal, You may file a standard internal Appeal or an external appeal.

Our failure to render a determination of Your Appeal within 30 calendar days of receipt of the necessary information for a standard Appeal or within two (2) business days of receipt of the necessary information for an expedited Appeal will be deemed a reversal of the initial adverse determination.

- 4. Substance Use Appeal.** If We deny a request for inpatient substance use disorder treatment that was submitted at least 24 hours prior to discharge from an inpatient admission, and You or Your Provider file an expedited internal Appeal of Our adverse determination, We will decide the Appeal within 24 hours of receipt of the Appeal request. If You or Your Provider file the expedited internal Appeal and an expedited external appeal within 24 hours of receipt of Our adverse determination, We will also provide coverage for the inpatient substance use disorder treatment while a determination on the internal Appeal and external appeal is pending.

- J. Full and Fair Review of an Appeal.** We will provide You, free of charge, with any new or additional evidence considered, relied upon, or generated by Us or any new or

additional rationale in connection with Your Appeal. The evidence or rationale will be provided as soon as possible and sufficiently in advance of the date on which the notice of final adverse determination is required to be provided to give You a reasonable opportunity to respond prior to that date.

**K. Appeal Assistance.** If You need Assistance filing an Appeal, You may contact the state independent Consumer Assistance Program at:

Community Health Advocates

633 Third Avenue, 10<sup>th</sup> Floor

New York, NY 10017

Or call toll free: 1-888-614-5400; or e-mail: [cha@cssny.org](mailto:cha@cssny.org)

Website: <http://www.communityhealthadvocates.org>

## SECTION XXI. EXTERNAL APPEAL

**A. Your Right to an External Appeal.** In some cases, You have a right to an external appeal of a denial of coverage. If We have denied coverage on the basis that a service is not Medically Necessary (including appropriateness, health care setting, level of care or effectiveness of a Covered benefit); or is an experimental or investigational treatment (including clinical trials and treatments for rare diseases); or is an out-of-network treatment; or is an emergency service or a surprise bill (including whether the correct Cost-Sharing was applied), You or Your representative may appeal that decision to an External Appeal Agent, an independent third party certified by the State to conduct these appeals.

In order for You to be eligible for an external appeal You must meet the following two (2) requirements:

- The service, procedure, or treatment must otherwise be a Covered Service under this Certificate; and
- In general, You must have received a final adverse determination through Our internal Appeal process. But, You can file an external appeal even though You have not received a final adverse determination through Our internal Appeal process if:
  - We agree in writing to waive the internal Appeal. We are not required to agree to Your request to waive the internal Appeal; or
  - You file an external appeal at the same time as You apply for an expedited internal Appeal; or
  - We fail to adhere to Utilization Review claim processing requirements (other than a minor violation that is not likely to cause prejudice or harm to You, and We demonstrate that the violation was for good cause or due to matters beyond Our control and the violation occurred during an ongoing, good faith exchange of information between You and Us).

**B. Your Right to Appeal a Determination that a Service is Not Medically Necessary.** If We have denied coverage on the basis that the service is not Medically Necessary, You may appeal to an External Appeal Agent if You meet the requirements for an external appeal in paragraph “A” above.

**C. Your Right to Appeal a Determination that a Service is Experimental or Investigational.** If We have denied coverage on the basis that the service is an experimental or investigational treatment (including clinical trials and treatments for rare diseases), You must satisfy the two (2) requirements for an external appeal in paragraph “A” above and Your attending Physician must certify that Your condition or disease is one for which:

1. Standard health services are ineffective or medically inappropriate; **or**
2. There does not exist a more beneficial standard service or procedure Covered by Us; **or**
3. There exists a clinical trial or rare disease treatment (as defined by law).

In addition, Your attending Physician must have recommended one (1) of the following:

- A service, procedure or treatment that two (2) documents from available medical and scientific evidence indicate is likely to be more beneficial to You than any standard Covered Service (only certain documents will be considered in support of this recommendation – Your attending Physician should contact the State for current information as to what documents will be considered or acceptable); or
- A clinical trial for which You are eligible (only certain clinical trials can be considered); or
- A rare disease treatment for which Your attending Physician certifies that there is no standard treatment that is likely to be more clinically beneficial to You than the requested service, the requested service is likely to benefit You in the treatment of Your rare disease, and such benefit outweighs the risk of the service. In addition, Your attending Physician must certify that Your condition is a rare disease that is currently or was previously subject to a research study by the National Institutes of Health Rare Disease Clinical Research Network **or** that it affects fewer than 200,000 U.S. residents per year.

For purposes of this section, Your attending Physician must be a licensed, board-certified or board eligible Physician qualified to practice in the area appropriate to treat Your condition or disease. In addition, for a rare disease treatment, the attending Physician may not be Your treating Physician.

- D. Your Right to Appeal a Determination that a Service is Out-of-Network.** If We have denied coverage of an out-of-network treatment because it is not materially different than the health service available in-network, You may appeal to an External Appeal Agent if You meet the two (2) requirements for an external appeal in paragraph “A” above, and You have requested Preauthorization for the out-of-network treatment.

In addition, Your attending Physician must certify that the out-of-network service is materially different from the alternate recommended in-network health service, and based on two (2) documents from available medical and scientific evidence, is likely to be more clinically beneficial than the alternate in-network treatment and that the adverse risk of the requested health service would likely not be substantially increased over the alternate in-network health service.

For purposes of this section, Your attending Physician must be a licensed, board-certified or board eligible Physician qualified to practice in the specialty area appropriate to treat You for the health service.

- E. Your Right to Appeal an Out-of-Network Authorization Denial to a Non-Participating Provider.** If We have denied coverage of a request for an authorization to a Non-Participating Provider because We determine We have a Participating Provider with the appropriate training and experience to meet Your particular health care needs who is able to provide the requested health care service, You may appeal

to an External Appeal Agent if You meet the two (2) requirements for an external appeal in paragraph “A” above.

In addition, Your attending Physician must: 1) certify that the Participating Provider recommended by Us does not have the appropriate training and experience to meet Your particular health care needs; and 2) recommend a Non-Participating Provider with the appropriate training and experience to meet Your particular health care needs who is able to provide the requested health care service.

For purposes of this section, Your attending Physician must be a licensed, board certified or board eligible Physician qualified to practice in the specialty area appropriate to treat You for the health service.

**F. Your Right to Appeal a Formulary Exception Denial.** If We have denied Your request for coverage of a non-formulary Prescription Drug through Our formulary exception process, You, Your designee or the prescribing Health Care Professional may appeal the formulary exception denial to an External Appeal Agent. See the Prescription Drug Coverage section of this Certificate for more information on the formulary exception process.

**G. The External Appeal Process.** You have four (4) months from receipt of a final adverse determination or from receipt of a waiver of the internal Appeal process to file a written request for an external appeal. If You are filing an external appeal based on Our failure to adhere to claim processing requirements, You have four (4) months from such failure to file a written request for an external appeal.

We will provide an external appeal application with the final adverse determination issued through Our internal Appeal process or Our written waiver of an internal Appeal. You may also request an external appeal application from the New York State Department of Financial Services at 1-800-400-8882. Submit the completed application to the Department of Financial Services at the address indicated on the application. If You meet the criteria for an external appeal, the State will forward the request to a certified External Appeal Agent.

You can submit additional documentation with Your external appeal request. If the External Appeal Agent determines that the information You submit represents a material change from the information on which We based Our denial, the External Appeal Agent will share this information with Us in order for Us to exercise Our right to reconsider Our decision. If We choose to exercise this right, We will have three (3) business days to amend or confirm Our decision. Please note that in the case of an expedited external appeal (described below), We do not have a right to reconsider Our decision.

In general, the External Appeal Agent must make a decision within 30 days of receipt of Your completed application. The External Appeal Agent may request additional information from You, Your Physician, or Us. If the External Appeal Agent requests

additional information, it will have five (5) additional business days to make its decision. The External Appeal Agent must notify You in writing of its decision within two (2) business days.

If Your attending Physician certifies that a delay in providing the service that has been denied poses an imminent or serious threat to Your health; or if Your attending Physician certifies that the standard external appeal time frame would seriously jeopardize Your life, health or ability to regain maximum function; or if You received Emergency Services and have not been discharged from a Facility and the denial concerns an admission, availability of care, or continued stay, You may request an expedited external appeal. In that case, the External Appeal Agent must make a decision within 72 hours of receipt of Your completed application. Immediately after reaching a decision, the External Appeal Agent must notify You and Us by telephone or facsimile of that decision. The External Appeal Agent must also notify You in writing of its decision.

If Your internal formulary exception request received a standard review through Our formulary exception process, the External Appeal Agent must make a decision on Your external appeal and notify You or Your designee and the prescribing Health Care Professional by telephone within 72 hours of receipt of Your completed application. The External Appeal Agent will notify You or Your designee and the prescribing Health Care Professional in writing within two (2) business days of making a determination. If the External Appeal Agent overturns Our denial, We will Cover the Prescription Drug while You are taking the Prescription Drug, including any refills.

If Your internal formulary exception request received an expedited review through Our formulary exception process, the External Appeal Agent must make a decision on Your external appeal and notify You or Your designee and the prescribing Health Care Professional by telephone within 24 hours of receipt of Your completed application. The External Appeal Agent will notify You or Your designee and the prescribing Health Care Professional in writing within 72 hours of receipt of Your completed application. If the External Appeal Agent overturns Our denial, We will Cover the Prescription Drug while You suffer from the health condition that may seriously jeopardize Your health, life or ability to regain maximum function or for the duration of Your current course of treatment using the non-formulary Prescription Drug.

If the External Appeal Agent overturns Our decision that a service is not Medically Necessary or approves coverage of an experimental or investigational treatment or an out-of-network treatment We will provide coverage subject to the other terms and conditions of this Certificate. Please note that if the External Appeal Agent approves coverage of an experimental or investigational treatment that is part of a clinical trial, We will only Cover the cost of services required to provide treatment to You according to the design of the trial. We will not be responsible for the costs of investigational drugs or devices, the costs of non-health care services, the costs of managing the research, or costs that would not be Covered under this Certificate for non-investigational treatments provided in the clinical trial.

The External Appeal Agent's decision is binding on both You and Us. The External Appeal Agent's decision is admissible in any court proceeding.

**H. Your Responsibilities. It is Your responsibility to start the external appeal process.** You may start the external appeal process by filing a completed application with the New York State Department of Financial Services. You may appoint a representative to assist You with Your application; however, the Department of Financial Services may contact You and request that You confirm in writing that You have appointed the representative.

**Under New York State law, Your completed request for external appeal must be filed within four (4) months of either the date upon which You receive a final adverse determination, or the date upon which You receive a written waiver of any internal Appeal, or Our failure to adhere to claim processing requirements. We have no authority to extend this deadline.**

## SECTION XXII. COORDINATION OF BENEFITS

This section applies when you also have group health coverage with another plan. When You receive a Covered service, We will coordinate benefit payments with any payment made by another plan. The primary plan will pay its full benefits and the other plan may pay secondary benefits, if necessary, to cover some or all of the remaining expenses. This coordination prevents duplicate payments and overpayments. We do not coordinate benefit payments for vision benefits.

### A. Definitions.

1. **“Allowable expense”** is the necessary, reasonable, and customary item of expense for health care, when the item is covered at least in part under any of the plans involved, except where a statute requires a different definition. When a plan provides benefits in the form of services, the reasonable cash value of each service will be considered as both an allowable expense and a benefit paid.
2. **“Plan”** is other group health coverage with which We will coordinate benefits. The term “plan” includes:
  - Group health benefits and group blanket or group remittance health benefits coverage, whether insured, self-insured, or self-funded. This includes group HMO and other prepaid group coverage, but does not include blanket school accident coverage or coverages issued to a substantially similar group (e.g., Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts) where the school or organization pays the premiums.
  - Medical benefits coverage, in group and individual automobile “no-fault” and traditional liability “fault” type contracts.
  - Hospital, medical, and surgical benefits coverage of Medicare or a governmental plan offered, required, or provided by law, except Medicaid or any other plan whose benefits are by law excess to any private insurance coverage.
3. **“Primary plan”** is one whose benefits must be determined without taking the existence of any other plan into consideration. A plan is primary if either: 1) the plan has no order of benefits rules or its rules differ from those required by regulation; or 2) all plans which cover the person use the order of benefits rules required by regulation and under those rules the plan determines its benefits first. More than one plan may be a primary plan (for example, two plans which have no order of benefit determination rules).
4. **“Secondary plan”** is one which is not a primary plan. If a person is covered by more than one secondary plan, the order of benefit determination rules decide the order in which their benefits are determined in relation to each other.

**B. Rules to Determine Order of Payment.** The first of the rules listed below in paragraphs 1-6 that applies will determine which plan will be primary:

1. If the other plan does not have a provision similar to this one, then the other plan will be primary.
2. If the person receiving benefits is the Subscriber and is only covered as a Dependent under the other plan, this Certificate will be primary.
3. If a child is covered under the plans of both parents and the parents are not separated or divorced, the plan of the parent whose birthday falls earlier in the year will be primary. If both parents have the same birthday, the plan which covered the parent longer will be primary. To determine whose birthday falls earlier in the year, only the month and day are considered. However, if the other plan does not have this birthday rule, but instead has a rule based on the sex of the parent and as a result the plans do not agree on which is primary, then the rule in the other plan will determine which plan is primary.
4. If a child is covered by both parents' plans, the parents are separated or divorced, and there is no court decree between the parents that establishes financial responsibility for the child's health care expenses:
  - The plan of the parent who has custody will be primary;
  - If the parent with custody has remarried, and the child is also covered as a child under the step-parent's plan, the plan of the parent with custody will pay first, the step-parent's plan will pay second, and the plan of the parent without custody will pay third; and
  - If a court decree between the parents says which parent is responsible for the child's health care expenses, then that parent's plan will be primary if that plan has actual knowledge of the decree.
5. If the person receiving services is covered under one plan as an active employee or member (i.e., not laid-off or retired), or as the spouse or child of such an active employee, and is also covered under another plan as a laid-off or retired employee or as the spouse or child of such a laid-off or retired employee, the plan that covers such person as an active employee or spouse or child of an active employee will be primary. If the other plan does not have this rule, and as a result the plans do not agree on which will be primary, this rule will be ignored.
6. If none of the above rules determine which plan is primary, the plan that covered the person receiving services longer will be primary.

**C. Effects of Coordination.** When this plan is secondary, its benefits will be reduced so that the total benefits paid by the primary plan and this plan during a claim determination period will not exceed Our maximum available benefit for each Covered Service. Also, the amount We pay will not be more than the amount We would pay if We were primary. As each claim is submitted, We will determine Our obligation to pay for allowable expenses based upon all claims that have been submitted up to that point in time during the claim determination period.

- D. Right to Receive and Release Necessary Information.** We may release or receive information that We need to coordinate benefits. We do not need to tell anyone or receive consent to do this. We are not responsible to anyone for releasing or obtaining this information. You must give Us any needed information for coordination purposes, in the time frame requested.
- E. Our Right to Recover Overpayment.** If We made a payment as a primary plan, You agree to pay Us any amount by which We should have reduced Our payment. Also, We may recover any overpayment from the primary plan or the Provider receiving payment and You agree to sign all documents necessary to help Us recover any overpayment.
- F. Coordination with “Always Excess,” “Always Secondary,” or “Non-Complying” Plans.** Except as described below, We will coordinate benefits with plans, whether insured or self-insured, that provide benefits that are stated to be always excess or always secondary or use order of benefit determination rules that are inconsistent with the rules described above in the following manner:
1. If this Certificate is primary, as defined in this section, We will pay benefits first.
  2. If this Certificate is secondary, as defined in this section, We will pay only the amount We would pay as the secondary insurer.
  3. If We request information from a non-complying plan and do not receive it within 30 days, We will calculate the amount We should pay on the assumption that the non-complying plan and this Certificate provide identical benefits. When the information is received, We will make any necessary adjustments.

If a blanket accident insurance policy issued in accordance with Section 1015.11 of the General Business Law contains a provision that its benefits are excess or always secondary, then this Certificate is primary.

## **SECTION XXIII. TERMINATION OF COVERAGE**

Coverage under this Certificate will automatically be terminated on the first of the following to apply:

1. The Group and/or Subscriber has failed to pay Premiums within 30 days of when Premiums are due. Coverage will terminate as of the last day for which Premiums were paid.
2. The date on which the Subscriber ceases to meet the eligibility requirements as defined by the Group.
3. Upon the Subscriber's death, coverage will terminate unless the Subscriber has coverage for Dependents. If the Subscriber has coverage for Dependents, then coverage will terminate as of the last day of the month for which the Premium had been paid.
4. For Spouses in cases of divorce, the date of the divorce.
5. For Children, until the end of the month in which the Child turns 26 years of age.
6. For all other Dependents, the end of the month in which the Dependent ceases to be eligible.
7. The end of the month following the Group's provision of written notice of termination of coverage to Us; or such later termination date requested by the Group's notice.
8. If the Subscriber or the Subscriber's Dependent has performed an act that constitutes fraud or the Subscriber has made an intentional misrepresentation of material fact in writing on his or her enrollment application, or in order to obtain coverage for a service, coverage will terminate immediately upon written notice of termination delivered by Us to the Subscriber and/or the Subscriber's Dependent, as applicable. However, if the Subscriber makes an intentional misrepresentation of material fact in writing on his or her enrollment application, We will rescind coverage if the facts misrepresented would have led Us to refuse to issue the coverage. Rescission means that the termination of Your coverage will have a retroactive effect of up to Your enrollment under the Certificate. If termination is a result of the Subscriber's action, coverage will terminate for the Subscriber and any Dependents. If termination is a result of the Dependent's action, coverage will terminate for the Dependent.
9. The date that the Group Contract is terminated. If We decide to stop offering a particular class of group contracts, without regard to claims experience or health related status, to which this Certificate belongs, We will provide the Group and Subscribers at least 90 days' prior written notice.

10. If We decide to stop offering all hospital, surgical and medical expense coverage in the small group market in this state, We will provide written notice to the Group and Subscriber at least 180 days prior to when the coverage will cease.
11. The Group has performed an act or practice that constitutes fraud or made an intentional misrepresentation of material fact under the terms of the coverage.
12. The Group has failed to comply with a material plan provision relating to group participation rules. We will provide written notice to the Group and Subscriber at least 30 days prior to when the coverage will cease.
13. The Group ceases to meet the statutory requirements to be defined as a group for the purpose of obtaining coverage. We will provide written notice to the Group and Subscriber at least 30 days prior to when the coverage will cease.
14. The date there is no longer any Subscriber who lives, resides, or works in Our Service Area.

No termination shall prejudice the right to a claim for benefits which arose prior to such termination.

See the Continuation of Coverage section of this Certificate for Your right to continuation of this coverage. See the Conversion Right to a New Contract after Termination section of this Certificate for Your right to conversion to an individual Contract.

## SECTION XXIV. EXTENSION OF BENEFITS

When Your coverage under this Certificate ends, benefits stop. But, if You are totally disabled on the date the Group Contract terminates, or on the date Your coverage under this Certificate terminates, continued benefits may be available for the treatment of the injury or sickness that is the cause of the total disability.

For purposes of this section, “total disability” means You are prevented because of injury or disease from engaging in any work or other gainful activity. Total disability for a minor means that the minor is prevented because of injury or disease from engaging in substantially all of the normal activities of a person of like age and sex who is in good health.

**A. When You May Continue Benefits.** When Your coverage under this Certificate ends, We will provide benefits during a period of total disability for a Hospital stay commencing, or surgery performed, within 31 days from the date Your coverage ends. The Hospital stay or surgery must be for the treatment of the injury, sickness, or pregnancy causing the total disability.

If Your coverage ends because You are no longer employed, We will provide benefits during a period of total disability for up to 12 months from the date Your coverage ends for Covered services to treat the injury, sickness, or pregnancy that caused the total disability, unless these services are covered under another group health plan.

**B. Termination of Extension of Benefits.** Extended benefits will end on the earliest of the following:

- The date You are no longer totally disabled;
- The date the contractual benefit has been exhausted;
- 12 months from the date extended benefits began (if Your benefits are extended based on termination of employment); or
- With respect to the 12-month extension of coverage, the date You become eligible for benefits under any group policy providing medical benefits.

**C. Limits on Extended Benefits.** We will not pay extended benefits:

- For any Member who is not totally disabled on the date coverage under this Certificate ends; or
- Beyond the extent to which We would have paid benefits under this Certificate if coverage had not ended.

## SECTION XXV. CONTINUATION OF COVERAGE

Under the continuation of coverage provisions of the federal Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1985 ("COBRA"), most employer-sponsored group health plans must offer employees and their families the opportunity for a temporary continuation of health insurance coverage when their coverage would otherwise end. If You are not entitled to temporary continuation of coverage under COBRA, You may be entitled to temporary continuation coverage under the New York Insurance Law as described below. Call or write Your employer to find out if You are entitled to temporary continuation of coverage under COBRA or under the New York Insurance Law. Any period of continuation of coverage will terminate automatically at the end of the period of continuation provided under COBRA or the New York Insurance Law.

**A. Qualifying Events.** Pursuant to federal COBRA and state continuation coverage laws, You, the Subscriber, Your Spouse and Your Children may be able to temporarily continue coverage under this Certificate in certain situations when You would otherwise lose coverage, known as qualifying events.

1. If Your coverage ends due to voluntary or involuntary termination of employment or a change in Your employee class (e.g., a reduction in the number of hours of employment), You may continue coverage. Coverage may be continued for You, Your Spouse and any of Your covered Children.
2. If You are a covered Spouse, You may continue coverage if Your coverage ends due to:
  - Voluntary or involuntary termination of the Subscriber's employment;
  - Reduction in the hours worked by the Subscriber or other change in the Subscriber's class;
  - Divorce or legal separation from the Subscriber; or
  - Death of the Subscriber.
3. If You are a covered Child, You may continue coverage if Your coverage ends due to:
  - Voluntary or involuntary termination of the Subscriber's employment;
  - Reduction in the hours worked by the Subscriber or other change in the Subscriber's class;
  - Loss of covered Child status under the plan rules; or
  - Death of the Subscriber.

If You want to continue coverage, You must request continuation from the Group in writing and make the first Premium payment within the 60-day period following the later of:

1. The date coverage would otherwise terminate; or
2. The date You are sent notice by first class mail of the right of continuation by the Group.

The Group may charge up to 102% of the Group Premium for continued coverage.

Continued coverage under this section will terminate at the earliest of the following:

1. The date 36 months after the Subscriber's coverage would have terminated because of termination of employment;
2. If You are a covered Spouse or Child, the date 36 months after coverage would have terminated due to the death of the Subscriber, divorce or legal separation, the Subscriber's eligibility for Medicare, or the failure to qualify under the definition of "Children";
3. The date You become covered by an insured or uninsured arrangement that provides group hospital, surgical or medical coverage;
4. The date You become entitled to Medicare;
5. The date to which Premiums are paid if You fail to make a timely payment; or
6. The date the Group Contract terminates. However, if the Group Contract is replaced with similar coverage, You have the right to become covered under the new Group Contract for the balance of the period remaining for Your continued coverage.

When Your continuation of coverage ends, You may have a right to conversion. See the Conversion Right to a New Contract after Termination section of this Certificate.

**B. Supplementary Continuation, Conversion, and Temporary Suspension Rights During Active Duty.** If You, the Subscriber, are a member of a reserve component of the armed forces of the United States, including the National Guard, You have the right to continuation, conversion, or a temporary suspension of coverage during active duty and reinstatement of coverage at the end of active duty if Your Group does not voluntarily maintain Your coverage and if:

1. Your active duty is extended during a period when the president is authorized to order units of the reserve to active duty, provided that such additional active duty is at the request and for the convenience of the federal government; and
2. You serve no more than four (4) years of active duty.

When Your Group does not voluntarily maintain Your coverage during active duty, coverage under this Certificate will be suspended unless You elect to continue coverage in writing within 60 days of being ordered to active duty and You pay the Group the required Premium payment but not more frequently than on a monthly basis in advance. This right of continuation extends to You and Your eligible Dependents. Continuation of coverage is not available for any person who is eligible to be covered under Medicare; or any person who is covered as an employee, member or dependent under any other insured or uninsured arrangement which provides group hospital, surgical or medical coverage, except for coverage available to active duty members of the uniformed services and their family members.

Upon completion of active duty:

1. Your coverage under this Certificate may be resumed as long as You are reemployed or restored to participation in the Group upon return to civilian status.

The right of resumption extends to coverage for Your covered Dependents. For coverage that was suspended while on active duty, coverage under the Group plan will be retroactive to the date on which active duty terminated.

2. If You are not reemployed or restored to participation in Your Group upon return to civilian status, You will be eligible for continuation and conversion as long as You apply to Us for coverage within 31 days of the termination of active duty or discharge from a Hospitalization resulting from active duty as long as the Hospitalization was not in excess of one (1) year.

**C. Availability of Age 29 Dependent Coverage Extension – Young Adult Option.** The Subscriber's Child may be eligible to purchase continuation coverage under the Group's Contract through the age of 29 if he or she:

1. Is under the age of 30;
2. Is not married;
3. Is not insured by or eligible for coverage under an employer-sponsored health benefit plan covering him or her as an employee or member, whether insured or self-insured;
4. Lives, works or resides in New York State or Our Service Area; and
5. Is not covered by Medicare.

The Child may purchase continuation coverage even if he or she is not financially dependent on his or her parent(s) and does not need to live with his or her parent(s).

The Subscriber's Child may elect this coverage:

1. Within 60 days of the date that his or her coverage would otherwise end due to reaching the maximum age for Dependent coverage, in which case coverage will be retroactive to the date that coverage would otherwise have terminated;
2. Within 60 days of newly meeting the eligibility requirements, in which case coverage will be prospective and start within 30 days of when the Group or the Group's designee receives notice and We receive Premium payment; or
3. During an annual 30-day open enrollment period, in which case coverage will be prospective and will start within 30 days of when the Group or the Group's designee receives notice of election and We receive Premium payment.

The Subscriber or Subscriber's Child must pay the Premium rate that applies to individual coverage. Coverage will be the same as the coverage provided under this Certificate. The Child's children are not eligible for coverage under this option.

## SECTION XXVI. CONVERSION RIGHT TO A NEW CONTRACT AFTER TERMINATION

**A. Circumstances Giving Rise to Right to Conversion.** You have the right to convert to a new Contract if coverage under this Certificate terminates under the circumstances described below.

- 1. Termination of the Group Contract.** If the Group Contract between Us and the Group is terminated as set forth in the Termination of Coverage section of this Certificate, and the Group has not replaced the coverage with similar and continuous health care coverage, whether insured or self-insured, You are entitled to purchase a new Contract as a direct payment member.
- 2. If You Are No Longer Covered in a Group.** If Your coverage terminates under the Termination of Coverage section of this Certificate because You are no longer a member of a Group, You are entitled to purchase a new Contract as a direct payment member.
- 3. On the Death of the Subscriber.** If coverage terminates under the Termination of Coverage section of this Certificate because of the death of the Subscriber, the Subscriber's Dependents are entitled to purchase a new Contract as direct payment members.
- 4. Termination of Your Marriage.** If a Spouse's coverage terminates under the Termination of Coverage section of this Certificate because the Spouse becomes divorced from the Subscriber or the marriage is annulled, that former Spouse is entitled to purchase a new Contract as a direct payment member.
- 5. Termination of Coverage of a Child.** If a Child's coverage terminates under the Termination of Coverage section of this Certificate because the Child no longer qualifies as a Child, the Child is entitled to purchase a new Contract as a direct payment member.
- 6. Termination of Your Temporary Continuation of Coverage.** If coverage terminates under the Termination of Coverage section of this Certificate because You are no longer eligible for continuation of coverage, You are entitled to purchase a new Contract as a direct payment member.
- 7. Termination of Your Young Adult Coverage.** If a Child's young adult coverage terminates under the Termination of Coverage section of this Certificate, the Child is entitled to purchase a new Contract as a direct payment member.

**B. When to Apply for the New Contract.** If You are entitled to purchase a new Contract as described above, You must apply to Us for the new Contract within 60 days after termination of coverage under this Certificate. You must also pay the first Premium of the new Contract at the time You apply for coverage.

**C. The New Contract.** We will offer You an individual direct payment Contract at each level of coverage (i.e., bronze, silver, gold or platinum) that Covers all benefits required by state and federal law. You may choose among any of the four (4) Contracts offered by Us. The coverage may not be the same as Your current coverage. If We determine that You do not reside in New York State, We may issue You or Your family members coverage on a form that we use for conversion in that state.

## SECTION XXVII. GENERAL PROVISIONS

1. **Agreements Between Us and Participating Providers.** Any agreement between Us and Participating Providers may only be terminated by Us or the Providers. This Certificate does not require any Provider to accept a Member as a patient. We do not guarantee a Member's admission to any Participating Provider or any health benefits program.
2. **Assignment.** You cannot assign any benefits under this Certificate or legal claims based on a denial of benefits or request for plan documents to any person, corporation or other organization and any such assignment will be void and unenforceable. You cannot assign any monies due under this Certificate to any person, corporation or other organization.

Assignment means the transfer to another person, corporation or other organization of Your right to the services provided under this Certificate or Your right to collect money from Us for those services or Your right to sue based on a denial of benefits or request for plan documents. Nothing in this paragraph shall affect Your right to appoint a designee or representative as otherwise permitted by applicable law.

3. **Changes in this Certificate.** We may unilaterally change this Certificate upon renewal, if We give the Group 30 days' prior written notice.
4. **Choice of Law.** This Certificate shall be governed by the laws of the State of New York.
5. **Clerical Error.** Clerical error, whether by the Group or Us, with respect to this Certificate, or any other documentation issued by Us in connection with this Certificate, or in keeping any record pertaining to the coverage hereunder, will not modify or invalidate coverage otherwise validly in force or continue coverage otherwise validly terminated.
6. **Conformity with Law.** Any term of this Certificate which conflicts with New York State law or with any applicable federal law that imposes additional requirements from what is required under New York State law will be amended to conform with the minimum requirements of such law.
7. **Continuation of Benefit Limitations.** Some of the benefits in this Certificate may be limited to a specific number of visits, and/or subject to a Deductible. You will not be entitled to any additional benefits if Your coverage status should change during the year. For example, if Your coverage status changes from covered family member to Subscriber, all benefits previously utilized when you were a covered family member will be applied toward your new status as a Subscriber.
8. **Enrollment ERISA.** The Group will develop and maintain complete and accurate payroll records, as well as any other records of the names, addresses, ages, and social security numbers of all Group Members covered under this Certificate, and

any other information required to confirm their eligibility for coverage.

The Group will provide Us with this information upon request. The Group may also have additional responsibilities as the “plan administrator” as defined by the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (“ERISA”), as amended. The “plan administrator” is the Group, or a third party appointed by the Group. We are not the ERISA plan administrator.

The Group will provide Us with the enrollment form including Your name, address, age, and social security number and advise Us in writing when You are to be added to or subtracted from Our list of covered persons, on a monthly basis, on or before the same date of the month as the effective date of the Group's Contract with Us. If the Group fails to so advise Us, the Group will be responsible for the cost of any claims paid by Us as a result of such failure. In no event will retroactive additions to or deletions from coverage be made for periods in excess of thirty (30) days.

- 9. Entire Agreement.** This Certificate, including any endorsements, riders and the attached applications, if any, constitutes the entire Certificate.
- 10. Fraud and Abusive Billing.** We have processes to review claims before and after payment to detect fraud and abusive billing. Members seeking services from Non-Participating Providers could be balance billed by the Non-Participating Provider for those services that are determined to be not payable as a result of a reasonable belief of fraud or other intentional misconduct or abusive billing.
- 11. Furnishing Information and Audit.** The Group and all persons covered under this Certificate will promptly furnish Us with all information and records that We may require from time to time to perform Our obligations under this Certificate. You must provide Us with information over the telephone for reasons such as the following: to allow Us to determine the level of care You need; so that We may certify care authorized by Your Physician; or to make decisions regarding the Medical Necessity of Your care. The Group will, upon reasonable notice, make available to Us, and We may audit and make copies of, any and all records relating to Group enrollment at the Group's New York office.
- 12. Identification Cards.** Identification (“ID”) cards are issued by Us for identification purposes only. Possession of any ID card confers no right to services or benefits under this Certificate. To be entitled to such services or benefits, Your Premiums must be paid in full at the time the services are sought to be received.
- 13. Incontestability.** No statement made by You will be the basis for avoiding or reducing coverage unless it is in writing and signed by You. All statements contained in any such written instrument shall be deemed representations and not warranties.

**14. Independent Contractors.** Participating Providers are independent contractors. They are not Our agents or employees. We and Our employees are not the agent or employee of any Participating Provider. We are not liable for any claim or demand on account of damages arising out of, or in any manner connected with, any injuries alleged to be suffered by You, Your covered Spouse or Children while receiving care from any Participating Provider or in any Participating Provider's Facility.

**15. Input in Developing Our Policies.** Subscribers may participate in the development of Our policies by calling or writing to Member Services. We encourage You to send suggestions about how We may improve Our products or Our policies and procedures. Also, We regularly conduct customer satisfaction surveys that permit You to share Your suggestions and opinions with Us.

**16. Material Accessibility.** We will give the Group, and the Group will give You ID cards, Certificates, riders and other necessary materials.

**17. More Information about Your Health Plan.** You can request additional information about Your coverage under this Certificate. Upon Your request, We will provide the following information:

- A list of the names, business addresses and official positions of Our board of directors, officers and members; and Our most recent annual certified financial statement which includes a balance sheet and a summary of the receipts and disbursements.
- The information that We provide the State regarding Our consumer complaints.
- A copy of Our procedures for maintaining confidentiality of Member information.
- A copy of Our drug formulary. You may also inquire if a specific drug is Covered under this Certificate.
- A written description of Our quality assurance program.
- A copy of Our medical policy regarding an experimental or investigational drug, medical device or treatment in clinical trials.
- Provider affiliations with participating Hospitals.
- A copy of Our clinical review criteria (e.g., Medical Necessity criteria), and where appropriate, other clinical information We may consider regarding a specific disease, course of treatment or Utilization Review guidelines, including clinical review criteria relating to a step therapy protocol override determination.
- Written application procedures and minimum qualification requirements for Providers.
- Documents that contain the processes, strategies, evidentiary standards, and other factors used to apply a treatment limitation with respect to

medical/surgical benefits and mental health or substance use disorder benefits under the Certificate.

**18. Notice.** Any notice that We give You under this Certificate will be mailed to Your address as it appears in Our records or delivered electronically if You consent to electronic delivery or to the address of the Group. If notice is delivered to You electronically, You may also request a copy of the notice from Us. You agree to provide Us with notice of any change of Your address. If You have to give Us any notice, it should be sent by U.S. mail, first class, postage prepaid to the address on Your ID card.

**19. Premium Refund.** We will give any refund of Premiums, if due, to the Group.

**20. Recovery of Overpayments.** On occasion a payment may be made to You when You are not covered, for a service that is not Covered, or which is more than is proper. When this happens We will explain the problem to You and You must return the amount of the overpayment to Us within 60 days after receiving notification from Us. However, We shall not initiate overpayment recovery efforts more than 24 months after the original payment was made unless We have a reasonable belief of fraud or other intentional misconduct.

**21. Renewal Date.** The renewal date for this Certificate is the anniversary of the effective date of the Group Contract of each year. This Certificate will automatically renew each year on the renewal date, unless otherwise terminated by Us or the Group as permitted by this Certificate.

**22. Right to Develop Guidelines and Administrative Rules.** We may develop or adopt standards that describe in more detail when We will or will not make payments under this Certificate. Examples of the use of the standards are to determine whether Hospital inpatient care was Medically Necessary; surgery was Medically Necessary to treat Your illness or injury; or certain services are skilled care. Those standards will not be contrary to the descriptions in this Certificate. If You have a question about the standards that apply to a particular benefit, You may contact Us and We will explain the standards or send You a copy of the standards. We may also develop administrative rules pertaining to enrollment and other administrative matters. We shall have all the powers necessary or appropriate to enable Us to carry out Our duties in connection with the administration of this Certificate.

We review and evaluate new technology according to technology evaluation criteria developed by Our medical directors and reviewed by a designated committee, which consists of Health Care Professionals from various medical specialties. Conclusions of the committee are incorporated into Our medical policies to establish decision protocols for determining whether a service is Medically Necessary, experimental or investigational, or included as a Covered benefit.

**23. Right to Offset.** If We make a claim payment to You or on Your behalf in error or You owe Us any money, You must repay the amount You owe Us. Except as otherwise required by law, if We owe You a payment for other claims received, We have the right to subtract any amount You owe Us from any payment We owe You.

**24. Service Marks.** Empire HealthChoice Assurance, Inc. (Empire) is an independent corporation organized under the New York Insurance Law. Empire also operates under licenses with the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association, which licenses Empire to use the Blue Cross and/or Blue Shield service marks in a portion of New York State. Empire does not act as an agent of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association. Empire is solely responsible for the obligations created under this agreement.

**25. Severability.** The unenforceability or invalidity of any provision of this Certificate shall not affect the validity and enforceability of the remainder of this Certificate.

**26. Significant Change in Circumstances.** If We are unable to arrange for Covered Services as provided under this Certificate as the result of events outside of Our control, We will make a good faith effort to make alternative arrangements. These events would include a major disaster, epidemic, the complete or partial destruction of facilities, riot, civil insurrection, disability of a significant part of Participating Providers' personnel, or similar causes. We will make reasonable attempts to arrange for Covered Services. We and Our Participating Providers will not be liable for delay, or failure to provide or arrange for Covered Services if such failure or delay is caused by such an event.

**27. Subrogation and Reimbursement.** These paragraphs apply when another party (including any insurer) is, or may be found to be, responsible for Your injury, illness or other condition and We have provided benefits related to that injury, illness or condition. As permitted by applicable state law, unless preempted by federal law, We may be subrogated to all rights of recovery against any such party (including Your own insurance carrier) for the benefits We have provided to you under this Certificate. Subrogation means that We have the right, independently of you, to proceed directly against the other party to recover the benefits that We have provided.

Subject to applicable state law, unless preempted by federal law, We may have a right of reimbursement if you or anyone on your behalf receives payment from any responsible party (including Your own insurance carrier) from any settlement, verdict or insurance proceeds, in connection with an injury, illness, or condition for which We provided benefits. Under New York General Obligations Law Section 5-335, Our right of recovery does not apply when a settlement is reached between a plaintiff and defendant, unless a statutory right of reimbursement exists. The law also provides that, when entering into a settlement, it is presumed that You did not

take any action against Our rights or violate any contract between You and Us. The law presumes that the settlement between You and the responsible party does not include compensation for the cost of health care services for which We provided benefits.

We request that You notify Us 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 injury, illness or condition sustained by You for which we have provided benefits. You must provide all information requested by Us or Our representatives including, but not limited to, completing and submitting any applications or other forms or statements as We may reasonably request.

**28. Third Party Beneficiaries.** No third party beneficiaries are intended to be created by this Certificate and nothing in this Certificate shall confer upon any person or entity other than You or Us any right, benefit, or remedy of any nature whatsoever under or by reason of this Certificate. No other party can enforce this Certificate's provisions or seek any remedy arising out of either Our or Your performance or failure to perform any portion of this Certificate, or to bring an action or pursuit for the breach of any terms of this Certificate.

**29. Time to Sue.** No action at law or in equity may be maintained against Us prior to the expiration of 60 days after written submission of a claim has been furnished to Us as required in this Certificate. You must start any lawsuit against Us under this Certificate within two (2) years from the date the claim was required to be filed.

**30. Translation Services.** Translation services are available free of charge under this Certificate for non-English speaking Members. Please contact Us at the number on Your ID card to access these services. TTY/TDD services are also available by dialing 711. A special operator will get in touch with Us to help with Your needs.

**31. Venue for Legal Action.** If a dispute arises under this Certificate, it must be resolved in a court located in the State of New York. You agree not to start a lawsuit against Us in a court anywhere else. You also consent to New York State courts having personal jurisdiction over You. That means that, when the proper procedures for starting a lawsuit in these courts have been followed, the courts can order You to defend any action We bring against You.

**32. Waiver.** The waiver by any party of any breach of any provision of this Certificate will not be construed as a waiver of any subsequent breach of the same or any other provision. The failure to exercise any right hereunder will not operate as a waiver of such right.

**33. Who May Change this Certificate.** This Certificate may not be modified, amended, or changed, except in writing and signed by Our President or a person designated

by the President. No employee, agent, or other person is authorized to interpret, amend, modify, or otherwise change this Certificate in a manner that expands or limits the scope of coverage, or the conditions of eligibility, enrollment, or participation, unless in writing and signed by the President or person designated by the President.

**34. Who Receives Payment under this Certificate.** Payments under this Certificate for services provided by a Participating Provider will be made directly by Us to the Provider. If You receive services from a Non-Participating Provider, We reserve the right to pay either You or the Provider. However, We will directly pay a Provider instead of You for Emergency Services, including inpatient services following Emergency Department Care, pre-hospital emergency medical services, air ambulance services, and surprise bills.

**35. Workers' Compensation Not Affected.** The coverage provided under this Certificate is not in lieu of and does not affect any requirements for coverage by workers' compensation insurance or law.

**36. Your Medical Records and Reports.** In order to provide Your coverage under this Certificate, it may be necessary for Us to obtain Your medical records and information from Providers who treated You. Our actions to provide that coverage include processing Your claims, reviewing Grievances, Appeals or complaints involving Your care, and quality assurance reviews of Your care, whether based on a specific complaint or a routine audit of randomly selected cases. By accepting coverage under this Certificate, except as prohibited by state or federal law, You automatically give Us or Our designee permission to obtain and use Your medical records for those purposes and You authorize each and every Provider who renders services to You to:

- Disclose all facts pertaining to Your care, treatment, and physical condition to Us or to a medical, dental, or mental health professional that We may engage to assist Us in reviewing a treatment or claim, or in connection with a complaint or quality of care review;
- Render reports pertaining to Your care, treatment, and physical condition to Us, or to a medical, dental, or mental health professional that We may engage to assist Us in reviewing a treatment or claim; and
- Permit copying of Your medical records by Us.

We agree to maintain Your medical information in accordance with state and federal confidentiality requirements. However, to the extent permitted under state or federal law, You automatically give Us permission to share Your information with the New York State Department of Health, quality oversight organizations, and third parties with which We contract to assist Us in administering this Certificate, so long as they also agree to maintain the information in accordance with state and federal confidentiality requirements.

**37. Your Rights and Responsibilities.** As a Member, You have rights and responsibilities when receiving health care. As Your health care partner, We want to make sure Your rights are respected while providing Your health benefits. You have the right to obtain complete and current information concerning a diagnosis, treatment and prognosis from a Physician or other Provider in terms You can reasonably understand. When it is not advisable to give such information to You, the information shall be made available to an appropriate person acting on Your behalf.

You have the right to receive information from Your Physician or other Provider that You need in order to give Your informed consent prior to the start of any procedure or treatment.

You have the right to refuse treatment to the extent permitted by law and to be informed of the medical consequences of that action.

You have the right to formulate advance directives regarding Your care.

You have the right to access Our Participating Providers.

As a Member, You should also take an active role in Your care. We encourage You to:

- Understand Your health problems as well as You can and work with Your Providers to make a treatment plan that You all agree on;
- Follow the treatment plan that You have agreed on with Your doctors or Providers;
- Give Us, Your doctors and other Providers the information needed to help You get the care You need and all the benefits You are eligible for under Your Certificate. This may include information about other health insurance benefits You have along with Your coverage with Us; and
- Inform Us if You have any changes to Your name, address or Dependents covered under Your Certificate.

For additional information regarding Your rights and responsibilities, visit Our website at [www.empireblue.com](http://www.empireblue.com) (see “Laws and Rights that Protect You” under FAQs). If You do not have internet access, You can call Us at the number on Your ID card to request a copy. If You need more information or would like to contact Us, please go to Our website at [www.empireblue.com](http://www.empireblue.com) or call Us at the number on Your ID card.

## SECTION XXVIII. OTHER COVERED SERVICES

- A. Adult Vision Care (age 19 or older).** The vision benefits described in this section only apply to Members age 19 or older. Please refer to the Schedule of Benefits for Cost-Sharing requirements, day or visit limits, and any preauthorization or referral requirements that apply to these benefits. To receive in-network benefits, You must use a Blue View Vision Provider. If You need help finding a Blue View Vision Provider, please call the number on Your ID card.
- 1. Routine Eye Exam.** We Cover a complete eye exam with dilation, as needed. The exam is used to check all aspects of Your vision.

## SECTION XXIX. SCHEDULE OF BENEFITS

### Empire Platinum Connection EPO 20/40 0%

<b>COST-SHARING</b>	<b>Participating Provider Member Responsibility for Cost-Sharing</b>	<b>Non-Participating Provider Member Responsibility for Cost-Sharing</b>	<b>Limits</b>
<b>Medical Deductible</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Individual</li> <li>Family</li> </ul> <b>Prescription Drug Deductible</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Individual</li> <li>Family</li> </ul>	\$0 \$0  \$100 \$200	Non-Participating Provider services are not Covered except as required for Emergency Care and Urgent Care.	
<b>Out-of-Pocket Limit *</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Individual</li> <li>Family</li> </ul> <b>*Does not include            amounts You pay for            “Adult Vision            Services (age 19 or            older)”</b>	\$2,750 \$5,500		

<b>OFFICE VISITS</b>	<b>Participating Provider  Member Responsibility for Cost-Sharing</b>	<b>Non-Participating Provider Member Responsibility for Cost-Sharing</b>	<b>Limits</b>
Primary Care Office Visits (or Home Visits)	\$20 Copayment in Office  \$20 Copayment by Telehealth	Non-Participating Provider Services are not Covered and You pay the full cost	See benefit for description
Specialist Office Visits (or Home Visits)	\$40 Copayment in Office  \$40 Copayment by Telehealth	Non-Participating Provider Services are not Covered and You pay the full cost	See benefit for description
<b>PREVENTIVE CARE</b>	<b>Participating Provider  Member Responsibility for Cost-Sharing</b>	<b>Non-Participating Provider Member Responsibility for Cost-Sharing</b>	<b>Limits</b>
Well Child Visits and Immunizations*	No Copayment, Deductible, or Coinsurance	Non-Participating Provider Services are not Covered and You pay the full cost	See benefit for description
Adult Annual Physical Examinations*	No Copayment, Deductible, or Coinsurance	Non-Participating Provider Services are not Covered and You pay the full cost	See benefit for description
Adult Immunizations*	No Copayment, Deductible, or Coinsurance	Non-Participating Provider Services are not Covered and You pay the full cost	See benefit for description
Routine Gynecological Services/Well Woman Exams*	No Copayment, Deductible, or Coinsurance	Non-Participating Provider Services are not Covered and You pay the full cost	See benefit for description

Mammograms, Screening and Diagnostic Imaging for the Detection of Breast Cancer	No Copayment, Deductible, or Coinsurance	Non-Participating Provider Services are not Covered and You pay the full cost	See benefit for description
Sterilization Procedures for Women*	No Copayment, Deductible, or Coinsurance	Non-Participating Provider Services are not Covered and You pay the full cost	See benefit for description
Vasectomy	Use Cost-Sharing for appropriate service (Surgical Services; Anesthesia Services; Ambulatory Surgical Center Facility Fee; Outpatient Hospital Surgery Facility Charge)	Non-Participating Provider Services are not Covered and You pay the full cost	See benefit for description
Bone Density Testing*	No Copayment, Deductible, or Coinsurance	Non-Participating Provider Services are not Covered and You pay the full cost	See benefit for description
Screening for Prostate Cancer	No Copayment, Deductible, or Coinsurance	Non-Participating Provider Services are not Covered and You pay the full cost	See benefit for description
All other preventive services required by USPSTF and HRSA.  <b>Preauthorization may be required for preventive colonoscopy screenings performed as Outpatient Hospital Services</b>	No Copayment, Deductible, or Coinsurance	Non-Participating Provider Services are not Covered and You pay the full cost	See benefit for description

*When preventive services are not provided in accordance with the comprehensive guidelines supported by USPSTF and HRSA.	Use Cost Sharing for appropriate service (Primary Care Office Visit; Specialist Office Visit; Diagnostic Radiology Services; Laboratory Procedures and Diagnostic Testing)	Non-Participating Provider Services are not Covered and You pay the full cost	See benefit for description
<b>EMERGENCY CARE</b>	<b>Participating Provider</b>  <b>Member Responsibility for Cost-Sharing</b>	<b>Non-Participating Provider Member Responsibility for Cost-Sharing</b>	<b>Limits</b>
Pre-Hospital Emergency Medical Services (Ambulance Services)	\$300 Copayment	Covered as in-network	See benefit for description
Non-Emergency Ambulance Services  <b>Preauthorization Required for Air and Sea Ambulance</b>	\$300 Copayment	Non-Participating Provider Services are not Covered and You pay the full cost	See benefit for description
Emergency Department  Copayment waived if admitted to Hospital	\$300 Copayment  Health care forensic examinations performed under Public Health Law § 2805-i are not subject to Cost-Sharing	Covered as in-network	See benefit for description
Urgent Care Center	\$50 Copayment in Office  \$50 Copayment by Telehealth	Covered as in-network	See benefit for description
<b>PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AND OUTPATIENT CARE</b>	<b>Participating Provider</b>  <b>Member Responsibility for Cost-Sharing</b>	<b>Non-Participating Provider Member Responsibility for Cost-Sharing</b>	<b>Limits</b>
Acupuncture	\$40 Copayment	Non-Participating Provider Services are not Covered and You	See benefit for description

		pay the full cost	
<p>Advanced Imaging Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Performed in a Specialist Office</li> <li>Performed in a Freestanding Radiology Facility</li> <li>Performed as Outpatient Hospital Services</li> </ul> <p><b>Preauthorization Required</b></p>	<p>\$150 Copayment</p> <p>\$150 Copayment</p> <p>\$250 Copayment</p>	Non-Participating Provider Services are not Covered and You pay the full cost	See benefit for description
<p>Allergy Testing and Treatment Testing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Performed in a PCP Office</li> <li>Performed in a Specialist Office</li> </ul> <p>Treatment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Performed in a PCP Office</li> <li>Performed in a Specialist Office</li> </ul>	<p>No Copayment, Deductible, or Coinsurance</p> <p>No Copayment, Deductible, or Coinsurance</p> <p>No Copayment, Deductible, or Coinsurance</p> <p>No Copayment, Deductible, or Coinsurance</p>	Non-Participating Provider Services are not Covered and You pay the full cost	See benefit for description
Ambulatory Surgical Center Facility Fee	\$50 Copayment	Non-Participating Provider Services are not Covered and You pay the full cost	See benefit for description
Anesthesia Services (all settings)	No Copayment, Deductible, or Coinsurance	Non-Participating Provider Services are not Covered and You pay the full cost	See benefit for description

Cardiac and Pulmonary Rehabilitation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Performed in a Specialist Office</li> <li>Performed as Outpatient Hospital Services</li> <li>Performed as Inpatient Hospital Services</li> </ul> <b>Preauthorization May Be Required</b>	\$40 Copayment  \$40 Copayment  Included as part of Inpatient Hospital Service Cost-Sharing	Non-Participating Provider Services are not Covered and You pay the full cost	See benefit for description
Chemotherapy and Immunotherapy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Performed in a PCP Office</li> <li>Performed in a Specialist Office</li> <li>Performed as Outpatient Hospital Services</li> </ul>	No Copayment, Deductible, or Coinsurance  No Copayment, Deductible, or Coinsurance  \$40 Copayment	Non-Participating Provider Services are not Covered and You pay the full cost	See benefit for description
Chiropractic Services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Performed in a PCP Office</li> <li>Performed in a Specialist Office</li> <li>Performed as Outpatient Hospital Services</li> </ul>	\$40 Copayment  \$40 Copayment  \$40 Copayment	Non-Participating Provider Services are not Covered and You pay the full cost	See benefit for description
Clinical Trials	Use Cost-Sharing for appropriate service	Use Cost-Sharing for appropriate service	See benefit for description

Diagnostic Testing		Non-Participating Provider Services are not Covered and You pay the full cost	See benefit for description
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Performed in a PCP Office</li> <li>Performed in a Specialist Office</li> <li>Performed as Outpatient Hospital Services</li> </ul>	<p>No Copayment, Deductible, or Coinsurance</p> <p>No Copayment, Deductible, or Coinsurance</p> <p>No Copayment, Deductible, or Coinsurance</p>		
Dialysis		Non-Participating Provider Services are not Covered and You pay the full cost	Dialysis performed by Non-Participating Providers is limited to 10 visits per Plan Year. Cost-Sharing for the visits is the same as for a Participating Provider. See benefit description for more information.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Performed in a PCP Office</li> <li>Performed in a Specialist Office</li> <li>Performed in a Freestanding Center</li> <li>Performed as Outpatient Hospital Services</li> <li>Performed at Home</li> </ul>	<p>No Copayment, Deductible, or Coinsurance</p> <p>No Copayment, Deductible, or Coinsurance</p> <p>No Copayment, Deductible, or Coinsurance</p> <p>No Copayment, Deductible, or Coinsurance</p> <p>No Copayment, Deductible, or Coinsurance</p>		
Habilitation Services (Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy or Speech Therapy) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Performed in a PCP Office</li> <li>Performed in a Specialist Office</li> </ul>	<p>\$20 Copayment</p> <p>\$20 Copayment</p>	Non-Participating Provider Services are not Covered and You pay the full cost	60 visits per Plan Year combined therapies

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Performed in an Outpatient Facility</li> </ul> <b>Preauthorization Required</b>	\$40 Copayment		
Home Health Care	\$40 Copayment	Non-Participating Provider Services are not Covered and You pay the full cost	40 visits per Plan Year
Infertility Services <b>Preauthorization Required</b>	Use Cost-Sharing for appropriate service (Office Visit; Diagnostic Radiology Services; Surgery; Laboratory & Diagnostic Procedures)	Non-Participating Provider Services are not Covered and You pay the full cost	See benefit for description
Infusion Therapy  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Performed in a PCP Office</li> <li>Performed in a Specialist Office</li> <li>Performed as Outpatient Hospital Services</li> <li>Home Infusion Therapy</li> </ul>	No Copayment, Deductible, or Coinsurance  No Copayment, Deductible, or Coinsurance  \$40 Copayment  No Copayment, Deductible, or Coinsurance	Non-Participating Provider Services are not Covered and You pay the full cost	See benefit for description       Home Infusion counts towards Home Health Care visit limits
Inpatient Medical Visits	10% Coinsurance	Non-Participating Provider Services are not Covered and You pay the full cost	See benefit for description
Interruption of Pregnancy		Non-Participating Provider Services are not Covered and You pay the full cost	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Medically Necessary Abortions</li> <li>• Elective Abortions</li> </ul>	<p>No Copayment, Deductible, or Coinsurance</p> <p>No Copayment, Deductible, or Coinsurance</p>		Unlimited
<p>Laboratory Procedures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Performed in a PCP Office</li> <li>• Performed in a Specialist Office</li> <li>• Performed in a Freestanding Laboratory Facility</li> <li>• Performed as Outpatient Hospital Services</li> </ul> <p><b>Preauthorization Required for Genetic Testing</b></p>	<p>No Copayment, Deductible, or Coinsurance</p> <p>No Copayment, Deductible, or Coinsurance</p> <p>No Copayment, Deductible, or Coinsurance</p> <p>No Copayment, Deductible, or Coinsurance</p>	Non-Participating Provider Services are not Covered and You pay the full cost	See benefit for description
<p>Maternity and Newborn Care</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prenatal Care <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Prenatal Care provided in accordance with the comprehensive guidelines supported by USPSTF and HRSA</li> <li>○ Prenatal Care that is not provided in accordance with the comprehensive</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>No Copayment, Deductible, or Coinsurance</p> <p>Use Cost-Sharing for appropriate service (Primary Care Office Visit, Specialist Office Visit, Diagnostic</p>	Non-Participating Provider Services are not Covered and You pay the full cost	<p>See benefit for description</p> <p>One (1) home care visit is Covered at no Cost-Sharing if mother is discharged from Hospital early</p>

<p>guidelines supported by USPSTF and HRSA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Inpatient Hospital Services and Birthing Center</li> <li>Physician and Midwife Services for Delivery</li> <li>Breastfeeding Support, Counseling and Supplies, Including Breast Pumps</li> <li>Postnatal Care</li> </ul> <p><b>Preauthorization Required for Inpatient Services</b></p>	<p>Radiology Services, Laboratory Procedures and Diagnostic Testing)</p> <p>\$500 Copayment per admission</p> <p>\$40 Copayment</p> <p>No Copayment, Deductible, or Coinsurance</p> <p>\$40 Copayment</p>		<p>Covered for duration of breast feeding</p>
Outpatient Hospital Surgery Facility Charge	\$500 Copayment	Non-Participating Provider Services are not Covered and You pay the full cost	See benefit for description
Preadmission Testing	Use Cost-Sharing for appropriate service (Office Visit; Diagnostic Radiology Services; Surgery; Laboratory & Diagnostic Procedures)	Non-Participating Provider Services are not Covered and You pay the full cost	See benefit for description
<p>Prescription Drugs Administered in Office or Outpatient Facility</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Performed in a PCP Office</li> <li>Performed in a Specialist Office</li> <li>Performed in</li> </ul>	<p>\$500 Copayment</p> <p>\$500 Copayment</p> <p>\$500 Copayment</p>	Non-Participating Provider Services are not Covered and You pay the full cost	See benefit for description

Outpatient Hospital			
<p>Diagnostic Radiology Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Performed in a PCP Office</li> <li>Performed in a Specialist Office</li> <li>Performed in a Freestanding Radiology Facility</li> <li>Performed as Outpatient Hospital Services</li> </ul> <p><b>Preauthorization May Be Required (except for Standard X-rays for which no Preauthorization is required)</b></p>	<p>\$50 Copayment</p> <p>\$50 Copayment</p> <p>\$50 Copayment</p> <p>\$150 Copayment</p>	Non-Participating Provider Services are not Covered and You pay the full cost	See benefit for description
<p>Therapeutic Radiology Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Performed in a Specialist Office</li> <li>Performed in a Freestanding Radiology Facility</li> <li>Performed as Outpatient Hospital Services</li> </ul> <p><b>Preauthorization Required</b></p>	<p>No Copayment, Deductible, or Coinsurance</p> <p>No Copayment, Deductible, or Coinsurance</p> <p>\$40 Copayment</p>	Non-Participating Provider Services are not Covered and You pay the full cost	See benefit for description
Rehabilitation Services (Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy or Speech Therapy)		Non-Participating Provider Services are not Covered and You pay the full cost	60 visits per Plan year combined therapies

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Performed in a PCP Office</li> <li>Performed in a Specialist Office</li> <li>Performed in an Outpatient Facility</li> </ul> <p><b>Preauthorization Required</b></p>	<p>\$20 Copayment</p> <p>\$20 Copayment</p> <p>\$40 Copayment</p>		
Retail Health Clinic Care	\$20 Copayment	Non-Participating Provider Services are not Covered and You pay the full cost	See benefit for description
Second Opinions on the Diagnosis of Cancer, Surgery and Other	Use Cost-Sharing for appropriate service (Office Visit; Diagnostic Radiology Services; Surgery; Laboratory & Diagnostic Procedures)	<p>Non-Participating Provider Services are not Covered and You pay the full cost</p> <p>Second opinions on diagnosis of cancer are Covered at Participating Cost-Sharing for Non-Participating Specialist when a Referral is obtained.</p>	See benefit for description
<p>Surgical Services (including Oral Surgery; Reconstructive Breast Surgery; Other Reconstructive and Corrective Surgery; Transplants; and Interventional Spine and Joint Pain Management Procedures)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Inpatient Hospital Surgery</li> </ul> <p><b>Preauthorization Required</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Outpatient Hospital Surgery</li> </ul>	<p>No Copayment, Deductible, or Coinsurance</p> <p>No Copayment, Deductible, or</p>	Non-Participating Provider Services are not Covered and You pay the full cost	<p>See benefit for description</p> <p><b>All Transplants must be performed at designated Facilities</b></p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Surgery Performed at an Ambulatory Surgical Center</li> <li>• Specialist Office Surgery</li> </ul> <p><b>Preauthorization May Be Required</b></p>	<p>Coinsurance</p> <p>No Copayment, Deductible, or Coinsurance</p> <p>\$40 Copayment</p>		
<p>Telemedicine Program</p> <p>K Health Virtual Video or Text Visits</p> <p>Live Health Online Virtual Video Visits</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sleep Study and Dermatology Care</li> <li>• All Other Services</li> </ul>	<p>No Copayment, Deductible, or Coinsurance</p> <p>\$40 Copayment</p> <p>No Copayment, Deductible, or Coinsurance</p>	<p>Non-Participating Provider Services are not Covered and You pay the full cost</p>	<p>See benefit for description</p>
<b>ADDITIONAL SERVICES, EQUIPMENT AND DEVICES</b>	<p><b>Participating Provider</b></p> <p><b>Member Responsibility for Cost-Sharing</b></p>	<p><b>Non-Participating Provider</b></p> <p><b>Member Responsibility for Cost-Sharing</b></p>	<b>Limits</b>
<p>Diabetic Equipment, Supplies and Self-Management Education</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Diabetic Equipment, Supplies and Insulin (30-Day Supply)</li> <li>• Diabetic Education</li> </ul>	<p>\$20 Copayment</p> <p>\$20 Copayment</p>	<p>Non-Participating Provider Services are not Covered and You pay the full cost</p>	<p>See benefit for description</p>
<p>Durable Medical Equipment and Braces</p> <p><b>Preauthorization May Be Required</b></p>	<p>50% Coinsurance</p>	<p>Non-Participating Provider Services are not Covered and You pay the full cost</p>	<p>See benefit for description</p>

External Hearing Aids	50% Coinsurance	Non-Participating Provider Services are not Covered and You pay the full cost	Single purchase once every 3 years
Cochlear Implants; Bone Anchored Hearing Aids  <b>Preauthorization Required</b>	50% Coinsurance	Non-Participating Provider Services are not Covered and You pay the full cost	One (1) device per ear per time Covered
Hospice Care  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Inpatient</li> <li>Outpatient</li> </ul> <b>Preauthorization May Be Required</b>	<p>No Copayment, Deductible, or Coinsurance</p> <p>No Copayment, Deductible, or Coinsurance</p>	Non-Participating Provider Services are not Covered and You pay the full cost	<p>Unlimited days per Plan Year</p> <p>Five (5) visits for family bereavement counseling</p>
Medical Supplies	50% Coinsurance	Non-Participating Provider Services are not Covered and You pay the full cost	See benefit for description
Prosthetic Devices  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>External</li> <li>Internal</li> </ul> <b>Preauthorization May Be Required</b>	<p>50% Coinsurance</p> <p>50% Coinsurance</p>	Non-Participating Provider Services are not Covered and You pay the full cost	<p>See benefit for description</p> <p>One (1) prosthetic device, per limb, per lifetime</p> <p>Unlimited</p>

<b>INPATIENT SERVICES AND FACILITIES</b>	<b>Participating Provider  Member Responsibility for Cost-Sharing</b>	<b>Non-Participating Provider Member Responsibility for Cost-Sharing</b>	<b>Limits</b>
Autologous Blood Banking	No Copayment, Deductible, or Coinsurance	Non-Participating Provider Services are not Covered and You pay the full cost	See benefit for description
Inpatient Hospital for a Continuous Confinement (including an Inpatient Stay for Mastectomy Care, Cardiac and Pulmonary Rehabilitation, and End of Life Care)  <b>Preauthorization Required. However Preauthorization is not required for emergency admissions or services provided in a neonatal intensive care unit of a Hospital certified pursuant to Article 28 of the Public Health Law.</b>	\$500 Copayment per admission	Non-Participating Provider Services are not Covered and You pay the full cost	See benefit for description
Observation Stay	\$500 Copayment	Non-Participating Provider Services are not Covered and You pay the full cost	See benefit for description
Skilled Nursing Facility (includes Cardiac and Pulmonary Rehabilitation)  <b>Preauthorization Required</b>	\$500 Copayment per admission	Non-Participating Provider Services are not Covered and You pay the full cost	365 days per Plan Year
Inpatient Habilitation Services (Physical, Speech and Occupational Therapy)  <b>Preauthorization</b>	\$500 Copayment per admission	Non-Participating Provider Services are not Covered and You pay the full cost	60 days per Plan Year

<b>Required</b>			
Inpatient Rehabilitation Services (Physical, Speech and Occupational Therapy)  <b>Preauthorization Required</b>	\$500 Copayment per admission	Non-Participating Provider Services are not Covered and You pay the full cost	60 days per Plan Year
<b>MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER SERVICES</b>	<b>Participating Provider  Member Responsibility for Cost-Sharing</b>	<b>Non-Participating Provider Member Responsibility for Cost-Sharing</b>	<b>Limits</b>
Inpatient Mental Health Care for a continuous confinement when in a Hospital (including Residential Treatment)  <b>Preauthorization Required. However, Preauthorization is not required for emergency admissions or for admissions at Participating OMH-licensed Facilities for Members under 18.</b>	\$500 Copayment per admission	Non-Participating Provider Services are not Covered and You pay the full cost	See benefit for description
Outpatient Mental Health Care (including Partial Hospitalization and Intensive Outpatient Program Services) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Office Visits</li> <li>All Other Outpatient Services</li> </ul>	\$20 Copayment in Office  \$20 Copayment by Telehealth  No Copayment, Deductible, or Coinsurance in Office  No Copayment, Deductible, or Coinsurance by Telehealth	Non-Participating Provider services are not Covered and You pay the full cost	See benefit for descriptions

<b>Preauthorization Required for Intensive In-Home and Outpatient Hospital Services</b>			
<p>ABA Treatment for Autism Spectrum Disorder</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Performed in a PCP Office</li> <li>Performed in a Specialist Office</li> <li>Performed as Outpatient Hospital Services</li> </ul> <p><b>Preauthorization Required</b></p>	<p>\$20 Copayment in Office</p> <p>\$20 Copayment by Telehealth</p> <p>\$20 Copayment in Office</p> <p>\$20 Copayment by Telehealth</p> <p>No Copayment, Deductible, or Coinsurance in Office</p> <p>No Copayment, Deductible, or Coinsurance by Telehealth</p>	Non-Participating Provider Services are not Covered and You pay the full cost	See benefit for description
<p>Assistive Communication Devices for Autism Spectrum Disorder</p> <p><b>Preauthorization Required</b></p>	50% Coinsurance	Non-Participating Provider Services are not Covered and You pay the full cost	See benefit for description
Inpatient Substance Use Services for a continuous confinement when in a Hospital (including Residential Treatment)	\$500 Copayment per admission	Non-Participating Provider Services are not Covered and You pay the full cost	See benefit for description

<b>Preauthorization Required. However, Preauthorization is not required for emergency admissions or for Participating OASAS certified Facilities</b>			
<p>Outpatient Substance Use Services (including Partial Hospitalization, Intensive Outpatient Program Services, and Medication Assisted Treatment)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Office Visits</li> </ul> <p>All Other Outpatient Services</p> <p><b>Preauthorization Required for Intensive In-Home and Outpatient Hospital Services. However, Preauthorization is not required for Participating OASAS-certified Facilities.</b></p>	<p>\$20 Copayment in Office</p> <p>\$20 Copayment by Telehealth</p> <p>No Copayment, Deductible, or Coinsurance in Office</p> <p>No Copayment, Deductible, or Coinsurance by Telehealth</p>	<p>Non-Participating Provider Services are not Covered and You pay the full Cost</p>	<p>Unlimited</p> <p>Up to 20 visits a Plan Year may be used for family counseling</p>

<b>PRESCRIPTION DRUGS</b>	<b>Participating Provider</b>  <b>Member Responsibility for Cost-Sharing</b>	<b>Non-Participating Provider</b> <b>Member Responsibility for Cost-Sharing</b>	<b>Limits</b>
Certain Prescription Drugs are not subject to Cost-Sharing when provided in accordance with the comprehensive guidelines supported by HRSA or if the item or service has an “A” or “B” rating from the USPSTF and obtained at a participating pharmacy.			
<b>Retail Pharmacy</b>			
30 Day Supply		Non-Participating Provider Services are not Covered and You pay the full cost	See benefit for description
Tier 1	\$10 Copayment not subject to Prescription Drug Deductible		
Tier 2	\$35 Copayment after Prescription Drug Deductible		
Tier 3	\$70 Copayment after Prescription Drug Deductible		
Preauthorization is not required for a Covered Prescription Drug used to treat a substance use disorder, including a Prescription Drug to manage opioid withdrawal and/or stabilization and for opioid overdose reversal.			
<b>Mail Order Pharmacy</b>			
Up to a 90 Day Supply		Non-Participating Provider Services are not Covered and You pay the full cost	See benefit for description

Tier 1	\$25 Copayment not subject to Prescription Drug Deductible		
Tier 2	\$88 Copayment after Prescription Drug Deductible		
Tier 3	\$175 Copayment after Prescription Drug Deductible		
Enteral Formulas	Applicable tiered Cost Share listed above	Non-Participating Provider Services are not Covered and You pay the full cost	See benefit for description
<b>WELLNESS BENEFITS</b>	<b>Participating Provider</b>  <b>Member Responsibility for Cost-Sharing</b>	<b>Non-Participating Provider Member Responsibility for Cost-Sharing</b>	
Gym Reimbursement	Lesser of \$200 for the Subscriber and \$200 for each eligible Dependent age 18 and over or the actual cost of the membership per six (6) month period	Lesser of \$200 for the Subscriber and \$200 for each eligible Dependent age 18 and over or the actual cost of the membership per six (6) month period	See benefit for description
<b>DENTAL AND VISION CARE</b>	<b>Participating Provider</b>  <b>Member Responsibility for Cost-Sharing</b>	<b>Non-Participating Provider Member Responsibility for Cost-Sharing</b>	<b>Limits</b>
<b>Pediatric Dental Care (under age 19)</b>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Preventive Dental Care</li> <li>Routine Dental Care</li> </ul>	<p>No Copayment, Deductible, or Coinsurance</p> <p>No Copayment, Deductible, or Coinsurance</p>	Non-Participating Provider Services are not Covered and You pay the full cost	<p>See benefit for description</p> <p>Full mouth x-rays or panoramic x-rays at 36 month</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Major Dental Care (Oral Surgery; Endodontics, Periodontics and Prosthodontics)</li> <li>Orthodontia (Medically Necessary)</li> </ul>	50% Coinsurance  50% Coinsurance		intervals and bitewing x-rays at six (6) month intervals
<b>Pediatric Vision Care (under age 19)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Routine Eye Exams</li> <li>Lenses (Single, Bifocal, Trifocal, Lenticular)</li> <li>Lens Treatments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>UV Coating</li> <li>Standard Factory Scratch Coating</li> <li>Standard Polycarbonate</li> <li>Standard Transitions</li> <li>Standard Progressive Lenses</li> </ul> </li> <li>Frames</li> <li>Contact Lenses <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Elective</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	No Copayment, Deductible, or Coinsurance  No Copayment, Deductible, or Coinsurance  No Copayment, Deductible, or Coinsurance  No Copayment, Deductible, or Coinsurance  No Copayment, Deductible, or Coinsurance  No Copayment, Deductible, or Coinsurance  No Copayment, Deductible, or Coinsurance  No Copayment, Deductible, or Coinsurance	Non-Participating Provider Services are not Covered and You pay the full cost	One (1) exam per Plan Year  One (1) prescribed lenses and frames per Plan Year

○ Non-Elective	No Copayment, Deductible, or Coinsurance		
<b>Adult Vision Care (age 19 or older)</b>		Non-Participating Provider Services are not Covered and You pay the full cost	One (1) exam per Plan Year
• Routine Eye Exams	\$20 Copayment		

## HIPAA Notice of Privacy Practices

**THIS NOTICE DESCRIBES HOW HEALTH, VISION AND DENTAL INFORMATION ABOUT YOU MAY BE USED AND DISCLOSED AND HOW YOU CAN GET ACCESS TO THIS INFORMATION WITH REGARD TO YOUR HEALTH BENEFITS. PLEASE REVIEW IT CAREFULLY.**

We keep the health and financial information of our current and former members private, as required by law, accreditation standards and our rules. This notice explains your rights. It also explains our legal duties and privacy practices. We are required by federal law to give you this notice.

### **Your Protected Health Information**

We may collect, use and share your Protected Health Information (PHI) for the following reasons and others as allowed or required by law, including the HIPAA Privacy rule:

**For payment:** We use and share PHI to manage your account or benefits; or to pay claims for health care you get through your plan.

**For health care operations:** We use and share PHI for our health care operations.

**For treatment activities:** We do not provide treatment. This is the role of a health care provider, such as your doctor or a hospital. **Examples of ways we use your information for payment, treatment and health care operations:**

- We keep information about your premium and deductible payments.
- We may give information to a doctor's office to confirm your benefits.
- We may share explanation of benefits (EOB) with the subscriber or your plan for payment purposes.
- We may share PHI with your health care providers so that the provider may treat you.
- We may use PHI to review the quality of care and services you get.
- We may use PHI to provide you with care management or care coordination services for conditions like asthma, diabetes or traumatic injury.
- We may use your publicly and/or commercially available data about you to provide you with information about available health plan benefits and services.
- We may also use and share PHI directly or indirectly with health information exchanges for payment, health care operations and treatment. If you do not want your PHI to be shared for payment, health care operations, or treatment purposes in health information exchanges, please visit [empireblue.com/health-insurance/about-us/privacy](http://empireblue.com/health-insurance/about-us/privacy) for more information.

Services provided by Empire HealthChoice Assurance, Inc., a licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association, an association of independent Blue Cross and Blue Shield Plans.

**To you:** We must give you access to your own PHI. We may also contact you to let you know about treatment options or other health-related benefits and services. When you or your dependents reach a certain age, we may tell you about other products or programs for which you may be eligible. This may include individual coverage. We may also send you reminders about routine medical checkups and tests.

You may have an opportunity to receive email communications involving limited PHI such as welcome materials. We will obtain your consent before initiating these email communications.

**To others:** In most cases, if we use or disclose your PHI outside of treatment, payment, operations or research activities, we must get your OK in writing first. We must receive your written OK before we can use your PHI for certain marketing activities. We must get your written OK before we sell your PHI. If we have them, we must get your OK before we disclose your provider's psychotherapy notes. Other uses and disclosures of your PHI not mentioned in this notice also require your written OK. You always have the right to revoke any written OK you provide,

You may tell us in writing that it is OK for us to give your PHI to someone else for any reason. Also, if you are present, and tell us it is OK, we may give your PHI to a family member, friend or other person. We would do this if it has to do with your current treatment or payment for your treatment. If you are not present, if it is an emergency, or you are not able to tell us it is OK, we may give your PHI to a family member, friend or other person if sharing your PHI is in your best interest.

**As allowed or required by law:** We may also share your PHI for other types of activities including:

- Health oversight activities.
- Judicial or administrative proceedings, with public health authorities, for law enforcement reasons, and with coroners, funeral directors or medical examiners (about decedents).
- Organ donation groups for certain reasons, for research, and to avoid a serious threat to health or safety.
- Special government functions, for Worker's Compensation, to respond to requests from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, and to alert proper authorities if we reasonably believe that you may be a victim of abuse, neglect, domestic violence or other crimes; and
- As required by law.

If you are enrolled with us through an employer sponsored group health plan, we may share PHI with your group health plan. If your employer pays your premium or part of your premium, but does not pay your health insurance claims, your employer is not allowed to receive your PHI – unless your employer promises to protect your PHI and makes sure the PHI will be used for legal reasons only.

**Authorization:** We will get an OK from you in writing before we use or share your PHI for any other purpose not stated in this notice. You may take away this OK at any time, in writing. We will then stop using your PHI for that purpose. But, if we have already used or shared your PHI based on your OK, we cannot undo any actions we took before you told us to stop.

**Genetic Information:** We cannot use or disclose PHI that is an individual's genetic information for underwriting.

**Race, Ethnicity and Language:** We may receive race, ethnicity and language information about you and protect this information as described in this Notice. We may use this information in various health care operations, which include identifying health care disparities, developing care management programs and educational materials and providing interpretation services. We do not use race,

ethnicity and language information to perform underwriting rate setting or benefit determinations, and we do not disclose this information to unauthorized persons.

## **Your Rights**

Under federal law, you have the right to:

- Send us a written request to see or get a copy of certain PHI, including a request to receive a copy of your PHI through email. It is important to note that there is some level of risk that your PHI could be read or accessed by a third party when it is sent by unencrypted email. We will confirm that you want to receive PHI by unencrypted email before sending it to you.
- Ask that we correct your PHI that you believe is missing or incorrect. If someone else (such as your doctor) gave us the PHI, we will let you know so you can ask them to correct it.
- Send us a written request to ask us not to use your PHI for treatment, payment or health care operations activities. We are not required to agree to these requests.
- Give us a verbal or written request to ask us to send your PHI using other means that are reasonable. Also let us know if you want us to send your PHI to an address other than your home if sending it to your home could place you in danger.
- Send us a written request to ask us for a list of certain disclosures of your PHI. Call Customer Service at the phone number printed on your identification (ID) card to use any of these rights. Customer Service representatives can give you the address to send the request. They can also give you any forms we have that may help you with this process.
- Right to a restriction for services you pay for out of your own pocket: If you pay in full for any medical services out of your own pocket, you have the right to ask for a restriction. The restriction would prevent use or disclosure of that PHI for treatment, payment or operations reasons. If you or your provider submits a claim to Empire BlueCross BlueShield (Empire), Empire does not have to agree to a restriction (see Your Rights section above). If a law requires the disclosure, Empire does not have to agree to your restriction.

## **How we protect information**

We are dedicated to protecting your PHI, and have set up a number of policies and practices to help make sure your PHI is kept secure.

We have to keep your PHI private. If we believe your PHI has been breached, we must let you know.

We keep your oral, written, and electronic PHI safe using physical, electronic, and procedural means. These safeguards follow federal and state laws. Some of the ways we keep your PHI safe include securing offices that hold PHI, password-protecting computers, and locking storage areas and filing cabinets. We require our employees to protect PHI through written policies and procedures. These policies limit access to PHI to only those employees who need the data to do their job. Employees are also required to wear ID badges to help keep people who do not belong, out of areas where sensitive data is kept. Also, where required by law, our affiliates and non-affiliates must protect the privacy of data we share in the normal course of business. They are not allowed to give PHI to others without your written OK, except as allowed by law and outlined in this notice.

## **Potential impact of other applicable laws**

HIPAA (the federal privacy law) generally does not pre-empt, or override, other laws that give people greater privacy protections. As a result, if any state or federal privacy law requires us to provide you with

more privacy protections, then we must also follow that law in addition to HIPAA.

### **Contacting you**

We, including our affiliates and/or vendors, may call or text you by using an automatic telephone dialing system and/or an artificial voice. But we only do this in accordance with the Telephone Consumer Protection Act (TCPA). The calls may be to let you know about treatment options or other health-related benefits and services. If you do not want to be contacted by phone, just let the caller know, and we won't reach out this way anymore or call 1-844-203-3796 to add your phone number to our Do Not Call list.

### **Complaints**

If you think we have not protected your privacy, you can file a complaint with us at the Customer Service phone number printed on your ID card. You may also file a complaint with the Office for Civil Rights in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office for Civil Rights by visiting [www.hhs.gov/ocr/privacy/hipaa/complaints/](http://www.hhs.gov/ocr/privacy/hipaa/complaints/). We will not take action against you for filing a complaint.

### **Contact information**

Please call Customer Service at the phone number printed on your ID card. Representatives can help you apply your rights, file a complaint, or talk with you about privacy issues.

### **COPIES AND CHANGES**

You have the right to get a new copy of this notice at any time. Even if you have agreed to get this notice by electronic means, you still have the right to a paper copy. We reserve the right to change this notice. A revised notice will apply to PHI we already have about you as well as any PHI we may get in the future. We are required by law to follow the privacy notice that is in effect at this time. We may tell you about any changes to our notice in a number of ways. We may tell you about the changes in a member newsletter or post them on our website. We may also mail you a letter that tells you about any changes.

### **Effective date of this notice**

The original effective date of this Notice was April 14, 2003. The most recent revision date is indicated in the footer of this Notice.

## **STATE NOTICE OF PRIVACY PRACTICES**

As mention in our Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) notice, we must follow state laws that are stricter than the federal HIPAA privacy law. This notice explains your rights and our legal duties under state law. This applies to life insurance benefits, in addition to health, dental and vision benefits that you may have.

### **Your personal information**

We may collect, use and share your nonpublic personal information (PI) as described in this notice. PI identifies a person and is often gathered in an insurance matter.

We may collect PI about you from other persons or entities, such as doctors, hospitals or other carriers. We may share PI with persons or entities outside of our company - without your OK in some cases.

If we take part in an activity that would require us to give you a chance to opt-out, we will contact you. We will tell you how you can let us know that you do not want us to use or share your PI for a given activity. You have the right to access and correct your PI. Because PI is defined as any information that can be used to make judgments about your health, finances, character, habits, hobbies, reputation, career and credit, we take reasonable safety measures to protect the PI we have about you. A more detailed state notice is available upon request. Please call the phone number printed on your ID card.

## Get help in your language

Curious to know what all this says? We would be too. Here's the English version:

This notice has important information about your application or benefits. Look for important dates. You might need to take action by certain dates to keep your benefits or manage costs. You have the right to get this information and help in your language for free. Call the Member Services number on your ID card for help. (TTY/TDD: 711)

### Spanish

Este aviso contiene información importante acerca de su solicitud o sus beneficios. Busque fechas importantes. Podría ser necesario que actúe para ciertas fechas, a fin de mantener sus beneficios o administrar sus costos. Tiene el derecho de obtener esta información y ayuda en su idioma en forma gratuita. Llame al número de Servicios para Miembros que figura en su tarjeta de identificación para obtener ayuda. (TTY/TDD: 711)

### Albanian

Ky njoftim përmban informacion të rëndësishëm rreth aplikimit ose përfitimeve tuaja. Shihni datat kryesore. Mund t'ju nevojitet të veproni brenda afateve të caktuara për të vazhduar të përfitoni ose për të menaxhuar kostot. Keni të drejtën të merrni falas ndihmë dhe informacion në gjuhën tuaj. Për ndihmë, telefononi numrin e shërbimeve për anëtarët, të shënuar në kartën tuaj ID. (TTY/TDD: 711)

### Arabic

يحتوي هذا الإشعار على معلومات مهمة حول طلبك أو المزايا المقدمة لك. اجر من على تجميع المواعيد المهمة. قد تحتاج إلى اتخاذ إجراء قبل مواعيد محددة للحصول على المزايا أو إدارة التكاليف. يحق لك الحصول على هذه المعلومات والخدمات والمساعدة بلغة مفضلتك مجاناً. يرجى الاتصال بالبرامج والخدمات الموجودة على بطاقة التوظيف الخاصة بك للمساعدة (TTY/TDD: 711).

### Bengali

আপনার আবেদন বা সুবিধার বিষয়ে ei বিবৃতিতে tপূর্ণ তথ্য রয়েছে। tপূর্ণ তারিখ নিলর জন্য েদখুন। আপনার সুবিধা িল বজায় রাখার জন্য বা খরচ িনয়ন্ত করার জন্য িনিদর্ তারিখে আপনাকে কাজ করেছে হেত পাের। িবনামেলয় ei তথ্য পাওয়ার o আপনার ভাষায় সাহায্য করার াধিকার আপনার আে। সাহায্যের জন্য আপনার আিডি কার্ডে থাকা সদস্য পিরেববা নমের কল ক ন। (TTY/TDD: 711)

Chinese 本通知有與您的申請或利益相關的重要資訊。請留意重要日期。您可能需要在特定日期前採取行動以維護您的利益 或管理費用。您有權使用您的語言免費獲得該資訊和協助。請撥打您的 ID 卡上的成員服務號碼尋求協助。(TTY/TDD: 711)

### French

Cette notice contient des informations importantes sur votre demande ou votre couverture. Vous y trouverez également des dates à ne pas manquer. Il se peut que vous deviez respecter certains délais pour conserver votre couverture santé ou vos remboursements. Vous avez le droit d'accéder gratuitement à ces informations et à une aide dans votre langue. Pour cela, veuillez appeler le numéro des Services destinés aux membres qui figure sur votre carte d'identification. (TTY/TDD: 711)

### Greek

Αυτή η ειδοποίηση περιέχει σημαντικές πληροφορίες για την εφαρμογή σας ή τις παροχές σας. Αναζητήστε τις σημαντικές ημερομηνίες. Ενδέχεται να χρειαστεί να κάνετε κάποιες ενέργειες μέχρι συγκεκριμένες ημερομηνίες, ώστε να διατηρήσετε τις παροχές σας ή να διαχειριστείτε το κόστος. Έχετε το δικαίωμα να λάβετε αυτές τις πληροφορίες και αυτήν τη βοήθεια στη γλώσσα σας δωρεάν. Καλέστε τον αριθμό του Τμήματος Υπηρεσιών Μέλους (Member Services) που αναγράφεται στην ταυτότητά σας (ID card) για βοήθεια. (TTY/TDD: 711)

### Haitian

Avi sa a gen enfòmasyon enpòtan sou aplikasyon ou an oswa avantaj ou yo. Veye dat enpòtan yo. Ou ka bezwen pran aksyon avan sèten dat pou kenbe avantaj ou yo oswa jere depans ou yo. Ou gen dwa pou resevwa enfòmasyon sa a ak asistans nan lang ou pou gratis. Rele nimewo Manm Sèvis la ki sou kat idantifikasyon ou a pou jwenn èd. (TTY/TDD: 711)

#### Italian

Il presente avviso contiene informazioni importanti relative alla domanda da lei presentata o ai benefici a lei riservati. Consulti le date importanti riportate. Per continuare a usufruire dei benefici o ricevere assistenza per il pagamento delle spese, potrebbe dover eseguire determinate azioni entro scadenze specifiche. Ha il diritto di ricevere queste informazioni ed eventuale assistenza nella sua lingua senza alcun costo aggiuntivo. Per assistenza, chiami il numero dedicato ai Servizi per i membri riportato sul suo libretto. (TTY/TDD: 711)

#### Korean

이 공지사항에는 귀하의 신청서 또는 혜택에 대한 중요한 정보가 있습니다. 중요 날짜를 살펴 보십시오. 혜택을 유지하거나 비용을 관리하기 위해 특정 마감일까지 조치를 취해야 할 수 있습니다. 귀하에게는 무료로 이 정보를 얻고 귀하의 언어로 도움을 받을 권리가 있습니다. 도움을 얻으려면 귀하의 ID 카드에 있는 회원 서비스 번호로 전화하십시오. (TTY/TDD: 711)

#### Polish

Niniejsze powiadomienie zawiera istotne informacje dotyczące wniosku lub świadczeń. Zwróć uwagę na ważne daty. Zachowanie świadczeń lub zarządzanie kosztami może wymagać podjęcia dodatkowych działań w konkretnych terminach. Masz prawo do bezpłatnego otrzymania stosownych informacji oraz uzyskania pomocy w swoim języku. W tym celu skontaktuj się z Działem Obsługi Klienta pod numerem telefonu podanym na karcie identyfikacyjnej. (TTY/TDD: 711)

#### Russian

Настоящее уведомление содержит важную информацию о вашем заявлении или выплатах. Обратите внимание на контрольные даты. Для сохранения права на получение выплат или помощи с расходами от вас может потребоваться выполнение определенных действий в указанные сроки. Вы имеете право получить данную информацию и помощь на вашем языке бесплатно. Для получения помощи звоните в отдел обслуживания участников по номеру, указанному на вашей идентификационной карте. (TTY/TDD: 711)

#### Tagalog

May mahalagang impormasyon ang abisong ito tungkol sa inyong aplikasyon o mga benepisyo. Tukuyin ang mahahalagang petsa. Maaaring may kailangan kayong gawin sa ilang partikular na petsa upang mapanatili ang inyong mga benepisyo o mapamahalaan ang mga gastos. May karapatan kayong makuha ang impormasyon at tulong na ito sa ginagamit ninyong wika nang walang bayad. Tumawag sa numero ng Member Services na nasa inyong ID card para sa tulong. (TTY/TDD: 711)

#### Urdu

یہ نوٹس آپ کی درخواست یا فائیلوں کے بارے میں اہم معلومات پر مشتمل ہے۔ اہم تاریخیں دی گئی ہیں۔ اپنی فائیلوں یا الگتوں کو منظم کرنے کے لیے آپ کو بعض تاریخوں پر اقدام کرنے کی ضرورت ہو سکتی ہے۔ آپ کو اپنی زبان میں مفت آن مغلومات اور ہند کے حصول کا حق ہے۔ ہند کے لیے اپنی آئی ڈی کارڈ پر موجود ممبر سروس نمبر کو کال کریں۔ (TTY/TDD: 711)

#### Yiddish

דעם מעלדונג האט וויכטיגע אינפארמאציע וועגן אייער אפליקאציע אדער קאווערדזש. קוקט פאר נויטיגע דאטעס אין דעם מעלדונג. איר וועט מעגליך דארפן נעמען אקציע קודם געוויסע דעדליינד צו האלטן אייערע געזונט קאווערדזש אדער העלפן מיט קאסט. איר האט די רעכט צו באקומען דעם אינפארמאציע און הילפט אין אייער שפראך בחינם. רופט די מעמבער באדינונגען נומער אויף אייער קארטל פאר הילף (TTY/TDD: 711).

**It's important we treat you fairly**

We follow federal civil rights laws in our health programs and activities. By calling Member Services, our members can get free in-language support, and free aids and services if you have a disability. We don't discriminate, exclude people, or treat them differently on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age or disability. For people whose primary language isn't English, we offer free language assistance services through interpreters and other written languages. Interested in these services? Call the Member Services number on your ID card for help (TTY/TDD: 711). If you think we failed in any of these areas, you can mail a complaint to: Compliance Coordinator, P.O. Box 27401, Mail Drop VA2002-N160, Richmond, VA 23279, or directly to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office for Civil Rights at 200 Independence Avenue, SW; Room 509F, HHH Building; Washington, D.C. 20201. You can also call 1-800-368-1019 (TDD: 1-800-537-7697) or visit <https://ocrportal.hhs.gov/ocr/portal/lobby.jsf>