



**STANDARD INSURANCE COMPANY**

A Stock Life Insurance Company  
900 SW Fifth Avenue  
Portland, Oregon 97204-1282  
(503) 321-7000

**GROUP EYE CARE INSURANCE POLICY**

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<b>The Policyholder</b>	<b>CITY OF PEMBROKE PINES</b>	<b>Policy Number</b>	<b>160-163591</b>
<b>State of Delivery</b>	<b>Florida</b>	<b>Plan Effective Date</b>	<b>October 1, 2023</b>
<b>Premium Due Date 1st of each month.</b>		<b>Renewal Date</b>	<b>October 1</b>

Standard Insurance Company agrees to pay, with respect to each Insured Person, the group insurance benefits provided in this policy.

This policy is issued to the Policyholder in consideration of the Policyholder's application and the payment of premiums, as provided herein.

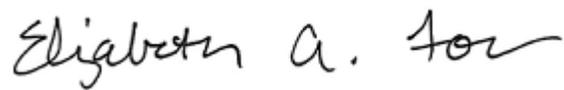
**This policy is delivered in and governed by the laws of the state of delivery.**

When a purchaser of insurance terminated or replaces an existing group with another such policy, the prior insurer shall remain liable only to the extent of its accrued liabilities and extensions of benefits as required by s. 627.667.

The insurer must give the policyholder at least 45 days advance notice of cancellation, expiration, non-renewal or change in rates.

If you should have any questions regarding your coverage or claim payments, you may contact us toll-free at 800-877-7195.

**STANDARD INSURANCE COMPANY**

Handwritten signature of Elizabeth A. Fouts in black ink.

Elizabeth A. Fouts  
Corporate Secretary

Handwritten signature of Daniel J. McMillan in black ink.

Daniel J. McMillan  
President and CEO

## FLORIDA - IMPORTANT INFORMATION TO INSUREDS

### We are here to serve you . . .

You have the right to receive medically appropriate care in a timely and convenient manner and to be an active participant in any decision making regarding treatment, care and services provided to you or one of your family members who are covered under this plan.

In order to provide you the best possible service, it is important that you provide any necessary information to your provider that will facilitate effective medical care and that you cooperate with your provider(s) by keeping appointments and following recommended treatment.

Please review your certificate of coverage carefully so that you fully understand the benefits provided. If you have a question about your policy or if you need assistance with a problem, feel free to contact us at the number shown below.

If you have a grievance or complaint regarding an adverse decision, you may call us below or document your concerns in writing. Written documentation can be sent to the following:

Name:	Quality Assurance
Address:	P.O. Box 82629 Lincoln, NE 68501-2629
Phone:	888-418-6811
Fax:	402-309-2580

The complaint will be carefully reviewed. If the initial claim was denied based on clinical necessity or paid as an alternate benefit, then a licensed provider will be involved in the review of the appeal. A written decision will be sent to the claimant within 15 business days following the receipt of the appeal.

### If you are not satisfied . . .

Should you feel you are not being treated fairly, we want you to know you may contact the Department of Financial Services with your complaint and seek assistance from the governmental agency that regulates insurance.

To contact them, write or call:

**Division of Consumer Services  
Department of Financial Services  
200 East Gaines Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0321  
(877) 693-5236 or (850) 413-3089**

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**SCHEDULE OF BENEFITS  
OUTLINE OF COVERAGE**

The Insurance for each Insured and each Insured Dependent will be based on the Insured's class shown in this Schedule of Benefits.

<u>Benefit Class</u>	<u>Class Description</u>
Class 1	All Eligible Employees

**EYE CARE EXPENSE BENEFITS**

When you select a Participating Provider, a discounted fee schedule is used which is intended to provide you, the Insured, reduced out of pocket costs.

Deductible Amount:

When a Participating Provider is used:

Exams - Each Benefit Period	\$4
Contact Lens Fitting and Evaluation - Each Benefit Period	\$60
Frames, Lenses, and Medically Necessary Contacts - Each Benefit Period	\$10

When a Non-Participating Provider is used:

Exams - Each Benefit Period	\$4
Frames, Lenses, and Medically Necessary Contacts - Each Benefit Period	\$10

***Please refer to the EYE CARE EXPENSE BENEFITS page for details regarding frequency, limitations, and exclusions.***

## PREMIUMS

### TABLE OF MONTHLY PREMIUM RATES

Eye Care Insurance	\$3.65 per Insured Person
	\$2.92 One Dependent Only
	\$7.68 Two or More Dependents

**PAYMENT OF PREMIUMS.** The first premium will be due on the Policy Effective Date to cover the period from that date to the first Premium Due Date. Other premiums will be due on or before each Premium Due Date. Premiums are payable at our Home Office or at some other location to which we and the Policyholder agree.

**PREMIUM DUE DATE.** The Premium Due Date will be the first day of the month that falls on or after the Policy Effective Date. If we agree with the Policyholder to the payment of premiums on a basis other than monthly, the Premium Due Date will be fixed to match the correct basis. If there is a change in the method of payment or Premium Due Date, a pro-rata charge in the premium due will be made.

**PREMIUM STATEMENTS.** The premium due as of any Premium Due Date is the number of units in force on such date for each type of insurance multiplied by the rate shown in the Table of Premium Rates. A premium statement will be made as of the Premium Due Date showing the premium payable. If premiums are payable on other than a monthly basis, each statement will show any pro-rata premium charges and credits in the last premium period due to changes in the number of Insureds and in the amount of insurance for which people are insured. This is subject to the rules below.

**SIMPLIFIED ACCOUNTING.** The premium will start on the Premium Due Date falling on or after the date the insurance or the increase in the insurance is effective for: a) a person becoming insured; or b) an increase in the amount of insurance on any person. The premium will stop on the Premium Due Date falling on or after the date of termination of insurance or through the date of service of the last paid claim. There will be no pro-rata charges or credits for a partial month. If premiums are payable other than monthly, charges and credits will be figured as though the Premium Due Date is monthly.

We will be liable for the return of unearned premiums (premium for the period which claims were not paid) to the Policyholder only for the 3 months before the date we receive evidence that a return is due.

**ADJUSTMENTS IN PREMIUM RATES.** We may change the rates shown in the Table of Premium Rates by giving the Policyholder at least 90 days advance written notice. We may change the rates at any time the Schedule of Benefits, or any other terms and conditions of the policy, are changed. We will not change the rates until the Renewal Date shown on the policy cover or more than once in any 12 month period thereafter, unless there is a change in the Schedule of Benefits or a change in any other terms and conditions in the policy.

Notwithstanding the above, We the Company reserve the right to change any one or more of the rates prior to the Renewal Date or more than once in any 12 month period thereafter upon the occurrence of any one or more of the following:

1. We determine that the average number of dependent children for each Insured with Dependent coverage exceeds 4.0; and/or

2. We determine that the number of Insureds is less than 80% of those Insureds initially enrolled under the Policy as of either (i) the Plan Effective Date, if during the period of time between the Plan Effective Date and the Renewal Date, or (ii) the most recent 12 month anniversary of the Renewal Date: and/or
3. We are required by either the federal government or by any state or local government or by any agency thereof to change benefits as a result of regulatory change or pay a new or increased tax, assessment, or monetary charge of any kind (other than a new or any increase to the amount of tax we pay based upon our net operating income). Such taxes, assessments or fees would include those that are charged or assessed in connection with the operation of a health care exchange authorized by federal or state law.

Should any of the above occur and should we elect to change rates as a result, we agree to notify the Policyholder of the corresponding rate changes at least 90 days in advance of the Premium Due Date for which the rate change shall be effective. The right to change rates as well as the timing of such changes in the above limited situations shall at all times be subject to applicable state laws and regulations.

**RENEWAL DATE** refers to the date each calendar year that the coverage issued under the group policy is considered for renewal. The Renewal Date(s) are shown on the policy cover.

## DEFINITIONS

**COMPANY** refers to Standard Insurance Company. The words "we", "us" and "our" refer to Company. Our Home Office address is 900 SW Fifth Avenue, Portland, Oregon 97204-1282.

**POLICYHOLDER** refers to the Policyholder stated on the face page of the policy.

**INSURED** refers to a person:

- a. who is a Member of the eligible class; and
- b. who has qualified for insurance by completing the eligibility period, if any; and
- c. for whom the insurance has become effective.

**CHILD.** Child refers to the child of the Insured or a child of the Insured's spouse, if they otherwise meet the definition of Dependent.

**DEPENDENT** refers to:

- a. an Insured's spouse.
- b. each child through the end of the year in which they turn 26 years of age, for whom the Insured, the Insured's spouse is legally responsible, including natural born children, newborn adopted children from the date of placement for adoption, any child placed with the Insured for adoption, a foster child or other child in court-ordered custody, placed pursuant to Chapter 63 of Florida Code and, children covered under a Qualified Medical Child Support Order as defined by applicable Federal and State laws. Grandchildren, spouses of Dependents and other Dependent family members under the age of 26 are not eligible for coverage under this plan.
- c. each child age 26 or older who is Totally Disabled and becomes Totally Disabled as defined below while insured as a dependent under b. above. Coverage of such child will not cease if proof of dependency and disability is given within 31 days of attaining the limiting age and subsequently as may be required by us but not more frequently than annually after the initial two year period following the child's attaining the limiting age. Any costs for providing continuing proof will be at our expense.

**TOTAL DISABILITY** describes the Insured's Dependent as:

1. Continuously incapable of self-sustaining employment because of developmental disability or physical handicap; and
2. Chiefly dependent upon the Insured for support and maintenance.

**DEPENDENT UNIT** refers to all of the people who are insured as the dependents of any one Insured.

**PROVIDER** refers to any person who is licensed by the law of the state in which treatment is provided within the scope of the license.

**PARTICIPATING AND NON-PARTICIPATING PROVIDERS.** A Participating Provider is a Provider who has a contract with Us to provide services to Insureds at a discount. A Participating Provider is also referred to as a "Network Provider". The terms and conditions of the agreement with our network providers are available upon request. Members are required to pay the difference between the plan payment and the Participating Provider's contracted fees for covered services. A Non-Participating Provider is any other provider and may also be referred

to as an “Out-of-Network Provider.” Members are required to pay the difference between the plan payment and the provider’s actual fee for covered services. Therefore, the out-of-pocket expenses may be lower if services are provided by a Participating Provider.

**PLAN EFFECTIVE DATE** refers to the date coverage under the policy becomes effective. The Plan Effective Date for the Policyholder is shown on the policy cover. The effective date of coverage for an Insured is shown in the Policyholder's records.

All insurance will begin at 12:01 A.M. on the Effective Date. It will end after 11:59 P.M. on the Termination Date. All times are stated as Standard Time of the residence of the Insured.

**PLAN CHANGE EFFECTIVE DATE** refers to the date that the policy provisions originally issued to the Policyholder change as requested by the Policyholder. The Plan Change Effective date for the Policyholder will be shown on the policy cover, if the Policyholder has requested a change. The plan change effective date for an Insured is shown in the Policyholder’s records or on the cover of the certificate.

**CONDITIONS FOR INSURANCE COVERAGE**  
*ELIGIBILITY*

**ELIGIBLE CLASS FOR MEMBERS.** The members of the eligible class(es) are shown on the Schedule of Benefits. Each member of the eligible class (referred to as "Member") will qualify for such insurance on the day he or she completes the required eligibility period, if any. Members choosing to elect coverage will hereinafter be referred to as "Insured."

If employment is the basis for membership, a member of the Eligible Class for Insurance is any full time active employee working at least 30 hours per week. If membership is by reason other than employment, then a member of the Eligible Class for Insurance is as defined by the Policyholder.

If both spouses are Members, and if either of them insures their dependent children, then the spouse, whoever elects, will be considered the dependent of the other. As a dependent, the person will not be considered a Member of the Eligible Class, but will be eligible for insurance as a dependent.

**ELIGIBLE CLASS FOR DEPENDENT INSURANCE.** Each Member of the eligible class(es) for dependent coverage is eligible for the Dependent Insurance under the policy and will qualify for this Dependent Insurance on the the latest of:

1. the day he or she qualifies for coverage as a Member;
2. the day he or she becomes a Member; or
3. the day he or she first has a dependent.

**COVERAGE FOR NEWBORN AND ADOPTED CHILDREN.** A newborn child will be covered from the date of birth. Coverage for a newborn child of a covered dependent other than a spouse will stop on the date the child attains eighteen months of age.

An adopted child, foster child and other child in court-ordered custody placed pursuant to Chapter 63 will be covered from the date of placement in the Insured's residence. A newborn adopted child will be covered from the date of birth if the Insured has agreed in writing to adopt the child prior to its birth and the child is ultimately placed in the Insured's residence.

Coverage for a newborn child shall consist of coverage for all covered Eye Care expenses, subject to applicable deductibles, coinsurance percentages, maximums and limitations, including the necessary care or treatment of congenital defects, birth abnormalities, including premature birth.

The Insured may give us written notice within 61 days of the date of birth or placement of a dependent child to start coverage. If timely notice is given, we will not charge an additional premium for the 61-day notice period. If timely notice is not given, we will charge the applicable additional premium from the date of birth or placement for an adopted child. We will not deny coverage for a child due to the failure of the Insured to notify us within 60 days of the child's birth or placement.

A Member must be an Insured to also insure his or her dependents.

If employment is the basis for membership, a member of the Eligible Class for Dependent Insurance is any full time active employee working at least 30 hours per week and has eligible dependents. If membership is by reason other than employment, then a member of the Eligible Class for Insurance is as defined by the Policyholder.

Any spouse who elects to be a dependent rather than a member of the Eligible Class for Personal Insurance, as explained above, is not a member of the Eligible Class for Dependent Insurance.

When a member of the Eligible Class for Dependent Insurance dies and, if at the date of death, has dependents insured, the Policyholder has the option of offering the dependents of the deceased employee continued coverage. If elected by the Policyholder and the affected dependents, the name of such deceased member will continue to be listed as a member of the Eligible Class for Dependent Insurance.

**CONTRIBUTION REQUIREMENTS.** Member Insurance: An Insured is required to contribute to the payment of his or her insurance premiums.

Dependent Insurance: An Insured is required to contribute to the payment of insurance premiums for his or her dependents.

**SECTION 125.** This plan is provided as part of the Employer's Section 125 Plan. Each Member has the option under the Section 125 Plan of participating or not participating in this plan.

If a Member does not elect to participate when initially eligible, the Member may elect to participate at a subsequent Election Period. This Election Period will be held each year and those who elect to participate in this plan at that time will have their coverage become effective on October 1.

Members may change their election option only during an Election Period, except for a change in family status. Such events would be marriage, divorce, birth of a child, death of a spouse or child, or termination of employment of a spouse.

**ELIGIBILITY PERIOD.** For Members on the Plan Effective Date of the policy, qualification will occur following the eligibility period of 30 calendar day(s) of continuous active employment.

For persons who become Members after the Plan Effective Date of the policy, qualification will occur following the eligibility period of 30 calendar day(s) of continuous active employment.

**OPEN ENROLLMENT.** If a Member does not elect to participate when initially eligible, the Member may elect to participate at the Policyholder's next enrollment period. This enrollment period will be held each year and those who elect to participate in this policy at that time will have their insurance become effective on October 1.

If employment is the basis for membership in the Eligible Class for Members, an Insured whose eligibility terminates and is established again, may or may not have to complete a new eligibility period before he or she can again qualify for insurance.

**EFFECTIVE DATE.** Each Member has the option of being insured and insuring his or her Dependents. To elect coverage, he or she must agree in writing to contribute to the payment of the insurance premiums. The Effective Date for each Member and his or her Dependents, will be:

1. the date on which the Member qualifies for insurance, if the Member agrees to contribute on or before that date.
2. the date on which the Member agrees to contribute, if that date is within 31 days after the date he or she qualifies for insurance.

**EXCEPTIONS.** If employment is the basis for membership, a Member must be in active service on the date the insurance, or any increase in insurance, is to take effect. If not, the insurance will not take effect until the day he or she returns to active service. Active service refers to the performance in the customary manner by an employee of all the regular duties of his or her employment with his or her employer on a full time basis at one of the employer's business establishments or at some location to which the employer's business requires the employee to travel.

A Member will be in active service on any regular non-working day if he or she is not totally disabled on that day and if he or she was in active service on the regular working day before that day.

If membership is by reason other than employment, a Member must not be totally disabled on the date the insurance, or any increase in insurance, is to take effect. The insurance will not take effect until the day after he or she ceases to be totally disabled.

But any person who is not in active service or is totally disabled will be insured on the Effective Date if:

- i. the person was insured under a policy of group insurance providing like benefits which ended on the day immediately before the Effective Date of the policy providing this coverage; and
- ii. the person is considered a Member or an eligible Dependent under the policy providing this coverage; and had the prior policy contained the same definition of eligibility, would have been a Member or Dependent under the prior policy.

### ***TERMINATION DATES***

**INSUREDS.** The insurance for any Insured, will automatically terminate on the end of the month falling on or next following the **earliest of:**

1. the date the Insured ceases to be a Member;
2. the last day of the period for which the Insured has contributed, if required, to the payment of insurance premiums; or
3. the date the policy is terminated.

**DEPENDENTS.** The insurance for all of an Insured's dependents will automatically terminate on the end of the month falling on or next following the **earliest of:**

1. the date on which the Insured's coverage terminates;
2. the date on which the Insured ceases to be a Member;
3. the last day of the period for which the Insured has contributed, if required, to the payment of insurance premiums; or
4. the date all Dependent Insurance under the policy is terminated.

The insurance for any Dependent will automatically terminate on the end of the month falling on or next following the day before the date on which the dependent no longer meets the definition of a dependent. For those Dependents whose coverage terminates because they no longer meet the definition of a Dependent as a result of a limiting age (See "Definitions"), insurance will continue in force throughout the remainder of that year but will automatically terminate December 31 of the year following the attainment of that limiting age.

**CONTINUATION OF COVERAGE.** If coverage ceases according to TERMINATION DATE, some or all of the insurance coverages may be continued. Contact your plan administrator for details.

## **EYE CARE EXPENSE BENEFITS**

If an Insured has Covered Expenses under this section, we pay benefits as described. The Insured can choose any provider at any time.

### **COVERED EXPENSES**

Covered Expenses include the lesser of:

- a. the charge for the covered procedure furnished; or
- b. the Maximum Covered Expense for such services or supplies shown in the Schedule of Eye Care Services.

Covered Expenses are the eye care expenses incurred by an Insured for services or supplies. We pay up to the Maximum Covered Expense shown in the Schedule of Eye Care Services.

### **DEDUCTIBLE AMOUNT**

The Deductible Amount is on the Schedule of Benefits. It is an amount of Covered Expenses for which no benefits are payable. It applies separately to each Insured. Benefits are paid only for those Covered Expenses that are over the Deductible Amount.

### **PARTICIPATING PROVIDERS**

A Participating Provider is a provider who has agreed to participate in the VSP network and agrees to provide services and supplies to the Insured at a discounted fee. For questions related to providers or benefit payments, VSP's Customer Care Division is available at (800) 877-7195.

### **NON-PARTICIPATING PROVIDERS**

A Non-Participating Provider is any other provider. Non-Participating providers may be referred to as Affiliate or Open Access Providers. Non-Participating Providers are not subject to our Quality Management Programs. Your out-of-pocket expenses may be greater when you visit a Non-Participating Provider. However, more cost savings or convenience may be available through VSP arrangements with Affiliate Providers. You may contact VSP's Customer Care Division for details at (800) 877-7195.

### **EYE CARE SUPPLIES**

Eye care supplies are all services listed on the Schedule of Eye Care Services. They exclude services related to Eye Care Exams.

### **REQUEST FOR SERVICES**

When requesting services, the Insured must advise the Participating Provider's office that he or she has coverage under this network plan. If the Insured receives services from a Participating Provider without this notification, the benefits may be limited to those for a Non-Participating Provider.

### **ASSIGNMENT OF BENEFITS**

We pay benefits to the Participating Provider for services and supplies performed or furnished by them. When a Non-Participating Provider performs services, we pay benefits to the Insured unless arranged differently through an Affiliate or Open Access provider, or otherwise required by state regulation.

### **EXTENSION OF BENEFITS**

If your policy terminates, we will pay claims for eye care services and supplies that you received or ordered prior to your policy's termination. You will have six months following the date of service to submit your claim.

### **EXPENSES INCURRED**

An expense is incurred at the time a service is rendered or a supply item furnished.

**PROOF OF LOSS**

Written proof of loss must be given to us within 180 days after completion of the service for a claim to be covered. An exception may be made if the Insured shows it was not possible to submit the proof of loss within this period.

**LIMITATIONS**

This plan has the following limitation:

Some brands of spectacle frames may be unavailable at all locations for purchase as Covered Expenses, or may be subject to additional out-of-pocket expenses. Insureds may obtain details regarding frame brand availability from their treating provider or by calling VSP's Customer Care Division at (800) 877-7195.

**EXCLUSIONS**

This plan does not cover:

Services and/or materials not specifically included in this Schedule as covered Plan Benefits,

Plano lenses (lenses with refractive correction of less than plus or minus .50 diopter) except as specifically allowed in the frames benefit section below,

Services or materials that are cosmetic, including Plano contact lenses to change eye color and artistically painted Contact Lenses,

Two pairs of glasses in lieu of Bifocals,

Replacement of Spectacle Lenses, Frames, and/or contact lenses furnished under this plan that are lost or damaged, except at the normal intervals when services are otherwise available,

Orthoptics or vision training and any associated supplemental testing,

Medical or surgical treatment of the eyes,

Contact lens modification, polishing or cleaning,

The refitting of Contact Lenses after the initial 90-day fitting period,

Contact Lens insurance policies or service contracts,

Additional office visits associated with contact lens pathology,

Local, state and/or federal taxes, except where law requires us to pay,

Membership fees for any retail center in which an Affiliate or Open Access provider office may be located. Covered persons may be required to purchase a membership in such entities as a condition of accessing Plan Benefits.

## SCHEDULE OF EYE CARE SERVICES

The following is a complete list of eye care services for which benefits are payable under this section, You must first pay a Deductible for certain services as indicated on the Schedule of Benefits in the - Eye Care Expense Benefits section.

SERVICE	WHEN COVERED	PLAN MAXIMUM COVERED EXPENSE	
		<i>Participating Provider</i>	<i>Non-Participating Provider*</i>
<b>Vision Examination(s)</b>			
Eye Exam	Once every 12 months	Covered in Full	Up to \$ 45.00
Contact Lens Fitting & Evaluation	Once every 12 months	Covered in Full	See Elective Contact Lenses benefit below
<b>Complete Pair of Spectacles</b>			
<b>Lenses</b> (per pair, only one pair of lens type below allowed per covered period)			
Single Vision	Once every 12 months	Covered in Full	Up to \$ 30.00
Lined Bifocal	Once every 12 months	Covered in Full	Up to \$ 50.00
Lined Trifocal	Once every 12 months	Covered in Full	Up to \$ 65.00
Lenticular	Once every 12 months	Covered in Full	Up to \$100.00
<b>Frames</b>			
Single Frame	Once every 12 months	Up to \$120.00	Up to \$ 70.00
<b>Contact Lenses</b> (in lieu of Complete Pair of Spectacles)			
Elective	Once every 12 months	Up to \$110.00	Up to \$105.00
Medically Necessary**	Once every 12 months	Covered in Full	Up to \$210.00

**Low Vision** (for severe visual problems not correctable with regular lenses, as determined by the treating provider) Insureds can receive professional services for treatment of severe visual problems that are not correctable with regular lenses. The treating provider determines if an Insured's condition meets the criteria for coverage of this benefit. Insureds may contact VSP's Customer Care Division for details at (800-877-7195) for additional information.

\*Insureds may receive additional savings and some services may be covered in full by choosing to visit an Affiliate Non-Participating Provider.

\*\*The benefit for Medically Necessary contact lenses is in lieu of the Elective contact lenses benefit listed. The treating provider determines if an Insured meets the coverage criteria for this benefit.

## COORDINATION OF BENEFITS

The Coordination of Benefits (COB) provision applies if an Insured person has eye care coverage under more than one **Plan**. **Plan** is defined below. All benefits provided under this policy are subject to this section.

The order of benefit determination rules govern the order in which each **Plan** will pay a claim for benefits. The **Plan** that pays first is called the **Primary plan**. The **Primary plan** must pay benefits in accordance with its policy terms without regard to the possibility that another **Plan** may cover some expenses. The **Plan** that pays after the **Primary plan** is the **Secondary plan**. The **Secondary plan** may reduce the benefits it pays so that payments from all Plans do not exceed 100% of the total **Allowable expense**.

### DEFINITIONS

A. A **Plan** is any of the following that provides benefits or services for medical or eye care or treatment. If separate contracts are used to provide coordinated coverage for members of a group, the separate contracts are considered parts of the same plan and there is no COB among those separate contracts.

(1) **Plan** includes: group insurance contracts, health maintenance organization (HMO) contracts, closed panel plans or other forms of group or group-type coverage (whether insured or uninsured); medical care components of long-term care contracts, such as skilled nursing care; medical benefits under group or individual automobile contracts; and Medicare or any other federal governmental plan, as permitted by law.

(2) **Plan** does not include: hospital indemnity coverage or other fixed indemnity coverage; accident only coverage other than the medical benefits coverage in automobile "no fault" and traditional "fault" type contracts; specified disease or specified accident coverage; limited benefit health coverage, as defined by state law; school accident type coverage; benefits for non-medical components of long-term care policies; Medicare supplement policies; Medicaid policies; or coverage under other federal governmental plans, unless permitted by law.

Each contract for coverage under (1) or (2) is a separate **Plan**. If a **Plan** has two parts and COB rules apply only to one of the two, each of the parts is treated as a separate **Plan**.

B. **This plan** means, in a **COB** provision, the part of the contract providing the health care benefits to which the **COB** provision applies and which may be reduced because of the benefits of other plans. Any other part of the contract providing health care benefits is separate from this plan. A contract may apply one **COB** provision to certain benefits, such as eye care benefits, coordinating only with similar benefits, and may apply another **COB** provision to coordinate other benefits.

C. The order of benefit determination rules determine whether **This plan** is a **Primary plan** or **Secondary plan** when the person has health care coverage under more than one **Plan**.

When **This plan** is primary, it determines payment for its benefits first before those of any other **Plan** without considering any other **Plan's** benefits. When **This plan** is secondary, it determines its benefits after those of another **Plan** and may reduce the benefits it pays so that all **Plan** benefits do not exceed 100% of the total **Allowable expense**.

D. **Allowable expense** is a health care expense, including deductibles, coinsurance and co-payments, that is covered at least in part by any **Plan** covering the person. When a **Plan** provides benefits in the form of services, the reasonable cash value of each service will be considered an **Allowable expense** and a benefit paid. An expense that is not covered by any **Plan** covering the person is not an **Allowable expense**. In addition, any expense that a provider by law or in accordance with a contractual agreement is prohibited from charging a covered person is not an **Allowable expense**.

The following are examples of expenses that are not **Allowable expenses**:

- (1) If a person is covered by 2 or more **Plans** that compute their benefit payments on the basis of usual and customary fees or relative value schedule reimbursement methodology or other similar reimbursement methodology, any amount in excess of the highest reimbursement amount for a specific benefit is not an **Allowable expense**.
- (2) If a person is covered by 2 or more **Plans** that provide benefits or services on the basis of negotiated fees, an amount in excess of the highest of the negotiated fees is not an **Allowable expense**.
- (3) If a person is covered by one **Plan** that calculates its benefits or services on the basis of usual and customary fees or relative value schedule reimbursement methodology or other similar reimbursement methodology and another **Plan** that provides its benefits or services on the basis of negotiated fees, the **Primary plan's** payment arrangement shall be the **Allowable expense** for all **Plans**. However, if the provider has contracted with the **Secondary plan** to provide the benefit or service for a specific negotiated fee or payment amount that is different than the **Primary plan's** payment arrangement and if the provider's contract permits, the negotiated fee or payment shall be the **Allowable expense** used by the **Secondary plan** to determine its benefits.
- (4) The amount of any benefit reduction by the **Primary plan** because a covered person has failed to comply with the **Plan** provisions is not an **Allowable expense**. Examples of these types of plan provisions include second surgical opinions, precertification of admissions, and preferred provider arrangements.

E. **Closed panel plan** is a **Plan** that provides health care benefits to covered persons primarily in the form of services through a panel of providers that have contracted with or are employed by the **Plan**, and that excludes coverage for services provided by other providers, except in cases of emergency or referral by a panel member.

F. **Custodial parent** is the parent awarded custody by a court decree or, in the absence of a court decree, is the parent with whom the child resides more than one half of the calendar year excluding any temporary visitation.

## **ORDER OF BENEFIT DETERMINATION RULES**

When a person is covered by two or more **Plans**, the rules for determining the order of benefit payments are as follows:

- A. The **Primary plan** pays or provides its benefits according to its terms of coverage and without regard to the benefits of under any other **Plan**.
- B. (1) Except as provided in Paragraph B(2) below, a **Plan** that does not contain a coordination of benefits provision that is consistent with this regulation is always primary unless the provisions of both **Plans** state that the complying plan is primary.  
  
(2) Coverage that is obtained by virtue of membership in a group that is designed to supplement a part of a basic package of benefits and provides that this supplementary coverage shall be excess to any other parts of the **Plan** provided by the contract holder. Examples of these types of situations are major medical coverages that are superimposed over base plan hospital and surgical benefits, and insurance type coverages that are written in connection with a **Closed panel plan** to provide out-of-network benefits.
- C. A **Plan** may consider the benefits paid or provided by another **Plan** in calculating payment of its benefits only when it is secondary to that other **Plan**.
- D. Each **Plan** determines its order of benefits using the first of the following rules that apply:

(1) Non-Dependent or Dependent. The **Plan** that covers the person other than as a dependent, for example as an employee, member, policyholder, subscriber or retiree is the **Primary plan** and the **Plan** that covers the person as a dependent is the **Secondary plan**. However, if the person is a Medicare beneficiary and, as a result of federal law, Medicare is secondary to the **Plan** covering the person as a dependent; and primary to the **Plan** covering the person as other than a dependent (e.g. a retired employee); then the order of benefits between the two **Plans** is reversed so that the **Plan** covering the person as an employee, member, policyholder, subscriber or retiree is the **Secondary plan** and the other **Plan** is the **Primary plan**.

(2) Dependent Child Covered Under More Than One Plan. Unless there is a court decree stating otherwise, when a dependent child is covered by more than one **Plan** the order of benefits is determined as follows:

(a) For a dependent child whose parents are married or are living together, whether or not they have ever been married:

The **Plan** of the parent whose birthday falls earlier in the calendar year is the **Primary plan**; or

If both parents have the same birthday, the **Plan** that has covered the parent the longest is the **Primary plan**.

(b) For a dependent child whose parents are divorced or separated or not living together, whether or not they have ever been married:

(i) If a court decree states that one of the parents is responsible for the dependent child's health care expenses or health care coverage and the **Plan** of that parent has actual knowledge of those terms, that **Plan** is primary. This rule applies to plan years commencing after the **Plan** is given notice of the court decree;

(ii) If a court decree states that both parents are responsible for the dependent child's health care expenses or health care coverage, the provisions of Subparagraph (a) above shall determine the order of benefits;

(iii) If a court decree states that the parents have joint custody without specifying that one parent has responsibility for the health care expenses or health care coverage of the dependent child, the provisions of Subparagraph (a) above shall determine the order of benefits; or

(iv) If there is no court decree allocating responsibility for the dependent child's health care expenses or health care coverage, the order of benefits for the child are as follows:

The **Plan** covering the **Custodial parent**;

The **Plan** covering the spouse of the **Custodial parent**;

The **Plan** covering the **non-custodial parent**; and then

The **Plan** covering the spouse of the **non-custodial parent**.

(c) For a dependent child covered under more than one **Plan** of individuals who are the parents of the child, the provisions of Subparagraph (a) or (b) above shall determine the order of benefits as if those individuals were the parents of the child.

(3) Active Employee or Retired or Laid-off Employee. The **Plan** that covers a person as an active employee, that is, an employee who is neither laid off nor retired, is the **Primary plan**. The **Plan** covering that same person as a retired or laid-off employee is the **Secondary plan**. The same would hold true if a person is a dependent of an active employee and that same person is a dependent of a retired or laid-off employee. If the other **Plan** does not have this rule, and as a result, the **Plans** do not agree on the order of benefits, this rule is ignored. This rule does not apply if the rule labeled D(1) can determine the order of benefits.

(4) COBRA or State Continuation Coverage. If a person whose coverage is provided pursuant to COBRA or under a right of continuation provided by state or other federal law is covered under another **Plan**, the **Plan** covering the person as an employee, member, subscriber or retiree or covering the person as a dependent of an employee, member, subscriber or retiree is the **Primary plan** and the COBRA or state or other federal continuation coverage is the **Secondary plan**. If the other **Plan** does not have this rule, and as a result, the **Plans** do not agree on the order of benefits, this rule is ignored. This rule does not apply if the rule labeled D(1) can determine the order of benefits.

(5) Longer or Shorter Length of Coverage. The **Plan** that covered the person as an employee, member, policyholder, subscriber or retiree longer is the **Primary plan** and the **Plan** that covered the person the shorter period of time is the **Secondary plan**.

(6) If the preceding rules do not determine the order of benefits, the **Allowable expenses** shall be shared equally between the **Plans** meeting the definition of **Plan**. In addition, **This plan** will not pay more than it would have paid had it been the **Primary plan**.

#### **EFFECT ON THE BENEFITS OF THIS PLAN**

A. When **This plan** is secondary, it may reduce its benefits so that the total benefits paid or provided by all **Plans** during a plan year are not more than the total **Allowable expenses**. In determining the amount to be paid for any claim, the **Secondary plan** will calculate the benefits it would have paid in the absence of other health care coverage and apply that calculated amount to any **Allowable expense** under its **Plan** that is unpaid by the **Primary plan**. The **Secondary plan** may then reduce its payment by the amount so that, when combined with the amount paid by the **Primary plan**, the total benefits paid or provided by all **Plans** for the claim do not exceed the total **Allowable expense** for that claim. In addition, the **Secondary plan** shall credit to its plan deductible any amounts it would have credited to its deductible in the absence of other health care coverage.

B. If a covered person is enrolled in two or more **Closed panel** plans and if, for any reason, including the provision of service by a non-panel provider, benefits are not payable by one **Closed panel plan**, **COB** shall not apply between that **Plan** and other **Closed panel plans**.

#### **RIGHT TO RECEIVE AND RELEASE NEEDED INFORMATION**

Certain facts about health care coverage and services are needed to apply these **COB** rules and to determine benefits payable under **This plan** and other **Plans**. The Company may get the facts it needs from or give them to other organizations or persons for the purpose of applying these rules and determining benefits payable under **This plan** and other **Plans** covering the person claiming benefits. The Company need not tell, or get the consent of, any person to do this. Each person claiming benefits under **This plan** must give the Company any facts it needs to apply those rules and determine benefits payable.

#### **FACILITY OF PAYMENT**

A Payment made under another **Plan** may include an amount that should have been paid under **This plan**. If it does, the Company may pay that amount to the organization that made that payment. That amount will then be treated as though it were a benefit paid under **This plan**. The Company will not have to pay that amount again. The term "payment made" includes providing benefits in the form of services, in which case "payment made" means the reasonable cash value of the benefits provided in the form of services.

## **RIGHT OF RECOVERY**

If the amount of the payments made by the Company is more than it should have paid under this **COB** provision, it may recover the excess from one or more of the persons it has paid or for whom it has paid; or any other person or organization that may be responsible for the benefits or services provided for the covered person. The "amount of the payments made" includes the reasonable cash value of any benefits provided in the form of services.

## GENERAL PROVISIONS

**NOTICE OF CLAIM.** Written notice of a claim must be given to us within 90 days after the incurred date of the services provided for which benefits are payable.

Notice must be given to us at our Home Office, or to one of our agents. Notice should include the Policyholder's name, Insured's name, and policy number. If it was not reasonably possible to give written notice within the 90 day period stated above, we will not reduce or deny a claim for this reason if notice is filed as soon as is reasonably possible.

**CLAIM FORMS.** When we receive the notice of a claim, we will send the claimant forms for filing proof of loss. If these forms are not furnished within 15 days after the giving of such notice, the claimant will meet our proof of loss requirements by giving us a written statement of the nature and extent of loss within the time limit for filing proofs of loss.

**PROOF OF LOSS.** Written proof of loss must be given to us within 90 days after the incurred date of the services provided for which benefits are payable. If it is impossible to give written proof within the 90 day period, we will not reduce or deny a claim for this reason if the proof is filed as soon as is reasonably possible. For Eye Care benefits that use either the EyeMed or VSP network, please refer to the limitations section on the Eye Care Expense Benefits page.

**TIME OF PAYMENT.** We will pay all benefits within 45 days of when we receive due proof.

If benefits are contested or denied, we will notify the Insured, in writing, which benefits are contested or denied within 45 days of when we received due proof. We will pay or deny any balance remaining on benefits for a claim within 60 days upon receipt of any additional information requested from the Insured. In no event will we hold a claim without paying or denying benefits any later than 120 days.

Payment is considered to be made on the date a draft or other valid instrument is placed in the United States mail in a properly addressed post paid envelope or, if not so posted, on the date of delivery.

We will pay interest at the rate of 10 percent per year on overdue payments on benefits for valid claims.

We will investigate any claim of improper billing of a claim by a Provider upon written notification by an Insured. We will determine if the Insured was properly billed for only those procedures that the Insured actually received. If we determine that the Insured was improperly billed, we will notify the Insured and the provider of our findings and will reduce the amount of payment by the amount determined to be improperly billed. If a reduction is made due to such notification by the Insured, we will pay the Insured 20 percent of the reduction up to \$500.

**PAYMENT OF BENEFITS.** Participating Providers have agreed to accept assignment of benefits for services and supplies performed or furnished by them. When a Non-Participating Provider performs services, all benefits will be paid to the Insured unless otherwise indicated by the Insured's authorization to pay the Non-Participating Provider directly.

**FACILITY OF PAYMENT.** If an Insured or beneficiary is not capable of giving us a valid receipt for any payment or if benefits are payable to the estate of the Insured, then we may, at our option, pay the benefit up to an amount not to exceed \$3,000, to any relative by blood or connection by marriage of the Insured who is considered by us to be equitably entitled to the benefit.

Any equitable payment made in good faith will release us from liability to the extent of payment.

**PROVIDER-PATIENT RELATIONSHIP.** The Insured may choose any Provider who is licensed by the law of the state in which treatment is provided within the scope of their license. We will in no way disturb the provider-patient relationship.

**LEGAL PROCEEDINGS.** No legal action can be brought against us until 60 days after the Insured sends us the required proof of loss. No legal action against us can start more than the applicable statute of limitations after proof of loss is required.

**INCONTESTABILITY.** Any statement made by the Policyholder to obtain the Policy is a representation and not a warranty. No misrepresentation by the Policyholder will be used to deny a claim or to deny the validity of the Policy unless:

1. The Policy would not have been issued if we had known the truth; and
2. We have given the Policyholder a copy of a written instrument signed by the Policyholder that contains the misrepresentation.

The validity of the Policy will not be contested after it has been in force for one year, except for nonpayment of premiums or fraudulent misrepresentations.

**WORKER'S COMPENSATION.** The coverage provided under the Policy is not a substitute for coverage under a workmen's compensation or state disability income benefit law and does not relieve the Policyholder of any obligation to provide such coverage.

## GENERAL PROVISIONS (CONTINUED)

**CONFORMITY WITH LAW.** Any policy provision that conflicts with the laws of the state in which the policy is issued, when the policy is issued, is automatically changed to meet the minimum requirements of those laws.

**ENTIRE CONTRACT.** The policy and the application of the Policyholder constitute the entire contract between the parties. A copy of the Policyholder's application is attached to the policy when issued. All statements made by the Policyholder or an Insured will, in the absence of fraud, be considered representations and not warranties. No statement made to obtain insurance will be used to void the insurance or reduce the benefits of this policy unless it is in a written application signed by the Policyholder or Insured. A copy of this must have been given to the Policyholder or Insured.

No change in this policy will be valid unless approved in writing by one of our officers and given to the Policyholder for attachment to the policy. No agent has the authority to change this policy or waive any of its provisions. Any change in this policy will be valid even though an Insured may not have agreed to it.

**INSURANCE DATA.** The Policyholder will furnish, at our request, data necessary to administer this policy. The data will include, but not be limited to data:

- i. necessary to calculate premiums;
- ii. necessary to determine a person's effective date or termination date of insurance;
- iii. necessary to determine the proper coverage level of insurance.

We shall have the right to inspect any of the Policyholder's records we find necessary to properly administer this policy. Any inspections will be at a time and place convenient to the Policyholder.

We will not refuse to insure a person who is eligible to be insured just because the Policyholder fails or errs in giving us the data necessary to include that person for coverage. An Insured's insurance will not stay in force nor an amount of insurance be continued after the termination date, according to the Conditions for Insurance, because the Policyholder fails or errors in giving us the necessary data concerning an Insured's termination.

**CERTIFICATES.** We will issue certificates to the Policyholder showing the coverage under the policy. The Policyholder will distribute a certificate to each insured Member. If the terms of the certificate differ from the policy, the terms stated in the policy will govern.

**PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS.** There are two requirements that must be met in order for the policy to be placed in force, and to remain in force:

- a. a certain percentage of all Members qualified for insurance must be insured at all times; and
- b. a certain number of Members must be insured at all times.

The Participation Requirements are as follows:

Percentage of Members-	60%
Number of Members-	611

**TERMINATION OF THE POLICY.** The Policyholder may terminate this policy as of any Premium Due Date by giving us written notice before that date.

We may terminate this policy on any Premium Due Date if the participation of Insureds and/or Dependents does not meet the requirements in "Conditions For Insurance." Written notice of termination of insurance must be given to the Policyholder at least 45 days before the date of termination.

If any premium is not paid when due, this policy will automatically be terminated as of the Premium Due Date, except as stated below.

**GRACE PERIOD.** This policy has a 60 day grace period. This means that if a renewal premium is not paid on or before the date it is due, it may be paid during the following 60 days. During the grace period, the policy will stay in force. If the Policyholder has not sent us a written request to terminate the policy and a premium is not paid by the end of the grace period, the policy will terminate at the end of the grace period. If the Policyholder gives us written notice of termination before the Premium Due Date, the policy will be terminated as of the date requested. The Policyholder will be liable for any unpaid premium for the time this policy was in force, including the grace period.

**CONSIDERATION.** This policy is issued to the Policyholder in consideration of the application and the payment of premiums specified in this policy.

**TERMS AND CONDITIONS.** Payment of any benefit under this policy is subject to the definitions and all other terms of this policy pertinent to the benefit.