

*Posted 1/29/03*

*UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA*

*Effective January 1, 2003*

**Core CA Plan  
In California Without Medicare**

***Summary Plan Description***

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Dear Plan Member:

This Summary Plan Description provides a complete explanation of your benefits, limitations and other plan provisions which apply to you.

Subscribers and covered family members (“members”) are referred to in this booklet as “you” and “your”. The *plan administrator* is referred to as “we”, “us” and “our”.

All italicized words have specific definitions. These definitions can be found either in the specific section or in the DEFINITIONS section of this booklet.

Please read this Summary Plan Description (“*plan description*”) carefully so that you understand all the benefits your *plan* offers. Keep this Summary Plan Description handy in case you have any questions about your coverage.

## COMPLAINT NOTICE

All complaints and disputes relating to coverage under this *plan* must be resolved in accordance with the *plan's* grievance procedures. Grievances may be made by telephone (please call the number described on your Identification Card) or in writing (write to BC Life & Health Insurance Company, 21555 Oxnard Street, Woodland Hills, CA 91367 marked to the attention of the Customer Service Department named on your identification card). If you wish, the Claims Administrator will provide a Complaint Form which you may use to explain the matter.

All grievances received under the *plan* will be acknowledged in writing, together with a description of how the *plan* proposes to resolve the grievance. Grievances that cannot be resolved by this procedure shall be submitted to arbitration.

*Claims Administered by:*

BLUE CROSS OF CALIFORNIA

*on behalf of*

BC LIFE & HEALTH INSURANCE COMPANY

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# University of California - CORE CA Plan In California Without Medicare

## BENEFITS AT A GLANCE

This is a brief review of your benefits. For complete information, including the terms and conditions of this plan and exclusions and limitations, please refer to the entire Summary Plan Description.

<b>Calendar year deductible for all providers:</b>	\$3,000/member
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<b>Penalty for not obtaining preauthorization where required:</b>	\$500/admission
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<b>Annual out-of-pocket maximums for all providers:</b>	\$7,600/member/year
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The following do not apply to out-of-pocket maximums: non-covered expenses, costs in excess of the covered expense. After a member reaches the out-of-pocket maximum, the member remains responsible for non-compliance penalties, and for non-PPO and other health care provider costs in excess of the covered expense.

<b>Lifetime Maximum</b>	\$2,000,000/member
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Covered Services	PPO: Per Member Copay	Non-PPO: Per Member Copay
<b>Hospital</b> <i>waived for emergency admissions)</i>	<i>(preauthorization</i>	<i>required;</i>
<b>Medical Services</b>		
➤ Semi-private room, meals & special diets, & ancillary services	20%	20%
➤ Outpatient medical care, surgical services & supplies <i>(hospital care other than emergency room care)</i>	20%	20%
<b>Ambulatory Surgical Centers</b>		
➤ Outpatient surgery, services & supplies	20%	20%
<b>Skilled Nursing Facility</b>		
➤ Semi-private room, services & supplies <i>(limited to 120 days/calendar year)</i>	20%	20%
<b>Urgent Care (Freestanding)</b>	20%	20%
<b>Hospice Care</b>		
➤ Inpatient or outpatient services for members with up to one year <i>(Lifetime benefit of 30 days inpatient/\$5,000 outpatient)</i>	20% life	20% expectancy
<b>Home Health Care</b>		
➤ Services & supplies from a home health agency <i>(limited to 100 visits/calendar year, one visit by a home health aide equals four hours or less; not covered while member receives hospice care)</i>	20%	20%
<b>Registered Special Duty Nurse</b> <i>(outpatient only; limited to \$10,000/calendar year)</i>	20%	20%
<b>Home Infusion Therapy</b>		
➤ Includes medication, ancillary services & supplies; caregiver training & visits by therapy; durable medical equipment; lab services	20% provider	20% to monitor
<b>Physician Medical Services</b>		
➤ Office & home visits	20%	20%
➤ Hospital & skilled nursing facility visits	20%	20%
➤ Surgeon & surgical assistant; anesthesiologist or anesthesiologist	20%	20%
<b>Diagnostic X-ray &amp; Lab</b> <i>(including mammograms, Pap smears, &amp; prostate cancer screenings)</i>	20%	20%
<b>Radiation Therapy, Chemotherapy &amp; Hemodialysis Treatment</b>	20%	20%

<b>Covered Services</b>	<b>PPO: Per Member Copay</b>	<b>Non-PPO: Per Member Copay</b>
<b>Preventive Care</b>		
➤ Routine physical exams, immunizations, diagnostic X-ray & lab for routine physical exam	20%	20%
➤ Vision Exams ( <i>when medically necessary</i> )	20%	20%
➤ Hearing Exams & Hearing Aids covered	Not covered	Not
➤ Allergy testing & treatment ( <i>including serums</i> )	20%	20%
<b>Physical Therapy, Physical Medicine &amp; Occupational Therapy</b>	20%	20%
<b>Chiropractic Services</b>	20%	20%
<b>Speech Therapy</b>		
➤ Outpatient speech therapy following injury or organic disease	20%	20%
<b>Acupuncture</b>		
➤ Services for the treatment of disease, illness or injury ( <i>limited to \$500/calendar year maximum</i> )	20%	20%
<b>Temporomandibular (preauthorization required)</b>	<b>Joint</b>	<b>Disorders</b>
➤ Splint therapy & surgical treatment	20%	20%
<b>Family planning services</b>		
➤ Infertility studies & tests	20%	20%
➤ Tubal ligation	20%	20%
➤ Vasectomy	20%	20%
➤ Counseling & consultation	20%	20%
➤ Elective abortion	20%	20%
<b>Pregnancy &amp; Maternity Care</b>		
➤ Physician office visits	20%	20%
➤ Prescription drug for elective abortion ( <i>mifepristone</i> )	20%	20%
Normal pregnancy care covered) & cesarean section, (newborn complications of routine nursery		
➤ Inpatient physician services	20%	20%
➤ Hospital & ancillary services	20%	20%



Covered Services				PPO: Per Member Copay	Non-PPO: Per Member Copay
<b>Organ &amp; Tissue Transplants</b>	<i>specified organ at a Center of Expertise [COE]</i>	<i>transplants</i>	<i>Transplants covered</i>	<i>(preauthorization only when</i>	<i>required; performed</i>
➤	Inpatient services provided in connection with non-investigative organ or tissue transplants			20%	20%
➤	Physician office visits <i>(including specialists and consultants)</i>			20%	20%
➤	Transplant travel expense for an authorized, specified transplant at a COE <i>(recipient &amp; companion transportation limited to 6 trips/episode &amp; \$250/person/trip for round-trip coach airfare, hotel limited to 1 room double occupancy &amp; \$100/day for 21 days/trip, other expenses limited to \$25/day/person for 21 days/trip; donor transportation limited to 1 trip/episode &amp; \$250 for round-trip coach airfare, hotel limited to 7 days, other expenses limited to \$25/day for 7 days)</i>			No copay (no deductible)	
<b>Diabetes Education Programs</b> <i>(requires physician supervision)</i>					
➤	Teach members & their families about the disease process, the daily management of diabetic therapy & self-management training			20%	20%
<b>Prosthetic Devices</b>					
➤	Coverage for breast prostheses; prosthetic devices to restore a method of speaking; surgical implants; eyes; & the first pair of contact lenses or artificial limbs or eyeglasses when required as a result of eye surgery			20%	20%
<b>Durable Medical Equipment</b>					
➤	Rental or purchase of DME including dialysis equipment & supplies, & therapeutic shoes & inserts for members with diabetes			20%	20%
<b>Related Outpatient Medical Services &amp; Supplies</b>					
➤	Ground or air ambulance transportation, services & disposable supplies			20%	20%
➤	Blood transfusions, blood processing & the cost of unreplaced blood & blood products			20%	20%
➤	Autologous blood <i>(self-donated blood collection, testing, processing &amp; storage for planned surgery)</i>			20%	20%
<b>Emergency Care</b>					
➤	Emergency room services & supplies			20%	20%
➤	Inpatient hospital services & supplies			20%	20%
➤	Ambulatory surgical center services & supplies			20%	20%
➤	Physician services			20%	20%
<b>Outpatient Drugs and Medications</b>					
➤	Drugs and medications, including oral contraceptives & insulin, when dispensed by a physician or licensed pharmacist			20%	

**Mental and Nervous Disorders & Substance Abuse Benefits are not covered.**

**Members residing outside of the PPO service area and members traveling out of the country will be responsible for 20% of the Customary & Reasonable allowance plus the difference between the Customary & Reasonable allowance and billed charges.**

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**January 1, 2003**

The following information applies to the University of California plan and supersedes any corresponding information that may be contained elsewhere in the document to which this insert is attached. The University establishes its own medical plan eligibility, enrollment and termination criteria based on the University of California Group Insurance Regulations ("Regulations"). Portions of these Regulations are summarized below.

**ELIGIBILITY**

The following individuals are eligible to enroll in this Plan.

**Subscribers**

**Employees:** You are eligible if you are appointed to work at least 50% time for twelve months or more or are appointed at 100% time for three months or more or have accumulated 1,000 hours while on pay status in a twelve-month period. To remain eligible, you must maintain an average regular paid time\* of at least 17.5 hours per week. If your appointment is at least 50% time, your appointment form may refer to the time period as follows: "Ending date for funding purposes only; intent of appointment is indefinite (for more than one year)."

\*For any month, your average regular paid time is the average number of regular paid hours per week (excluding overtime, stipend or bonus time) worked by you in the preceding twelve (12) month period.

- (a) A month with zero regular paid hours which occurred during your furlough or approved leave without pay will not be included in the calculation of the average. If such absence exceeds eleven (11) months, the averaging will be restarted.
- (b) A month with zero regular paid hours which occurred during a period when you were not on furlough or approved leave without pay will be included in the calculation of the average. After two consecutive such months, the averaging will be restarted.

For a partial month of zero regular paid hours due to furlough, leave without pay or initial employment the following will apply.

- (a) If you worked at least 43.75% of the regular paid hours available in the month, the month will be included in the calculation of the average.
- (b) If you did not work at least 43.75% of the regular paid hours available in the month, the month will not be included in the calculation of the average.

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**Annuitant:** A former University Employee receiving monthly benefits from a University-sponsored defined benefit plan.

**Survivor Annuitant:** A deceased Employee's or Annuitant's family member receiving monthly benefits from a University-sponsored defined benefit plan.

You may continue University medical plan coverage as an **Annuitant** when you start collecting retirement or disability benefits from a University-sponsored defined benefit plan, or as a **Survivor Annuitant** when you start collecting survivor benefits from a University-sponsored defined benefit plan. You must also meet the following requirements:

- (a) you meet the University's service credit requirements for Annuitant medical eligibility;
- (b) the effective date of your Annuitant status is within 120 calendar days of the date employment ends (or the date of the Employee/Annuitant's death for a Survivor Annuitant); and
- (c) you elect to continue medical coverage at the time of retirement.

If you are eligible for Medicare, see "Effect of Medicare on Annuitant Enrollment" below.

**Eligible Dependents (Family Members)**

When you enroll any Family Member, your signature on the enrollment form or the confirmation number on your electronic enrollment attests that your Family Member meets the eligibility requirements outlined below. The University and/or the Plan reserves the right to periodically request documentation to verify eligibility of Family Members. Documentation could include a marriage certificate, birth certificate(s), adoption records, or other official documentation. In addition, you will be asked to submit a copy annually of your Federal income tax return (IRS form 1040 or IRS equivalent showing the covered Family Member and your signature) to the University to verify income tax dependency for those categories where it is a condition of eligibility.

**Spouse:** Your legal spouse. (Note: if you are a Survivor Annuitant, you may not enroll your legal spouse.)

**Child:** All eligible children must be under the limiting age (18 for legal wards, 23 for all others), unmarried, and may not be emancipated minors. The following categories are eligible:

- (a) your natural or legally adopted children;
- (b) your stepchildren (natural or legally adopted children of your spouse) if living with you, dependent on you or your spouse for at least 50% of their support and are your or your spouse's dependents for income tax purposes;
- (c) grandchildren of you or your spouse if living with you, dependent on you or your spouse for at least 50% of their support and are your or your spouse's dependents for income tax purposes;
- (d) children for whom you are the legal guardian if living with you, dependent on you for at least 50% of their support and are your dependents for income tax purposes.

Any child described above (except a legal ward) who is incapable of self-support due to a physical or mental handicap may continue to be covered past age 23 provided:

- the incapacity began before age 23, the child was enrolled in a group medical plan before age 23 and coverage is continuous,
- the child is dependent on you for at least 50% of his or her support and is your dependent for income tax purposes, and

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- the child lives with you if he or she is not your or your spouse's natural or adopted child.

Application must be made to the Plan 31 days before the child's 23<sup>rd</sup> birthday and is subject to approval by the Plan. The Plan may periodically request proof of continued disability. Incapacitated children approved for continued coverage under a University-sponsored medical plan are eligible for continued coverage under any other University-sponsored medical plan; if enrollment is transferred from one plan to another, a new application for continued coverage is not required.

If you are a newly hired Employee with an incapacitated child, you may also apply for coverage for that child. The child must have had continuous group medical coverage since age 23, and you must apply for University coverage during your Period of Initial Eligibility.

**Other Eligible Dependents (Family Members):** You may enroll as an adult relative or same sex domestic partner (and the same sex domestic partner's children/grandchildren) as set forth in the University of California Group Insurance Regulations.

For information on who qualifies and how to enroll, contact your local Benefits Office or the University of California's Customer Service Center.

**No Dual Coverage**

Eligible individuals may be covered under only one of the following categories: as an Employee, an Annuitant, a Survivor Annuitant or a Family Member, but not under any combination of these. If both husband and wife are eligible Employees, each may enroll separately or one may cover the other as a Family Member. If they enroll separately, neither may enroll the other as a Family Member. Eligible children may be enrolled under either parent's coverage but not under both.

**ENROLLMENT**

For information about enrolling yourself or an eligible Family Member, see the person at your location who handles benefits. If you are an Annuitant, contact the University's Customer Service Center. Enrollment transactions may be by paper form or electronic, according to current University practice. To complete the enrollment transaction, paper forms must be received by the local Accounting or Benefits office or by the University's Customer Service Center by the last business day within the applicable enrollment period; electronic transactions must be completed by midnight of the last day of the enrollment period.

**During a Period of Initial Eligibility (PIE)**

A PIE ends 31 days after it begins.

If you are an Employee, you may enroll yourself and any eligible Family Members during your PIE. Your PIE starts the day you become an eligible Employee.

You may enroll any newly eligible Family Member during his or her PIE. The Family Member's PIE starts the day your Family Member becomes eligible, as described below. During this PIE you may also enroll yourself and/or any other eligible Family Member if not enrolled during your own or their own PIE. You must enroll yourself in order to enroll any eligible Family Member. Family Members are only eligible for the same plan you are enrolled in.

- (a) For a spouse, on the date of marriage. Survivor Annuitants may not add Spouses to their coverage.
- (b) For a natural child, on the child's date of birth.

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(c) For an adopted child, the earlier of:

- the date you or your Spouse has the legal right to control the child's health care, or
- the date the child is placed in your physical custody.

If the child is not enrolled during the PIE beginning on that date, there is an additional PIE beginning on the date the adoption becomes final.

(a) Where there is more than one eligibility requirement, the date all requirements are satisfied.

If you decline enrollment for yourself or your eligible Family Members because of other group medical plan coverage and you lose that coverage involuntarily, you may be able to enroll yourself and those eligible Family Members during a PIE that starts on the day the other coverage is no longer in effect.

If you are in an HMO and you move or are transferred out of that HMO's service area, or will be away from the HMO's service area for more than two months, you will have a PIE to enroll yourself and your eligible Family Members in another University medical plan. Your PIE starts with the effective date of the move or the date you leave the HMO's service area.

**At Other Times**

You and your eligible Family Members may also enroll during a group open enrollment period established by the University.

If you or your eligible Family Members fail to enroll during a PIE or open enrollment period, you may enroll at any other time upon completion of a 90 consecutive calendar day waiting period. The 90-day waiting period starts on the date your enrollment form is received by the local Accounting or Benefits office and ends 90 consecutive calendar days later.

If you have two or more Family Members enrolled in the Plan, you may add a newly eligible Family Member at any time. See "Effective Date".

If you are an Annuitant, you may continue coverage for yourself and your enrolled Family Members in the same plan you were enrolled in immediately before retiring. You must elect to continue enrollment before the effective date of retirement (or the date disability or survivor benefits begin).

**Effective Date**

The following effective dates apply provided the appropriate enrollment transaction (paper form or electronic) has been completed within the applicable enrollment period.

If you enroll during a PIE, coverage for you and your Family Members is effective the date the PIE starts.

If you are an Annuitant continuing enrollment in conjunction with retirement, coverage for you and your Family Members is effective on the first of the month following the first full calendar month of retirement income.

The effective date of coverage for enrollment during an open enrollment period is the date announced by the University.

For enrollees who complete a 90-day waiting period, coverage is effective on the 91<sup>st</sup> consecutive calendar day after the date the enrollment transaction is completed.

When you already have two or more Family Members enrolled and enroll another Family Member, coverage may be retroactive with the effective date limited to the later of:

(a) the date the newly added Family Member becomes eligible, or

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(b) a maximum of 60 days prior to the date his or her enrollment transaction is completed.

**Change in Coverage**

In order to change from individual to two-party coverage and from two-party to family coverage, or to add another Family Member to existing family coverage, contact the person who handles benefits at your location (or the University's Customer Service Center if you are an Annuitant).

**Effect of Medicare on Annuitant Enrollment**

If you are an Annuitant and you and/or an enrolled Family Member is or becomes eligible for premium free Medicare Part A (Hospital Insurance) as primary coverage, then that individual must also enroll in and remain in Medicare Part B (Medical Insurance). Once Medicare coverage is established, coverage in both Part A and Part B must be continuous. This includes anyone who is entitled to Medicare benefits through their own or their spouse's non-University employment. Individuals enrolled in both Part A and Part B are then eligible for the Medicare premium applicable to this plan.

Annuitants and their Family Member who are eligible for premium free Medicare Part A, but decline to enroll in Part B of Medicare, will be assessed a monthly offset fee by the University to cover increased costs. Annuitants or Family Members who are not eligible for Part A will not be assessed an offset fee. A notarized affidavit attesting to their ineligibility for Medicare Part A will be required. Affidavits may be obtained from the University's Customer Service Center. (Annuitants/Family Members who are not entitled to Social Security and Medicare Part A will not be required to enroll in Part B.)

You should contact Social Security three months before your or your Family Member's 65<sup>th</sup> birthday to inquire about your eligibility and how you enroll in the Hospital (Part A) and Medical (Part B) portions of Medicare. If you qualify for disability income benefits from Social Security, contact a Social Security office for information about when you will be eligible for Medicare enrollment.

Upon Medicare eligibility, you or your Family Member must complete a University of California Medicare Declaration form. This notifies the University that you are covered by Part A and Part B of Medicare. The University's Medicare Declaration forms are available through the University's Customer Service Center. Completed forms should be returned to the Annuitant Insurance unit at Office of the President.

**MEDICARE PRIVATE CONTRACTING PROVISION**

Federal Legislation allows physicians or practitioners to opt out of Medicare. Medicare members wishing to continue to obtain services **(that would otherwise be covered by Medicare)** from these physicians or practitioners will need to enter into written "private contracts" with these physicians or practitioners requiring the member to be responsible for all payments to such providers. Services provided under "private contracts" are not covered by Medicare, and the Medicare limiting charge will not apply.

If you are classified as an Annuitant by the University (or otherwise have Medicare as a primary coverage) and enrolled in Medicare Part B, and choose to enter into such a "private contract" arrangement with one or more physicians or practitioners, under the law you have in effect "opted out" of Medicare for the services provided by these physicians or other practitioners. No benefits will be paid by this Plan for services rendered by these physicians or practitioners with whom you have so contracted, even if you submit a claim. You will be fully liable for the payment of the services rendered.

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However, if you do sign a private contract with a physician or practitioner, you may see other physicians or practitioners without those private contract restrictions as long as they have not opted out of Medicare.

**TERMINATION OF COVERAGE**

The termination of coverage provisions that are established by the University of California in accordance with its Regulations are described below. Additional Plan provisions apply and are described elsewhere in the document.

**Deenrollment Due to Loss of Eligible Status**

If you are an Employee and lose eligibility, your coverage and that of any enrolled Family Member stops at the end of the last month in which premiums are taken from earnings based on an eligible appointment.

If you are an Annuitant or Survivor Annuitant and your annuity terminates, your coverage and that of any enrolled Family Member stops at the end of the last month in which you are eligible for an annuity.

If your Family Member loses eligibility, you must complete the appropriate transaction to delete him or her within 60 days of the date the Family Member is no longer eligible. Coverage stops at the end of the month in which he or she no longer meets all the eligibility requirements. For information on deenrollment procedures, contact the person who handles benefits at your location (or the University's Customer Service Center if you are an Annuitant).

**Deenrollment Due to Fraud**

Coverage for you or your Family Members may be terminated for fraud or deception in the use of the services of the Plan, or for knowingly permitting such fraud or deception by another. Such termination shall be effective upon the mailing of written notice to the Subscriber (and to the University if notice is given by the Plan). A Family Member who commits fraud or deception will be permanently deenrolled while any other Family Member and the Subscriber will be deenrolled for 18 months. If a Subscriber commits fraud or deception, the Subscriber and any Family Member will be deenrolled for 18 months.

**Leave of Absence, Layoff or Retirement**

Contact your local Benefits Office for information about continuing your coverage in the event of an authorized leave of absence, layoff or retirement.

**Optional Continuation of Coverage**

If your coverage or that of a Family Member ends, you and/or your Family Member may be entitled to elect continued coverage under the terms of the federal Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1985 (COBRA), as amended and if that continued coverage ends, specified individuals may be eligible for further continuation under California law. The terms of these continuation provisions are contained in the University of California notice "Continuation of Group Insurance Coverage", available from the UCbencom website ([www.ucop.edu/bencom](http://www.ucop.edu/bencom)). The notice is also available from the person in your department who handles benefits and from the University's Customer Service Center. You may also direct questions about these provisions to your local Benefits Office or to the University's Customer Service Center if you are an Annuitant.

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**PLAN ADMINISTRATION**

By authority of The Regents, University of California Human Resources and Benefits, located in Oakland, California, administers this plan in accordance with applicable plan documents and regulations, custodial agreements, University of California Group Insurance Regulations, group insurance contracts/service agreements, and state and federal laws. No person is authorized to provide benefits information not contained in these source documents, and information not contained in these source documents cannot be relied upon as having been authorized by The Regents. The terms of those documents apply if information in this document is not the same. The University of California Group Insurance Regulations will take precedence if there is a difference between its provisions and those of this document and/or the Administrative Services Agreement. What is written in this document does not constitute a guarantee of plan coverage or benefits--particular rules and eligibility requirements must be met before benefits can be received. Health and welfare benefits are subject to legislative appropriation and are not accrued or vested benefit entitlements.

This section describes how the Plan is administered and what your rights are.

**Sponsorship and Administration of the Plan**

The University of California is the Plan sponsor and administrator for the Plan described in this booklet. If you have a question, you may direct it to:

University of California  
Human Resources and Benefits  
300 Lakeside Drive, 5th Floor  
Oakland, CA 94612-3557  
(800) 888-8267

Annuitants may also direct questions to the University's Customer Service Center at the above phone number.

Claims under the Plan are processed by BC Life & Health Insurance Company (the "Claims Administrator") at the following address:

BC Life & Health Insurance Company  
21555 Oxnard Street  
Woodland Hills, CA 91367

The Customer Service number is (888) 209-7975

**Group Case Number.** The Group Case Number for this Plan is: 175011

**Type of Plan.** This Plan is a health and welfare plan that provides group medical care benefits. This Plan is one of the benefits offered under the University of California's employee health and welfare benefits program.

**Plan Year.** The plan year is January 1 through December 31.

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**Continuation of the Plan.** The University of California intends to continue the Plan of benefits described in this booklet but reserves the right to terminate or amend it at any time. *Plan benefits are not accrued or vested benefit entitlements.* The right to terminate or amend applies to all Employees, Annuitants and plan members. The amendment or termination shall be carried out by the President or his or her delegates. The University of California will also determine the terms of the Plan, such as benefits, premiums and what portion of the premiums the University will pay. The portion of the premiums *that University pays is determined by UC and may change or stop altogether, and may be affected by the state of California's annual budget appropriation.*

**Type of Administration/Funding.** The coverage described in your booklet is provided by the University of California on a self-funded basis under the University of California Employee Benefit Plan. Administrative Services are provided by BC Life & Health Insurance Company under an Administrative Services Agreement between the Regents of the University of California and BC Life & Health Insurance Company.

Any dollar amounts remaining in a participant's account will be forfeited to the Plan if the funds are not claimed within three years from the date of issue. If the participant has not accepted the distribution, corresponded in writing regarding the distribution, or indicated an interest in the distribution within three years after it became distributable, the participant may make a claim to the Plan for reimbursement of the forfeited benefit.

BC Life & Health Insurance Company (the "Claims Administrator") has no responsibility for reporting under, or compliance with, any escheat or unclaimed property law of any jurisdiction. The Plan Sponsor shall be responsible for determining the applicability of any escheat or unclaimed property law and for any required compliance therewith.

**Agent for Service of Legal Process.** The name and address of the designated agent for the service of legal process for the Plan is:

University of California  
Human Resources and Benefits  
300 Lakeside Drive, 5th Floor  
Oakland, CA 94612-3557  
(800) 888-8267

**Your Rights under the Plan.** As a participant in a University of California medical plan, you are entitled to certain rights and protections. All Plan participants shall be entitled to:

Examine, without charge, at the Plan Administrator's office and other specified sites, all Plan documents, including the Administrative Services Agreement, at a time and location mutually convenient to the participant and the Plan Administrator.

Obtain copies of all Plan documents and other information for a reasonable charge upon written request to the Plan Administrator.

**Claims under the Plan.** To file a claim or to appeal a denied claim, refer to pages 48, 50 and the inside back cover of this document.

**Nondiscrimination Statement.** In conformance with applicable law and University policy, the University of California is an affirmative action/equal opportunity employer.

Please send inquiries regarding the University's affirmative action and equal opportunity policies for staff to Director Mattie Williams, University of California Office of the President, 300 Lakeside Drive, Oakland, CA 94612 and for faculty to Executive Director Sheila O'Rourke, University of California Office of the President, 1111 Franklin Street, Oakland, CA 94607.

## TYPES OF PROVIDERS

PLEASE READ THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION SO YOU WILL KNOW FROM WHOM OR WHAT GROUP OF PROVIDERS HEALTH CARE MAY BE OBTAINED. IF YOU HAVE SPECIAL HEALTH CARE NEEDS, YOU SHOULD CAREFULLY READ THOSE SECTIONS THAT APPLY TO THOSE NEEDS. THE MEANINGS OF WORDS AND PHRASES IN ITALICS ARE DESCRIBED IN THE SECTION OF THIS BOOKLET ENTITLED DEFINITIONS.

**Participating Providers.** The *claims administrator* has established a network of various types of "Participating Providers". These providers are called "participating" because they have agreed to participate in the *claims administrator's* preferred provider organization program (PPO), which is called the Prudent Buyer Plan. They have agreed to provide *members* with health care at a special low cost. The amount of benefits payable under this *plan* will be different for *non-participating providers* than for *participating providers*. See the definition of "Participating Providers" in the DEFINITIONS section for a complete list of the types of providers which may be *participating providers*.

**The *claims administrator* publishes a directory of Participating Providers.** The directory lists all *participating providers* in your area, including health care facilities such as *hospitals* and *skilled nursing facilities*, *physicians*, laboratories, and diagnostic x-ray and imaging providers. You may call the *claims administrator* at the customer service number listed on your ID card and ask them to send you a directory. You may also search for a *participating provider* using the "Provider Finder" function on the *claims administrator's* website at [www.bluecrossca.com/uc](http://www.bluecrossca.com/uc), or you by calling the *claims administrator's* customer service unit at 1 (888) 209-7975.

**Non-Participating Providers.** *Non-participating providers* are providers which have not agreed to participate in the *claims administrator's* Prudent Buyer Plan network. They have not agreed to the *negotiated rates* and other provisions of a Prudent Buyer Plan contract.

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

**Other Health Care Providers.** "Other Health Care Providers" are neither *physicians* nor *hospitals*. They are mostly free-standing facilities or service organizations, such as ambulance companies. See the definition of "Other Health Care Providers" in the DEFINITIONS section for a complete list of those providers. *Other health care providers* are not part of our Prudent Buyer Plan provider network.

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

**Centers of Expertise Transplant Facilities.** The *claims administrator* has established a Centers of Expertise (COE) network of transplant facilities to provide services for specified organ transplants (heart, liver, lung, heart-lung, kidney-pancreas, or bone marrow, including autologous bone marrow transplant, peripheral stem cell replacement and similar procedures). **These procedures are covered only at a COE.** These "COE" agree to accept the *COE negotiated rate* as payment in full for covered services. A *participating provider* in the Prudent Buyer Plan network is not necessarily a *Centers of Expertise* transplant facility.

## SUMMARY OF BENEFITS

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

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

This summary provides a brief outline of your benefits. You need to refer to the entire *plan description* for complete information about the benefits, conditions, limitations and exclusions of your *plan*.

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

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

The benefits of this *plan* may be subject to the REIMBURSEMENT FOR ACTS OF THIRD PARTIES section.

### IMPORTANT NOTICE ABOUT YOUR MEDICAL BENEFITS

Your *plan* has Utilization Review Program and Authorization Program requirements. These are explained in the Medical Management section beginning on page 36. **Your benefits may be reduced** if you do not follow the procedures outlined. If you have any questions about the Utilization Review Program or Authorization Program requirements, call the *claims administrator's* toll-free number on your identification card.

## MEDICAL BENEFITS

### DEDUCTIBLES

**Calendar Year Deductible** (per Member).....**\$3,000**

**Exception:** The Calendar Year Deductible will not apply to transplant travel expenses authorized by the *claims administrator*. See MEDICAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAM: AUTHORIZATION PROGRAM for information on how to obtain prior authorization.

**Non-Certification Deductible**.....**\$ 500**

**Exception:** The Non-Certification Deductible will not apply to *emergency* admissions, nor to the services provided by a *participating provider*. See MEDICAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAMS.

### CO-PAYMENTS AND OUT-OF-POCKET AMOUNTS

**Co-Payments.** After you have met your Calendar Year Deductible, if applicable, you will be responsible for **20%** of *covered expense* you incur, plus any amount in excess of *covered expense*.

**Exception:** No Co-Payment will be required for the transplant travel expenses authorized by the *claims administrator*. See MEDICAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAMS: AUTHORIZATION PROGRAM.

**Out-of-Pocket Amount.** After you have made **\$7,600** in total out-of-pocket payments for *covered expense* you incur during a *calendar year*, you will no longer be required to pay a Co-Payment for the remainder of that *year*, but you remain responsible for costs in excess of *covered expense*.

**Exceptions:** Medical Management Program penalties, expenses which are incurred for non-covered services or supplies, or which are in excess of the amount of *covered expense*, will not be applied toward your Out-of-Pocket Amount, and are always your responsibility.

### MEDICAL BENEFIT MAXIMUMS

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

#### Skilled Nursing Facility

- For covered *skilled nursing facility* care..... **120 days**  
per *calendar year*

#### Home Health Care

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

#### Private Duty Nursing

- For covered private duty nursing services..... **\$10,000**  
per *calendar year*

#### Hospice Care

- For inpatient *hospice* care..... **30 days**  
during your lifetime
- For outpatient *hospice* care  
(including bereavement counseling)..... **\$5,000**  
during your lifetime

**Transplant Travel Expense**

- For the Recipient and One Companion per Transplant Episode (limited to 6 trips per episode)
  - For transportation to the COE ..... **\$250**  
per trip for each person  
for round trip coach airfare
  - For hotel accommodations ..... **\$100**  
per day, for up to 21 days per trip,  
limited to one room,  
double occupancy
  - For expenses such as meals..... **\$25**  
per day for each person,  
for up to 21 days per trip
- For the Donor per Transplant Episode (limited to one trip per episode)
  - For transportation to the COE ..... **\$250**  
for round trip coach airfare
  - For hotel accommodations ..... **\$100**  
per day, for up to 7 days
  - For expenses such as meals..... **\$25**  
per day, up to 7 days

**Acupuncture**

- For covered services..... **\$500**  
per calendar year

**Lifetime Maximum**

- For all medical benefits (per member) ..... **\$2,000,000**

**IMPORTANT NOTE**

*MEMBERS* RESIDING OUTSIDE OF THE PPO SERVICE AREA AND *MEMBERS* TRAVELING OUT OF THE COUNTRY WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR **20%** OF THE CUSTOMARY & REASONABLE ALLOWANCE PLUS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE CUSTOMARY & REASONABLE ALLOWANCE AND BILLED CHARGES.

## YOUR MEDICAL BENEFITS

### HOW COVERED EXPENSE IS DETERMINED

The *plan* will pay for *covered expense* you incur. A charge is incurred when the service or supply giving rise to the charge is rendered or received. *Covered expense* for medical benefits is based on a maximum charge for each covered service or supply that will be accepted for each different type of provider. It is not necessarily the amount a provider bills for the service.

**Participating Providers and COE.** The maximum *covered expense* for services provided by a *participating provider* or *COE* will be the lesser of the billed charge or the *negotiated rate*. *Participating providers* and *COE* have agreed not to charge you more than the *negotiated rate* for covered services. When you choose a *participating provider*, you will not be responsible for any amount in excess of the *negotiated rate*. If you receive an authorized, specified organ transplant at a *COE*, you will not be responsible for any amount in excess of the *COE negotiated rate* for the covered services of a *COE*.

If you go to a *hospital* which is a *participating provider*, you should not assume all providers in that *hospital* are also *participating providers*. To receive the greater benefits afforded when covered services are provided by a *participating provider*, you should request that all your provider services (such as services by an anesthesiologist) be performed by *participating providers* whenever you enter a *hospital*.

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

**Non-Participating Providers and Other Health Care Providers.** The maximum *covered expense* for services provided by a *non-participating* or *other health care provider* will always be the lesser of the billed charge or (1) for a *physician*, the *customary and reasonable charge* or (2) for other than a *physician*, the *reasonable charge*. You will be responsible for any billed charge which exceeds the *customary and reasonable charge* or the *reasonable charge*.

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

**Exception:** If Medicare is the primary payor, *covered expense* does not include any charge:

1. By a *hospital*, in excess of the approved amount as determined by Medicare; or
2. By a *physician* who is a *participating provider* who accepts Medicare assignment, in excess of the approved amount as determined by Medicare; or
3. By a *physician* who is a *non-participating provider* or *other health care provider* who accepts Medicare assignment, in excess of the lesser of maximum *covered expense* stated above, or the approved amount as determined by Medicare; or
4. By a *physician* or *other health care provider* who does not accept Medicare assignment, in excess of the lesser of the maximum *covered expense* stated above, or the limiting charge as determined by Medicare.

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



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

After subtracting any applicable deductible and your Co-Payment, the *plan* will pay benefits up to the amount of *covered expense*, not to exceed the applicable Medical Benefit Maximum. The Deductible amounts, Co-Payments, Out-Of-Pocket Amounts and Medical Benefit Maximums are set forth in the SUMMARY OF BENEFITS.

### **DEDUCTIBLES**

Each deductible under this *plan* is separate and distinct from the other. Only charges that are considered *covered expense* will apply toward satisfaction of any deductible.

**Calendar Year Deductible.** Each *year*, you will be responsible for satisfying the Calendar Year Deductible before the *plan* begins to pay benefits.

### **CO-PAYMENTS**

After you have satisfied any applicable deductible, the *claims administrator* will subtract your Co-Payment from the amount of *covered expense* remaining.

If your Co-Payment is a percentage, the *claims administrator* will apply the applicable percentage to the amount of *covered expense* remaining after any deductible has been met. This will determine the dollar amount of your Co-Payment.

### **OUT-OF-POCKET AMOUNT**

**Satisfaction of the Out-Of-Pocket Amount.** If, after you have met your Calendar Year Deductible, you pay Co-Payments equal to your Out-Of-Pocket Amount per *member* during a *calendar year*, you will no longer be required to make Co-Payments for any *covered expense* you incur during the remainder of that *year*.

**Charges Which Do Not Apply Toward the Out-Of-Pocket Amount.** The following expense will not be applied toward satisfaction of an Out-Of-Pocket Amount and is always your responsibility:

- Medical Management Program penalties that may apply;
- Expense which is incurred for non-covered services or supplies; and
- Expense which is in excess of the amount of *covered expense*.

### **MEDICAL BENEFIT MAXIMUMS**

We do not make benefit payments for any *member* in excess of any of the Medical Benefit Maximums. Your Lifetime Maximum under this *plan* will be reduced by any benefits we paid to you or on your behalf under any other health plan provided by us.

## CONDITIONS OF COVERAGE

The following conditions of coverage must be met for expense incurred for services or supplies to be considered as *covered expense*.

1. You must incur this expense while you are covered under this *plan*. Expense is incurred on the date you receive the service or supply for which the charge is made.
2. The expense must be for a medical service or supply furnished to you as a result of illness or injury or pregnancy, unless a specific exception is made.
3. The expense must be for a medical service or supply included in MEDICAL CARE THAT IS COVERED. Additional limits on *covered expense* are included under specific benefits and in the SUMMARY OF BENEFITS.
4. The expense must not be for a medical service or supply listed in MEDICAL CARE THAT IS NOT COVERED. If the service or supply is partially excluded, then only that portion which is not excluded will be considered *covered expense*.
5. The expense must not exceed any of the maximum benefits or limitations of this *plan*.
6. Any services received must be those which are regularly provided and billed by the provider. In addition, those services must be consistent with the illness, injury, degree of disability and your medical needs. Benefits are provided only for the number of days required to treat your illness or injury.
7. All services and supplies must be ordered by a *physician*.

## MEDICAL CARE THAT IS COVERED

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

### Hospital

1. Inpatient services and supplies, provided by a *hospital*. *Covered expense* will not include charges in excess of the *hospital's* prevailing two-bed room rate unless your *physician* orders, and the *claims administrator* authorizes, a private room as *medically necessary*.
2. Services in *special care units*.
3. Outpatient services and supplies provided by a *hospital*, including outpatient surgery.

**Skilled Nursing Facility.** Inpatient services and supplies provided by a *skilled nursing facility*, for up to 120 days per *calendar year*. The amount by which your room charge exceeds the prevailing two-bed room rate of the *skilled nursing facility* is not considered *covered expense*.

**Home Health Care.** The following services provided by a *home health agency*:

1. Services of a registered nurse or licensed vocational nurse under the supervision of a registered nurse or a *physician*.
2. Services of a licensed therapist for physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy, or respiratory therapy.
3. Services of a medical social service worker.
4. Services of a health aide who is employed by (or who contracts with) a *home health agency*. Services must be ordered and supervised by a registered nurse employed by the *home health agency* as professional coordinator. These services are covered only if you are also receiving the services listed in 1 or 2 above.
5. *Medically necessary* supplies provided by the *home health agency*.

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

Home health care services are not covered if received while you are receiving benefits under the "Hospice Care" provision of this section.

**Hospice Care.** The services and supplies listed below are covered when provided by a *hospice* for the palliative treatment of pain and other symptoms associated with a terminal disease. You must be suffering from a terminal illness for which the prognosis of life expectancy is one year or less, as certified by your *physician* and submitted to us. Covered services are available on a 24-hour basis for the management of your condition.

1. Interdisciplinary team care with the development and maintenance of an appropriate plan of care.
2. Short-term inpatient *hospital* care when required in periods of crisis or as respite care. Coverage of inpatient respite care is provided on an occasional basis and is limited to a maximum of five consecutive days per admission.
3. Skilled nursing services provided by or under the supervision of a registered nurse. Certified home health aide services and homemaker services provided under the supervision of a registered nurse.
4. Social services and counseling services provided by a qualified social worker.

5. Dietary and nutritional guidance. Nutritional support such as intravenous feeding or hyperalimentation.
6. Physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy, and respiratory therapy provided by a licensed therapist.
7. Volunteer services provided by trained *hospice* volunteers under the direction of a *hospice* staff member.
8. Pharmaceuticals, medical equipment, and supplies necessary for the management of your condition. Oxygen and related respiratory therapy supplies.
9. Bereavement services, including assessment of the needs of the bereaved family and development of a care plan to meet those needs, both prior to and following the *subscriber's* or the *family member's* death. Bereavement services are available to surviving members of the immediate family for a period of one year after the death. Your immediate family means your *spouse*, children, step-children, parents, and siblings.
10. Palliative care (care which controls pain and relieves symptoms, but does not cure) which is appropriate for the illness.

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

*Plan* benefits are limited to a lifetime maximum of 30 days of inpatient care and **\$5,000** for outpatient care.

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

**Home Infusion Therapy.** The following services and supplies when provided by a *home infusion therapy provider* in your home for the intravenous administration of your total daily nutritional intake or fluid requirements, medication related to illness or injury, chemotherapy, antibiotic therapy, aerosol therapy, tocolytic therapy, special therapy, intravenous hydration, or pain management:

1. Medication, ancillary medical supplies and supply delivery, (not to exceed a 14-day supply); but medication which is delivered but not administered is not covered;
2. Pharmacy compounding and dispensing services (including pharmacy support) for intravenous solutions and medications;
3. Hospital and home clinical visits related to the administration of infusion therapy, including skilled nursing services including those provided for: (a) patient or alternative caregiver training; and (b) visits to monitor the therapy;
4. Rental and purchase charges for durable medical equipment (as shown below); maintenance and repair charges for such equipment;
5. Laboratory services to monitor the patient's response to therapy regimen.

**Outpatient Private Duty Nursing.** We will pay up to **\$10,000** per *calendar year* for private duty nursing services of a licensed nurse (R.N., L.P.N. or L.V.N.) for a non-hospitalized acute illness or injury, provided your *physician* orders the services as *medically necessary*.

"Private duty" means a session of four or more hours that continuous nursing care is furnished to you alone.

## **Professional Services**

1. Services of a *physician*.
2. Services of an anesthetist (M.D. or C.R.N.A.).

**Reconstructive Surgery.** Reconstructive surgery performed to correct deformities caused by congenital or developmental abnormalities, illness, or injury for the purpose of improving bodily function or symptomatology or creating a normal appearance.

**Ambulance.** The following ambulance services:

1. Base charge, mileage and non-reusable supplies of a licensed ambulance company for ground service to transport you to and from a *hospital*.
2. Emergency services or transportation services that are provided to you by a licensed ambulance company as a result of a "911" emergency response system\* request for assistance if you believe you have an *emergency* medical condition requiring such assistance.
3. Base charge, mileage and non-reusable supplies of a licensed air ambulance company to transport you from the area where you are first disabled to the nearest *hospital* where appropriate treatment is provided if, and only if, such services are *medically necessary* and ground ambulance service is inadequate.
4. Monitoring, electrocardiograms (EKGs; ECGs), cardiac defibrillation, cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and administration of oxygen and intravenous (IV) solutions in connection with ambulance service. An appropriately licensed person must render the services.

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

**Diagnostic Services.** Outpatient diagnostic radiology and laboratory services.

## **Radiation Therapy**

## **Chemotherapy**

## **Hemodialysis Treatment**

## **Prosthetic Devices**

1. Breast prostheses following a mastectomy.
2. *Prosthetic devices* to restore a method of speaking when required as a result of a covered *medically necessary* laryngectomy.
3. We will pay for other *medically necessary prosthetic devices*, including:
  - a. Surgical implants;
  - b. Artificial limbs or eyes; and
  - c. The first pair of contact lenses or eye glasses when required as a result of a covered *medically necessary* eye surgery.

**Durable Medical Equipment.** Rental or purchase of dialysis equipment; dialysis supplies. Therapeutic shoes and inserts for the prevention and treatment of diabetes-related foot complications. Rental or purchase of other medical equipment and supplies which are:

1. Of no further use when medical needs end;
2. For the exclusive use of the patient;

3. Not primarily for comfort or hygiene;
4. Not for environmental control or for exercise; and
5. Manufactured specifically for medical use.

The *claims administrator* will determine whether the item satisfies the conditions above.

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

### Dental Care

1. **Admissions for Dental Care.** Listed inpatient *hospital* services for up to three days during a *hospital stay*, when such *stay* is required for dental treatment and has been ordered by a *physician* (M.D.) and a dentist (D.D.S.). The *claims administrator* will make the final determination as to whether the dental treatment could have been safely rendered in another setting due to the nature of the procedure or your medical condition. *Hospital stays* for the purpose of administering general anesthesia are not considered necessary and are not covered except as specified in #2, below.
2. **General Anesthesia.** General anesthesia and associated facility charges when your clinical status or underlying medical condition requires that dental procedures be rendered in a *hospital* or *ambulatory surgical center*. This applies only if (a) the *member* is less than seven years old, (b) the *member* is developmentally disabled, or (c) the *member's* health is compromised and general anesthesia is *medically necessary*. Charges for the dental procedure itself, including professional fees of a dentist, are not covered.
3. **Dental Injury.** Services of a *physician* (M.D.) or dentist (D.D.S.) solely to treat an *accidental injury* to natural teeth. Coverage shall be limited to only such services that are *medically necessary* to repair the damage done by the *accidental injury* and/or restore function lost as a direct result of the *accidental injury*. Damage to natural teeth due to chewing or biting is not *accidental injury*.

### Pregnancy and Maternity Care

1. All medical benefits when provided for pregnancy or maternity care, including diagnosis of genetic disorders in cases of high-risk pregnancy. Inpatient *hospital* benefits in connection with childbirth will be provided for at least 48 hours following a normal delivery or 96 hours following a cesarean section, unless the mother and her *physician* decide on an earlier discharge.
2. Medical *hospital* benefits for routine nursery care of a newborn *child*, if the *child's* natural mother is enrolled under the *plan*.

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

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

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

*Covered expense* does not include charges for services received without first obtaining the *claims administrator's* prior authorization, or which are provided at a facility other than a transplant center approved by the *claims administrator*. See MEDICAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAM: AUTHORIZATION PROGRAM for details.

You must obtain the *claims administrator's* prior authorization for all services related to specified organ transplants (heart, liver, lung, heart-lung, kidney-pancreas, or bone marrow, including autologous bone marrow transplant, peripheral stem cell replacement and similar procedures) including, but not limited to preoperative tests and postoperative care. Specified organ transplants must be performed at a *Center of Expertise (COE)*. **Charges for services provided for or in connection with a specified organ transplant performed at a facility other than a COE will not be considered covered expense.** See MEDICAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAM: AUTHORIZATION PROGRAM for details.

**Transplant Travel Expense.** The following travel expenses in connection with an authorized, specified organ transplant (heart, liver, lung, heart-lung, kidney-pancreas, or bone marrow, including autologous bone marrow transplant, peripheral stem cell replacement and similar procedures) performed at a *COE*, provided the expenses are authorized by the *claims administrator* (See MEDICAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAM: AUTHORIZATION PROGRAM for details.):

1. For the recipient and a companion, per transplant episode, up to six trips per episode:
  - a. Round trip coach airfare to the *COE*, not to exceed **\$250** per person per trip.
  - b. Hotel accommodations, not to exceed **\$100** per day for up to 21 days per trip, limited to one room, double occupancy.
  - c. Other expenses, such as meals, not to exceed **\$25** per day for each person, for up to 21 days per trip.
2. For the donor, per transplant episode, limited to one trip:
  - a. Round trip coach airfare to the *COE*, not to exceed **\$250**.
  - b. Hotel accommodations, not to exceed **\$100** per day for up to 7 days.
  - c. Other expenses, such as meals, not to exceed **\$25** per day, for up to 7 days.

**Well Baby and Well Child Care (Dependent Children Under 19 Years of Age).** The following services for a dependent *child* under 19 years of age:

1. *Physician's* services for routine physical examinations.
2. Immunizations given as standard medical practice for children.
3. Radiology and laboratory services in connection with routine physical examinations.
4. Vision screening for determining medical necessity of a vision examination.
5. Screening for blood lead levels as prescribed by a *physician*.

**Preventive Care (Members Age 19 and Over).** The following services for members age 19 years and over:

1. *Physician's* services for routine physical examinations.
2. Radiology and laboratory services in connection with routine physical examinations.
3. Vision screening for determining medical necessity of a vision examination.
4. Immunizations.

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

**Prostate Cancer Screening.** Services and supplies provided in connection with routine tests to detect prostate cancer.

**Cervical Cancer Screening.** Services and supplies provided in connection with a routine test to detect cervical cancer, including pap smears and any cervical cancer screening test approved by the federal Food and Drug Administration upon referral by your *physician*.

**Breast Cancer.** Services and supplies provided in connection with the screening for, diagnosis of, and treatment for breast cancer, including:

1. Routine and diagnostic mammogram examinations.
2. Mastectomy and lymph node dissection; complications from a mastectomy including lymphedema.
3. Reconstructive surgery performed to restore and achieve symmetry following a *medically necessary* mastectomy.
4. Breast prostheses following a mastectomy (see “Prosthetic Devices”).

**Other Cancer Screening Tests.** Services and supplies provided in connection with all generally medically accepted cancer screening tests. This coverage is provided according to the terms and conditions of this *plan* that apply to all other medical conditions.

**Cancer Clinical Trials.** Coverage is provided for services and supplies for routine patient care costs, as defined below, in connection with phase I, phase II, phase III and phase IV cancer clinical trials, if all the following conditions are met:

1. The treatment provided in a clinical trial must either:
  - a. Involve a *drug* that is exempt under federal regulations from a new drug application, or
  - b. Be approved by (i) one of the National Institutes of Health, (ii) the federal Food and Drug Administration in the form of an investigational new drug application, (iii) the United States Department of Defense, or (iv) the United States Veteran’s Administration.
2. You must be diagnosed with cancer to be eligible for participation in these clinical trials.
3. Participation in such clinical trials must be recommended by your *physician* after determining participation has a meaningful potential to benefit the *member*.
4. For the purpose of this provision, a clinical trial must have a therapeutic intent. Clinical trials to just test toxicity are not included in this coverage.

Routine patient care costs means the costs associated with the provision of services, including drugs, items, devices and services which would otherwise be covered under the *plan*, including health care services which are:

1. Typically provided absent a clinical trial.
2. Required solely for the provision of the investigational drug, item, device or service.
3. Clinically appropriate monitoring of the investigational item or service.
4. Prevention of complications arising from the provision of the investigational drug, item, device, or service.
5. Reasonable and necessary care arising from the provision of the investigational drug, item, device, or service, including the diagnosis or treatment of the complications.

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

1. *Drugs* or devices not approved by the federal Food and Drug Administration that are associated with the clinical trial.
2. Services other than health care services, such as travel, housing, companion expenses and other nonclinical expenses that you may require as a result of the treatment provided for the purposes of the clinical trial.



3. Any item or service provided solely to satisfy data collection and analysis needs not used in the clinical management of the patient.
4. Health care services that, except for the fact they are provided in a clinical trial, are otherwise specifically excluded from the *plan*.
5. Health care services customarily provided by the research sponsors free of charge to *members* enrolled in the trial.

For payment for *non-participating providers*, the cost will be based on the lesser of the billed charge or the amount that ordinarily applies when services are provided by a *participating provider*.

Coverage for clinical trials is restricted to *participating providers* in the state of California unless the protocol for the clinical trial is not provided for at a California *hospital* or by a California *physician*.

**Physical Therapy, Physical Medicine and Occupational Therapy.** The following services provided by a *physician* under a treatment plan which offers a reasonable expectation of significant improvement:

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

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

**Chiropractic Care.** Chiropractic services for manual manipulation of the spine to correct subluxation demonstrated by *physician*-read x-ray.

**Acupuncture.** We will pay up to **\$500** per *calendar year* for the services of a *physician* for acupuncture treatment to treat a disease, illness or injury, including a patient history visit, physical examination, treatment planning and treatment evaluation, electroacupuncture, cupping and moxibustion.

**Prescription Drugs and Medications.** Drugs and medicines approved for general use by the Food and Drug Administration that are available only if prescribed by a *physician*. The drugs or medicine must be dispensed by a *physician* or a licensed pharmacist. Also included are oral contraceptives, injectable insulin prescribed by a *physician*, and formulas prescribed by a *physician* for the treatment of phenylketonuria.

**Family Planning.** Family planning services, counseling and planning for problems of fertility and *infertility*, as *medically necessary*. Diagnosis and testing for *infertility*.

*Infertility* treatment, including GIFT, ZIFT, artificial insemination, in vitro fertilization, and any related laboratory procedures are not covered.

**Injectable Drugs and Implants for Birth Control.** Injectable drugs and implants for birth control administered in a *physician's* office if *medically necessary*.

**Outpatient Speech Therapy.** Outpatient speech therapy following injury or organic disease.

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

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

These covered equipment and supplies are covered under your *plan's* benefits for durable medical equipment (see "Durable Medical Equipment").

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

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

3. The following medications and supplies:
  - a. Insulin, glucagon, and other prescription *drugs* for the treatment of diabetes.
  - b. Insulin syringes, disposable pen delivery systems for insulin administration.
  - c. Testing strips, lancets, and alcohol swabs.

These items are covered as prescription drugs (see "Prescription Drugs and Medications").

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

**Christian Science Benefits.** The following provisions relate only to charges for Christian Science treatment:

1. A Christian Science sanatorium will be considered a *hospital* under the *plan* if it is accredited by the Commission for Accreditation of Christian Science Nursing Organizations/Facilities, Inc.
2. The term *physician* includes a Christian science practitioner approved and accredited by the Commission for Accreditation of Christian Science Nursing Organizations/Facilities, Inc.

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

1. Services provided by a Christian Science sanatorium if the *member* is admitted for active care of an illness or injury.
2. Office visits for services of a Christian Science practitioner providing treatment for a diagnosed illness or injury according to the healing practices of Christian Science.

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

**Special Food Products.** Special food products and formulas that are part of a diet prescribed by a *physician* for the treatment of phenylketonuria (PKU). Most formulas used in the treatment of PKU are obtained from a pharmacy and are covered as prescription drugs (see “Prescription Drugs and Medications”). Special food products that are not available from a pharmacy are covered as medical supplies under your *plan’s* medical benefits.

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

## MEDICAL CARE THAT IS NOT COVERED

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

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

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

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

**Clinical Trials.** Services and supplies in connection with clinical trials, except as specifically stated in the "Cancer Clinical Trials" provision under the section MEDICAL CARE THAT IS COVERED.

**Contraceptive Devices.** Contraceptive devices prescribed for birth control except as specifically stated in "Injectable Drugs and Implants for Birth Control" provision in MEDICAL CARE THAT IS COVERED.

**Cosmetic Surgery.** Cosmetic surgery or other services performed solely for beautification or to alter or reshape normal (including aged) structures or tissues of the body to improve appearance. This exclusion does not apply to reconstructive surgery (that is, surgery performed to correct deformities caused by congenital or developmental abnormalities, illness, or injury for the purpose of improving bodily function or symptomatology or to create a normal appearance), including surgery performed to restore symmetry following mastectomy. Cosmetic surgery does not become reconstructive surgery because of psychological or psychiatric reasons.

**Crime or Nuclear Energy.** Conditions that result from: (1) your commission of or attempt to commit a felony; or (2) any release of nuclear energy, whether or not the result of war, when government funds are available for treatment of illness or injury arising from such release of nuclear energy.

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

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

**Education or Counseling.** Educational services, or nutritional counseling, except as specifically provided or arranged by us, or as stated under the "Diabetes" or "Home Infusion Therapy" provisions of MEDICAL CARE THAT IS COVERED. Food or dietary supplements, except as specifically stated under the "Special Food Products" provision of MEDICAL CARE THAT IS COVERED.

**Excess Amounts.** Any amounts in excess of *covered expense* or the Lifetime Maximum.

**Exercise Equipment.** Exercise equipment, or any charges for activities, instrumentalities, or facilities normally intended or used for developing or maintaining physical fitness, including, but not limited to, charges from a physical fitness instructor, health club or gym, even if ordered by a *physician*.

**Experimental or Investigative.** Any *experimental* or *investigative* procedure or medication.

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

**Government Treatment.** Any services provided by a local, state, or federal government agency, except when payment under this *plan* is expressly required by federal law or state law.

**Hearing Aids or Tests.** Hearing aids. Routine hearing tests.

**Infertility Treatment.** Any services or supplies furnished in connection with the diagnosis of infertility, except as specifically stated in "Family Planning" provision of MEDICAL CARE THAT IS COVERED. Treatment of *infertility*, including, but not limited to, diagnostic tests, medication, surgery, artificial insemination, in vitro fertilization, sterilization reversal, and gamete intrafallopian transfer.

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

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

**Mental or Nervous Disorders.** Academic or educational testing, counseling, and remediation. *Mental or nervous disorders* or substance abuse, including rehabilitative care in relation to these conditions.

**Nicotine Use.** Smoking cessation programs or treatment of nicotine or tobacco use. Smoking cessation *drugs*.

**Not Covered.** Services received before your *effective date* or after your coverage ends.

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

**Not Specifically Listed.** Services not specifically listed in this *plan* as covered services.

**Obesity.** Services primarily for weight reduction or treatment of obesity. This exclusion will not apply to surgical treatment of morbid obesity, as determined by the *claims administrator*, which is authorized by the *claims administrator* in advance as *medically necessary* and appropriate.

**Optometric Services or Supplies.** Eye exams except as specifically stated under "Well Baby and Well Child Care" and "Preventive Care" provisions of MEDICAL CARE THAT IS COVERED. Other optometric services, eye exercises including orthoptics and routine eye refractions. Eyeglasses or contact lenses, except as specifically stated in the "Prosthetic Devices" provision of MEDICAL CARE THAT IS COVERED.

**Orthodontia.** Braces and other orthodontic appliances or services.

**Orthopedic Supplies.** Orthopedic shoes (other than shoes joined to braces) or non-custom molded and cast shoe inserts, except for therapeutic shoes and inserts for the prevention and treatment of diabetes-related foot complications as specifically stated in the "Durable Medical Equipment" provision of MEDICAL CARE THAT IS COVERED.

**Outpatient Occupational Therapy.** Outpatient occupational therapy, except by a *home health agency, hospice or home infusion therapy provider* as specifically stated in the "Home Health Care", "Hospice Care", "Home Infusion Therapy", or "Physical Therapy, Physical Medicine And Occupational Therapy" provisions of MEDICAL CARE THAT IS COVERED.

**Outpatient Speech Therapy.** Outpatient speech therapy except as stated in the "Outpatient Speech Therapy" provision of MEDICAL CARE THAT IS COVERED.

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

**Physical Therapy or Physical Medicine.** Services of a *physician* for physical therapy or physical medicine, except when provided during a covered inpatient confinement, or as specifically stated in the "Home Health Care", "Hospice Care", "Home Infusion Therapy" or "Physical Therapy, Physical Medicine and Occupational Therapy" provisions of MEDICAL CARE THAT IS COVERED.

**Prescription Drugs and Medications.** Any drug or medicine requiring or dispensed with a written prescription of a *physician*, including insulin, except as specifically stated in the "Prescription Drugs and Medications" provision of MEDICAL CARE THAT IS COVERED. Non-prescription, over-the-counter patent or proprietary drugs or medicines. Cosmetics, health or beauty aids.

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

**Private Duty Nursing.** Services of a private duty nurse, except as specifically stated in the "Outpatient Private Duty Nursing" provision of MEDICAL CARE THAT IS COVERED.

**Routine Exams or Tests.** Routine physical exams or tests which do not directly treat an actual illness, injury or condition, including those required by employment or government authority, except as specifically stated in the "Well Baby and Well Child Care," "Preventive Care," "Cervical Cancer Screening", "Breast Cancer" or "Prostate Cancer Screening" provisions of MEDICAL CARE THAT IS COVERED.

**Scalp hair prostheses.** Scalp hair prostheses including wigs or any form of hair replacement.

**Services of Relatives.** Professional services received from a person who lives in your home or who is related to you by blood or marriage, except as specifically stated in the "Home Infusion Therapy" provision of MEDICAL CARE THAT IS COVERED.

**Sex Transformation.** Procedures to change characteristics of the body to those of the opposite sex.

**Sterilization Reversal.** Reversal of sterilization.

**Telephone and Facsimile Machine Consultations.** Consultations provided by telephone or facsimile machine.

**Voluntary Payment.** Services for which you are not legally obligated to pay. Services for which you are not charged. Services for which no charge is made in the absence of insurance coverage, except services received at a non-governmental charitable research *hospital*. Such a *hospital* must meet the following guidelines:

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

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

**Work-Related.** Work-related conditions if benefits are recovered or can be recovered, either by adjudication, settlement or otherwise, under any workers' compensation, employer's liability law or occupational disease law, even if you do not claim those benefits.

### REIMBURSEMENT FOR ACTS OF THIRD PARTIES

Under some circumstances, a *member* may need services under this *plan* for which a third party may be liable or legally responsible by reason of negligence, an intentional act or breach of any legal obligation. In that event, we will provide the benefits of this *plan* subject to the following:

1. We will automatically have a lien, to the extent of benefits provided, upon any recovery, whether by settlement, judgment or otherwise, that you receive from the third party, the third party's insurer, or the third party's guarantor. The lien will be in the amount of benefits we paid under this *plan* for the treatment of the illness, disease, injury or condition for which the third party is liable.
2. You must advise the *claims administrator* in writing, within 60 days of filing a claim against the third party and take necessary action, furnish such information and assistance, and execute such papers as we may require to facilitate enforcement of our rights. You must not take action which may prejudice our rights or interests under your *plan*. Failure to give such notice or to cooperate with the *claims administrator*, or actions that prejudice our rights or interests will be a material breach of this *plan* and will result in your being personally responsible for reimbursing us.
3. We will be entitled to collect on our lien even if the amount you or anyone recovered for you (or your estate, parent or legal guardian) from or for the account of such third party as compensation for the injury, illness or condition is less than the actual loss you suffered.

## COORDINATION OF BENEFITS

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

### DEFINITIONS

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

**Allowable Expense** is any necessary, reasonable and customary item of expense which is at least partially covered by at least one Other Plan. For the purposes of determining our payment, the total value of Allowable Expense as provided under This Plan and all Other Plans will not exceed the greater of: (1) the amount which we would determine to be eligible expense, if you were covered under This Plan only; or (2) the amount any Other Plan would determine to be eligible expenses in the absence of other coverage.

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

1. Group, blanket or franchise insurance coverage;
2. Group service plan contract, group practice, group individual practice and other group prepayment coverages;
3. Group coverage under labor-management trustee plans, union benefit organization plans, employer organization plans, employee benefit organization plans or self-insured employee benefit plans.

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

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

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

### EFFECT ON BENEFITS

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

### ORDER OF BENEFITS DETERMINATION

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

1. A plan which has no Coordination of Benefits provision provides benefits before a plan which has a Coordination of Benefits provision.
2. A plan which covers you as a *subscriber* pays before a plan which covers you as a dependent. But, if you are a Medicare beneficiary and also a dependent of an employee with current



employment status under another plan, this rule might change. If, according to Medicare's rules, Medicare pays after that plan which covers you as a dependent then, the plan which covers you as a dependent pays before a plan which covers you as a *subscriber*.

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

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

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

- a. If the parent with custody of that *child* for whom a claim has been made has not remarried, then the plan of the parent with custody that covers that *child* as a dependent provides benefits first.
  - b. If the parent with custody of that *child* for whom a claim has been made has remarried, then the order in which benefits are provided will be as follows:
    - i. The plan which covers that *child* as a dependent of the parent with custody.
    - ii. The plan which covers that *child* as a dependent of the stepparent (married to the parent with custody).
    - iii. The plan which covers that *child* as a dependent of the parent without custody.
    - iv. The plan which covers that *child* as a dependent of the stepparent (married to the parent without custody).
  - c. Regardless of a and b above, if there is a court decree which establishes a parent's financial responsibility for that *child's* health care coverage, a plan which covers that *child* as a dependent of that parent provides benefits first.
4. The plan covering the *member* as a laid-off or retired employee or as a dependent of a laid-off or retired employee provides benefits after a plan covering the *member* as other than a laid-off or retired employee or the dependent of such a person. However, if either plan does not have a provision regarding laid-off or retired employees, provision 6 applies.
  5. The plan covering the *member* under a continuation of coverage provision in accordance with state or federal law pays after a plan covering the *member* as an employee, a dependent or otherwise, but not under a continuation of coverage provision in accordance with state or federal law. If the order of benefit determination provisions of the Other Plan do not agree under these circumstances with the order of benefit determination provisions of This Plan, this rule will not apply.
  6. When the above rules do not establish the order of payment, the plan on which you have been enrolled the longest provides benefits first unless two of the plans have the same effective date. In this case, Allowable Expense is split equally between the two plans.

## **OUR RIGHTS UNDER THIS PROVISION**

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

**Reasonable Cash Value.** If any Other Plan provides benefits in the form of services rather than cash payment, the reasonable cash value of services provided will be considered Allowable Expense. The reasonable cash value of such service will be considered a benefit paid, and our liability reduced accordingly.

**Facility of Payment.** If payments which should have been made under This Plan have been made under any Other Plan, we have the right to pay that Other Plan any amount we determine to be warranted to satisfy the intent of this provision. Any such amount will be considered a benefit paid under This Plan, and such payment will fully satisfy our liability under this provision.

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

## BENEFITS FOR MEDICARE ELIGIBLE MEMBERS

**For Active Employees and Family Members.** Any *member* who is an *employee* or a *family member* of an active *employee*, and eligible for Medicare, will receive the full benefits of this *plan*, except for the following:

1. *Members* who are receiving treatment for end-stage renal disease following the first 30 months such *members* are entitled to end-stage renal disease benefits under Medicare; and
2. *Members* who are entitled to Medicare benefits as disabled persons; unless the *members* have a current employment status, as determined by Medicare rules, through a *group* of 100 or more employees (according to OBRA legislation).

For cases where exceptions 1 or 2 apply, the *claims administrator* will determine our payment and then subtract the amount of benefits available from Medicare. We will pay the amount that remains after subtracting Medicare's payment. Please note, we will not pay any benefit when Medicare's payment is equal to or more than the amount which we would have paid in the absence of Medicare.

**For Retired Employees and Their Spouses.** If you are a retired employee or the *spouse* of a retired employee and you are enrolled for Medicare Part A and/or Part B, your benefits under this *plan* will be reduced.

When you incur *covered expense* under this *plan*, the *claims administrator* will determine this *plan's* payment and then subtract the amount of your benefits available from Medicare Parts A and B. This *plan* will pay the amount that remains after subtracting Medicare's benefits.

**For example:** Say you are a retired employee, a retired employee's *spouse* or that exceptions 1 or 2 above for active employees and *family members* apply to you. Say also that you are billed for **\$100** of *covered expense*, and in the absence of Medicare the *plan* would have paid **\$80**. If Medicare pays **\$50**, the *claims administrator* will subtract that amount from the **\$80** and pay **\$30**. The combined amount of benefits from Medicare and this *plan* will equal, but not exceed, what your benefit would have been from this *plan* alone if you were not eligible for Medicare.

### Electronic Claims Coordination

If you are covered by Medicare, call the *claims administrator's* Customer Service unit at 1 (888) 209-7975 and give them your Medicare number. The *claims administrator* will load it to its membership system, which will permit the *claims administrator* to electronically receive your Medicare EOB. This will allow the *claims administrator* to generate your UC benefit without you having to submit a claim.

## MEDICAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAMS

Benefits are provided only for *medically necessary* and appropriate services. Medical management programs including Utilization Review, Authorization, and Case Management are designed to work together with you and your provider to ensure you receive appropriate medical care and avoid unexpected out of pocket expense. The utilization review program applies to *hospital* admissions and outpatient surgery at an *ambulatory surgical center*. The authorization program applies to certain specialized services or treatments. The personal case management program helps you coordinate and manage long-term intensive medical care.

**No benefits are payable, however, unless your coverage is in force at the time services are rendered, and the payment of benefits is subject to all the terms and requirements of this *plan*.**

**Important:** Medical management requirements described in this section do not apply when coverage under this *plan* is secondary to another plan providing benefits for you or your *family members*.

Benefits are provided only for *medically necessary* and appropriate services. Medical management programs including Utilization Review, Authorization and Case Management are designed to work together with you and your provider to ensure you receive appropriate medical care and avoid unexpected out of pocket expense. The utilization review program applies to inpatient *hospital* admissions. The authorization program applies to certain specialized services or treatments. The personal case management program helps you coordinate and manage long-term intensive medical care.

**No benefits are payable, however, unless your coverage is in force at the time services are rendered, and the payment of benefits is subject to all the terms and requirements of this *plan*.**

**Important:** Medical management requirements described in this section do not apply when coverage under this *plan* is secondary to another plan providing benefits for you or your *family members*.

## UTILIZATION REVIEW PROGRAM

The utilization review program evaluates the medical necessity and appropriateness of care and the setting in which care is provided. You and your *physician* are advised if we have determined that services can be safely provided in an outpatient setting, or if an inpatient *stay* is recommended. Services that are *medically necessary* and appropriate are certified by the *claims administrator* and monitored so that you know when it is no longer *medically necessary* and appropriate to continue those services.

**It is your responsibility to see that your *physician* starts the utilization review process before scheduling you for any service subject to the utilization review program. If you receive any such service, and do not follow the procedures set forth in this section, your benefits will be reduced as shown in the "Effect on Benefits" portion of UTILIZATION REVIEW PROGRAM.**

## UTILIZATION REVIEW REQUIREMENTS

Utilization reviews are conducted for all inpatient *hospital stays*.

**Exceptions:** Utilization review is not required for inpatient *hospital stays* for the following services:

- Maternity care of 48 hours or less following a normal delivery or 96 hours or less following a cesarean section; and
- Mastectomy and lymph node dissection.

There are three stages of utilization review:

1. **Pre-service review** determines the medical necessity and appropriateness of scheduled, non-emergency inpatient *hospital* services.
2. **Concurrent review** determines whether services are *medically necessary* and appropriate when pre-service review is not required or we are notified while service is ongoing, for example, an emergency admission to the hospital.
3. **Retrospective review** is performed to review services that have already been provided. This applies in cases when pre-authorization, pre-service or concurrent review was not completed, or in order to evaluate and audit medical documentation subsequent to services being provided. Retrospective review may also be performed for services that continued longer than originally certified.

### **EFFECT ON BENEFITS**

In order for the full benefits of this *plan* to be payable, the following criteria must be met:

1. The appropriate utilization reviews must be performed in accordance with this *plan*. When pre-service review is not performed as required for an inpatient *hospital* admission, the benefits to which you would have been otherwise entitled will be subject to the Non-Certification Deductible shown in the SUMMARY OF BENEFITS.
2. The services must be *medically necessary* and appropriate. Inpatient *hospital* benefits will be provided only when an inpatient *stay* is *medically necessary* and appropriate. If you proceed with any services that have been determined to be not *medically necessary* and appropriate at any stage of the utilization review process, benefits will not be provided for those services.
3. Services that are not reviewed prior to or during service delivery will be reviewed retrospectively when the bill is submitted for benefit payment. If that review results in the determination that part or all of the services were not *medically necessary* and appropriate, benefits will not be paid for those services. Remaining benefits will be subject to previously noted reductions that apply when the required reviews are not obtained.

### **HOW TO OBTAIN UTILIZATION REVIEWS**

**Remember, it is always your responsibility to confirm that the review has been performed.**

**Pre-service Reviews.** Penalties will result for failure to obtain pre-service review, before receiving scheduled services, as follows:

1. For all scheduled services that are subject to utilization review, you or your *physician* must initiate the pre-service review at least three working days prior to when you are scheduled to receive services.
2. You must tell your *physician* that this *plan* requires pre-service review. *Physicians* who are *participating providers* will initiate the review on your behalf. A *non-participating provider* may initiate the review for you, or you may call the *claims administrator* directly. The toll-free number for Pre-authorization and pre-service review is printed on your identification card.
3. If you do not receive the certified service within 60 days of the certification, or if the nature of the service changes, a new pre-service review must be obtained.
4. The *claims administrator* will certify services that are *medically necessary* and appropriate. For inpatient *hospital stays*, the *claims administrator* will, if appropriate, certify a specific length of *stay* for approved services. You, your *physician* and the provider of the service will receive a written confirmation showing this information.

## Concurrent Reviews

1. If pre-service review was not performed, you, your *physician* or the provider of the service must contact us for concurrent review. For an *emergency* admission or procedure, the *claims administrator* must be notified within one working day of the admission or procedure, unless extraordinary circumstances\* prevent such notification within that time period.
2. When participating providers have been informed of your need for utilization review, the *claims administrator* will initiate the review on your behalf. You may ask a *non-participating provider* to call the toll free number printed on your identification card or you may call directly.
3. When the *claims administrator* determine that the service is *medically necessary* and appropriate, the *claims administrator* will, depending upon the type of treatment or procedure, certify the service for a period of time that is medically appropriate. The *claims administrator* will determine the medically appropriate setting.
4. If the *claims administrator* determines that the service is not *medically necessary* and appropriate, your *physician* will be notified by telephone no later than 24 hours following its decision. You and your *physician* will receive written notice no later than one business day following our decision.

**\*Extraordinary Circumstances.** In determining "extraordinary circumstances", the *claims administrator* may take into account whether or not your condition was severe enough to prevent you from notifying them, or whether or not a member of your family was available to notify them for you. You may have to prove that such "extraordinary circumstances" were present at the time of the *emergency*.

## Retrospective Reviews

1. Retrospective review is performed when the *claims administrator* is not notified of the service you received, and are therefore unable to perform the appropriate review prior to your discharge from the *hospital*. It is also performed when pre-service or concurrent review has been done, but services continue longer than originally certified.

It may also be performed for the evaluation and audit of medical documentation after services have been provided, whether or not pre-service or concurrent review was performed.

2. Such services which have been retroactively determined to not be *medically necessary* and appropriate will be retrospectively denied certification.

## AUTHORIZATION PROGRAM

The authorization program provides prior authorization for medical care for certain "special services".

**It is your responsibility to obtain authorization before you receive any service subject to the authorization program. The toll-free number to call for authorization is shown on your plan identification card. If you receive any such service, and do not follow the procedures set forth in this section, your benefits will be reduced as shown in the "Effect on Benefits" portion of AUTHORIZATION PROGRAM.**

### SERVICES REQUIRING AUTHORIZATION

1. Organ and tissue transplants.
2. Transplant travel expense benefits.

### EFFECT ON BENEFITS

When the appropriate authorization is not obtained, the benefits to which you would have been otherwise entitled **will be reduced by \$200 for each occurrence. In addition, services for specified organ transplants are not covered when performed at other than a designated COE.**

### WHEN AUTHORIZATION WILL BE PROVIDED

1. **Organ and Tissue Transplants.** Authorizations for organ and tissue transplants will be provided as follows:
  - a. For kidney, bone, skin or cornea transplants, only if both of the following criteria are met:
    - i. The services are *medically necessary* and appropriate; and
    - ii. The *physicians* on the surgical team and the facility in which the transplant is to take place are approved for the transplant requested.
  - b. For transplantation of liver, heart, heart-lung, lung, kidney-pancreas or bone marrow, including autologous bone marrow transplant, peripheral stem cell replacement and similar procedures, only if all of the following criteria are met:
    - i. The services are *medically necessary* and appropriate;
    - ii. The providers of related preoperative and postoperative services are approved; and
    - iii. The transplant will be performed at a *Center of Excellence (COE)*.
2. **Transplant Travel Expense Benefits.** Authorizations for transplant travel expense benefits will be provided for the recipient or donor only if all of the following criteria are met:
  - a. It is for transplantation of liver, heart, heart-lung, lung, kidney-pancreas or bone marrow, including autologous bone marrow transplant, peripheral stem cell replacement and similar procedures, authorized by the *claims administrator*;
  - b. The organ transplant must be performed at a specific *COE*; and
  - c. The specific *COE* is 250 miles or more from the recipient or donor's home.

### HOW TO OBTAIN AN AUTHORIZATION

You or your *physician* must call the toll-free telephone number printed on your identification card before the services are rendered.

## THE MEDICAL NECESSITY REVIEW PROCESS

The *claims administrator* works with you and your health care providers to cover *medically necessary* and appropriate care and services. While the types of services requiring review and the timing of the reviews may vary, the *claims administrator* is committed to ensuring that reviews are performed in a timely and professional manner. The following information explains its review process.

1. A decision on the medical necessity of a pre-service request will be made no later than 2 business days from receipt of the information necessary to make the decision.
2. A decision on the medical necessity of a concurrent request will be made no later than one business day from receipt of the information necessary to make the decision.
3. A decision on the medical necessity of a retrospective review will be made and communicated in writing no later than 30 days from receipt of the information necessary to make the decision.
4. If the *claims administrator* does not have the needed information, the *claims administrator* will make every attempt to obtain that information from you or your *physician*. If unsuccessful, and a delay is anticipated, the *claims administrator* will notify you and your *physician* of the delay and what the *claims administrator* needs to make a decision. The *claims administrator* will also inform you of when a decision can be expected following receipt of the needed information.
5. All pre-authorization, pre-service, concurrent and retrospective reviews for medical necessity are screened by clinically experienced, licensed personnel (called "Review Coordinators") using pre-established criteria and the *claims administrator's* medical policy. These criteria and policies are developed and approved by practicing providers not employed by the *claims administrator*, and are evaluated at least annually and updated as standards of practice or technology changes. Requests satisfying these criteria are certified as *medically necessary*. Review Coordinators are able to approve most requests.
6. A written confirmation including the specific service certified as *medically necessary* will be sent to you and your provider no later than 2 business days from the decision.
7. If the request fails to satisfy these criteria or medical policy, the request is referred to a Peer Clinical Reviewer. Peer Clinical Reviewers are health professionals clinically competent to evaluate the specific clinical aspects of the request and render an opinion specific to the medical condition, procedure and/or treatment under review. Peer Clinical reviewers are licensed in California with the same license category as the requesting provider. When the Peer Clinical reviewer is unable to certify the service, the requesting *physician* is contacted telephonically for a discussion of the case. In many cases, services can be certified after this discussion. If the Peer Clinical Reviewer is still unable to certify the service, your provider will be given the option of having the request reviewed by a different Peer Clinical Reviewer.
8. Only the Peer Clinical Reviewer may determine that the proposed services are not *medically necessary* and appropriate. Your *physician* will be notified telephonically within 24 hours of a decision not to certify and will be informed at that time of how to request reconsideration. Written notice will be sent to you and the requesting provider within one business day of the decision. This written notice will include:
  - an explanation of the reason for the decision,
  - reference of the criteria used in the decision to modify or not certify the request,
  - the name and phone number of the Peer Clinical Reviewer making the decision to modify or not certify the request,
  - how to request reconsideration if you or your provider disagree with the decision.
9. Reviewers may be plan employees or an independent third party chosen at the *claims administrator's* sole and absolute discretion.



10. You or your *physician* may request copies of specific criteria and/or medical policy by writing to the address shown on your plan identification card. The claims administrator discloses its medical necessity review procedures to health care providers through provider manuals and newsletters.

**A determination of medical necessity does not guarantee payment or coverage.** The determination that services are *medically necessary* is based on the clinical information provided. Payment is based on the terms of your coverage at the time of service. These terms include certain exclusions, limitations, and other conditions. Payment of benefits could be limited for a number of reasons, including:

- The information submitted with the claim differs from that given by phone;
- The service is excluded from coverage; or
- You are not eligible for coverage when the service is actually provided.

### **PERSONAL CASE MANAGEMENT**

The personal case management program enables you to obtain medically appropriate care in a more economical, cost-effective and coordinated manner during prolonged periods of intensive medical care. The *claims administrator*, through a case manager, may recommend an alternative plan of treatment which may include services not covered under this *plan*. The *plan administrator* does not have an obligation to provide personal case management. These services are provided at the sole and absolute discretion of the *claims administrator*.

### **HOW PERSONAL CASE MANAGEMENT WORKS**

You may be identified for possible personal case management through the *plan's* utilization review procedures, by the attending *physician*, *hospital* staff, or the *claims administrator's* claims reports. You or your family may also call the *claims administrator*.

Benefits for personal case management will be considered only when all of the following criteria are met:

1. You require extensive long-term treatment;
2. The *claims administrator* anticipates that such treatment utilizing services or supplies covered under this *plan* will result in considerable cost;
3. A cost-benefit analysis determines that the benefits payable under this *plan* for the alternative plan of treatment can be provided at a lower overall cost than the benefits you would otherwise receive under this *plan* while maintaining the same standards of care; and
4. You (or your legal guardian) and your *physician* agree, in a letter of agreement, with the *claims administrator's* recommended substitution of benefits and with the specific terms and conditions under which alternative benefits are to be provided.

**Alternative Treatment Plan.** If the *claims administrator* determines that your needs could be met more efficiently, an alternative treatment plan may be recommended. This may include providing benefits not otherwise covered under this *plan*. A case manager will review the medical records and discuss your treatment with the attending *physician*, you, and your family.

**The *claims administrator* makes treatment recommendations only; any decision regarding treatment belongs to you and your *physician*. The *plan* will, in no way, compromise your freedom to make such decisions.**

## **EFFECT ON BENEFITS**

1. Any alternative benefits are accumulated toward the Lifetime Maximum.
2. Benefits are provided for an alternative treatment plan on a case-by-case basis only. The *claims administrator* have absolute discretion in deciding whether or not to authorize services in lieu of benefits for any *member*, which alternatives may be offered and the terms of the offer.
3. The *claims administrator's* authorization of services in lieu of benefits in a particular case in no way commits them to do so in another case or for another *member*.
4. The personal case management program does not prevent the *claims administrator* from strictly applying the expressed benefits, exclusions and limitations of this *plan* at any other time or for any other *member*.

**Note:** The *claims administrator* reserves the right to use the services of one or more third parties in the performance of the services outlined in the letter of agreement. No other assignment of any rights or delegation of any duties by either party is valid without the prior written consent of the other party.

## **DISAGREEMENTS WITH MEDICAL MANAGEMENT DECISIONS**

1. If you or your *physician* disagree with a decision, or question how it was reached, you or your *physician* may request reconsideration. Requests for reconsideration (either by telephone or in writing) must be directed to the reviewer making the determination. The address and the telephone number of the reviewer are included on your written notice of determination. Written requests must include medical information that supports the medical necessity of the services.
2. If you, your representative, or your *physician* acting on your behalf find the reconsidered decision still unsatisfactory, a request for an appeal of a reconsidered decision may be submitted in writing to the *claims administrator*.
3. If the appeal decision is still unsatisfactory, your remedy is binding arbitration. (See BINDING ARBITRATION.)

## QUALITY ASSURANCE

Medical management programs are monitored, evaluated, and improved on an ongoing basis to ensure consistency of application of screening criteria and medical policy, consistency and reliability of decisions by reviewers, and compliance with policy and procedure including but not limited to timeframes for decision making, notification and written confirmation. The *claims administrator's* Board of Directors is responsible for medical necessity review processes through its oversight committees including the Resource Management Committee, Quality Management Committee, and Physician Relation's Committee. Oversight includes approval of policies and procedures, review and approval of self-audit tools, procedures, and results. Monthly process audits measure the performance of reviewers and Peer Clinical Reviewers against approved written policies, procedures, and timeframes. Quarterly reports of audit results and, when needed, corrective action plans are reviewed and approved through the committee structure.

## HIPAA COVERAGE AND CONVERSION

If your coverage for medical benefits under this *plan* ends, you may be eligible to enroll for coverage with any carrier or health plan that offers individual medical coverage. HIPAA coverage and conversion coverage are available upon request if you meet the requirements stated below. Both HIPAA coverage and conversion are available for medical benefits only. Please note that the benefits and cost of these plans will differ from your employer's *plan*.

### HIPAA Coverage

The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) is a federal law that provides an option for individual coverage when coverage under the employer's group *plan* ends. To be eligible for HIPAA coverage, you must meet all of the following requirements:

1. You must have a minimum of 18 months of continuous health coverage, most recently under an employer-sponsored health plan, and have had coverage within the last 63 days.
2. Your most recent coverage was not terminated due to nonpayment of the required monthly contribution, premiums or fraud.
3. If continuation of coverage under the employer *plan* was available under COBRA, CalCOBRA, or a similar state program including Post-COBRA, such coverage must have been elected and exhausted.
4. You must not be eligible for Medicare, Medicaid, or any group medical coverage and cannot have other medical coverage.

You must apply for HIPAA coverage within 63 days of the date your coverage under the employer's *plan* ends. Any carrier or health plan that offers individual medical coverage must make HIPAA coverage available to qualified persons without regard to health status. If you decide to enroll in HIPAA coverage, you will no longer qualify for conversion coverage.

### Conversion Coverage

To apply for a conversion plan, you must submit an application to the *claims administrator* within 31 days of the date your coverage under the employer's *plan* ends. Under certain circumstances you are not eligible for a conversion plan. They are:

1. You are not eligible if your coverage under this *plan* ends because the *plan* terminates and is replaced by another group plan within 60 days.
2. You are not eligible if your coverage under this *plan* ends because the required monthly contribution or premium is not paid when due because you (or the *subscriber* who enrolled you as a dependent) did not contribute your part, if any.
3. You are not eligible for a conversion plan if you are eligible for health coverage under another group plan when your coverage ends.
4. You are not eligible for a conversion plan if you are eligible for Medicare coverage when your coverage under this *plan* ends, whether or not you have actually enrolled in Medicare.
5. You are not eligible for a conversion plan if you are covered under an individual health plan.
6. You are not eligible for a conversion plan if you were not covered for medical benefits under the *plan* for three consecutive months immediately prior to the termination of your coverage.

The three consecutive month period of coverage requirement will be waived for *members* who have been covered under another UC plan then switch to this *plan* during an Open Enrollment and need to convert prior to being covered for three consecutive months under this *plan*.

If you decide to enroll in a conversion plan, you will no longer qualify for HIPAA coverage.

**IMPORTANT:** The intention of conversion coverage is not to replace the coverage you have under this *plan*, but to make available to you a specified amount of coverage for medical benefits until you can find a replacement. The conversion plan provides lesser benefits than this *plan* and the provisions and rates differ.

When coverage under your employer's group *plan* ends, you will receive more information about how to apply for HIPAA coverage or conversion, including a postcard for requesting an application and a telephone number to call if you have any questions.

#### **CERTIFICATION OF CREDITABLE COVERAGE**

In accordance with the statutory requirements of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 and Section 1357.51 of the California Health and Safety Code, the claims administrator will provide certifications of periods of creditable coverage for *members* whose coverage under the *plan* terminates.

## GENERAL PROVISIONS

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

**Independent Contractors.** The *claims administrator's* relationship with providers is that of an independent contractor. *Physicians*, and other health care professionals, *hospitals*, *skilled nursing facilities* and other community agencies are not their agents nor are they, or any of their employees, an employee or agent of any *hospital*, medical group or medical care provider of any type.

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

**Out-of-California Providers.** The Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association, of which the claims administrator is a member, has a program (called the "BlueCard Program") which allows our *members* to have the reciprocal use of participating providers contracted under other states' Blue Cross and/or Blue Shield Plans. If you are outside of California and require medical care or treatment, you may use a local Blue Cross and/or Blue Shield provider. If you use one of these providers, your out-of-pocket expenses may be lower than those incurred when using a provider which does not participate in the BlueCard Program. The rules for the BlueCard Program, including those described below, are set by The Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association. In order for you to receive access to the available discounts, we must abide by those rules.

When you obtain services outside California, your coinsurance and other subscriber liability for covered services is calculated on the lower of the actual billed charges for your covered services or the negotiated price that is passed along to Blue Cross of California by the local Blue Cross and/or Blue Shield Plan. The negotiated price can simply reflect the final actual discount on a claim. Often the negotiated price will consist of an estimated final price to reflect contractual adjustments that will occur at a later date. The estimated price may be based on the expected adjustment for the particular provider involved or for all or a specified group of the local Plan's providers. Also in a small number of states, your coinsurance and other subscriber liability for covered services will be calculated using a discount off billed charges that is an average discount reflecting the local Plan's anticipated savings for all or a specified group of its providers. Estimated or average prices may be prospectively adjusted to correct for overestimation or underestimation of past prices.

Finally, local Blue Cross and/or Blue Shield Plans in a small number of states are required by statute to use a basis for calculating subscriber liability for covered items that does not reflect the entire savings realized or expected to be realized on the claim. When you receive covered health care services in one of these states, your liability for covered services will be calculated using the state's statutory methods.

### Terms of Coverage

1. In order for you to be entitled to benefits under the *plan*, both the *plan* and your coverage under the *plan* must be in effect on the date the expense giving rise to a claim for benefits is incurred.
2. The benefits to which you may be entitled will depend on the terms of coverage in effect on the date the expense giving rise to a claim for benefits is incurred. An expense is incurred on the date you receive the service or supply for which the charge is made.
3. The *plan* is subject to amendment, modification or termination according to the provisions of the *plan* without your consent or concurrence.

**Protection of Coverage.** We do not have the right to cancel your coverage under this *plan* while: (1) this *plan* is in effect; (2) you are eligible; and (3) your required monthly contributions are paid according to the terms of the *plan*.

**Free Choice of Provider.** This *plan* in no way interferes with your right as a *member* entitled to *hospital* benefits to select a *hospital*. You may choose any *physician* who holds a valid *physician* and surgeon's certificate and who is a member of, or acceptable to, the attending staff and board of directors of the *hospital* where services are received. You may also choose any other health care professional or facility which provides care covered under this *plan*, and is properly licensed according to appropriate state and local laws. However, your choice may affect the benefits payable according to this *plan*.

**Continuity of Care.** If the *claims administrator* terminates its contractual relationship with a *participating provider* and you are undergoing a course of treatment from that provider at the time the contract is terminated, you may be able to continue to receive services from that provider (but only if such provider agrees to continue to comply with the same contractual requirements that applied prior to termination). To qualify, you must have an acute or a serious chronic condition, a high risk pregnancy, or a pregnancy in the second or third trimester. You may request this continuity of care by calling us at the customer service telephone number listed on your ID card. If approved, services may be received for a limited period of time, but no longer than 90 days, unless you cannot be safely transferred to a *participating provider*. Coverage is provided according to the terms and conditions of this *plan* applicable to *participating providers*.

**Provider Reimbursement.** *Physicians* and other professional providers are paid on a fee-for-service basis, according to an agreed schedule. A participating *physician* may, after notice from the *claims administrator*, be subject to a reduced negotiated rate in the event the participating *physician* fails to make routine referrals to *participating providers*, except as otherwise allowed (such as for *emergency services*). *Hospitals* and other health care facilities may be paid either a fixed fee or on a discounted fee-for-service basis.

**Availability of Care.** If there is an epidemic or public disaster and you cannot obtain care for covered services, we refund the unearned part of the subscription charge paid for you. A written request for that refund and satisfactory proof of the need for care must be sent to us within 31 days. This payment fulfills our obligation under this *plan*.

**Medical Necessity.** The benefits of this *plan* are provided only for services which the *claims administrator* determines to be *medically necessary*. The services must be ordered by the attending *physician* for the direct care and treatment of a covered condition. They must be standard medical practice where received for the condition being treated and must be legal in the United States. The process used to authorize or deny health care services under this *plan* is available to you upon request.

**Expense in Excess of Benefits.** We are not liable for any expense you incur in excess of the benefits of this *plan*.

**Benefits Not Transferable.** Only *members* are entitled to receive benefits under this *plan*. The right to benefits cannot be transferred.

**Notice of Claim.** You or the provider of service must send properly and fully completed claim forms to the *claims administrator* within 90 days of the date you receive the service or supply for which a claim is made. Services received and charges for the services must be itemized, and clearly and accurately described. If it is not reasonably possible to submit the claim within that time frame, an extension of up to 12 months will be allowed. We are not liable for the benefits of the *plan* if you do not file claims within the required time period. Claim forms must be used; canceled checks or receipts are not acceptable.

**Payment to Providers.** We will pay the benefits of this *plan* directly to *participating providers*, *COE* and medical transportation providers. Also, we will pay other providers of service directly when you assign benefits in writing. If you are a MediCal member and you assign benefits in writing to the State Department of Health Services, we will pay the benefits of this *plan* to the State Department of Health Services. These payments will fulfill our obligation to you for those covered services.

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

**Workers' Compensation Insurance.** The *plan* does not affect any requirement for coverage by workers' compensation insurance. It also does not replace that insurance.

**Prepayment Fees.** Your employer is responsible for paying subscription charges to us for all coverage provided to you and your *family members*. Your employer may require that you contribute all or part of the costs of these subscription charges. Please consult your employer for details.

**Liability of Subscriber to Pay Providers.** In accordance with California law, you will not be required to pay any *participating provider* or *other health care provider* any amounts we owe to that provider (not including co-payments or deductibles), even in the unlikely event that we fail to pay that provider. You may be liable, however, to pay *non-participating providers* any amounts not paid to them by us.

**Renewal Provisions.** The *plan* is subject to renewal at certain intervals. The required monthly contribution or other terms of the *plan* may be changed from time to time.

**Financial Arrangements with Providers.** The *claims administrator* or an affiliate has contracts with certain health care providers and suppliers (hereafter referred to together as "Providers") for the provision of and payment for health care services rendered to its members and *members* entitled to health care benefits under individual certificates and group policies or contracts to which *claims administrator* or an affiliate is a party, including all persons covered under the *plan*.

Under the above-referenced contracts between Providers and *claims administrator* or an affiliate, the negotiated rates paid for certain medical services provided to persons covered under the *plan* may differ from the rates paid for persons covered by other types of products or programs offered by the *claims administrator* or an affiliate for the same medical services. In negotiating the terms of the *plan*, the *plan administrator* was aware that the *claims administrator* or its affiliates offer several types of products and programs. The members, *members* and *plan administrator* are entitled to receive the benefits of only those discounts, payments, settlements, incentives, adjustments and/or allowances specifically set forth in the *plan*.



## **BINDING ARBITRATION**

Any dispute or claim, of whatever nature, arising out of, in connection with, or in relation to this *plan* or breach thereof, or in relation to care or delivery of care, including any claim based on contract, tort, or statute, must be resolved by arbitration if the amount sought exceeds the jurisdictional limit of the small claims court.

Any dispute regarding a claim for damages within the jurisdictional limits of the small claims court will be resolved in such court.

The arbitration is begun by the *member* making written demand on the *plan administrator* after an appeal on a claim for benefits has been denied. The arbitration will be conducted by Judicial Arbitration and Mediation Services ("JAMS") according to its applicable Rules and Procedures. If, for any reason, JAMS is unavailable to conduct the arbitration, the arbitration will be conducted by another neutral arbitration entity, by mutual agreement of the *member* and *plan administrator*, or by order of the court, if the *member* and *plan administrator* cannot agree. The arbitration shall be held in the State of California.

The *plan administrator* and the *member* agree to be bound by the arbitration provision and acknowledge that they are each giving up their right to a trial by court or jury.

The arbitration findings will be final and binding except to the extent that California or Federal law provides for the judicial review of arbitration proceedings.

## DEFINITIONS

The meanings of key terms used in this booklet are shown below. Whenever any of the key terms shown below appear, it will appear in italicized letters. When any of the terms below are italicized in this booklet, you should refer to this section.

**Accidental injury** is physical harm or disability which is the result of a specific unexpected incident caused by an outside force. The physical harm or disability must have occurred at an identifiable time and place. Accidental injury does not include illness or infection, except infection of a cut or wound.

**Ambulatory surgical center** is a freestanding outpatient surgical facility. It must be licensed as an outpatient clinic according to state and local laws and must meet all requirements of an outpatient clinic providing surgical services. It must also meet accreditation standards of the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Health Care Organizations or the Accreditation Association of Ambulatory Health Care.

**Centers of Expertise (COE)** are health care providers which have a Centers of Expertise Agreement in effect with the *claims administrator* at the time services are rendered. COE agree to accept the *COE negotiated rate* as payment in full for covered services. A participating provider in the Prudent Buyer Plan network is not necessarily a COE. A provider's participation in the Prudent Buyer Plan network or other agreement with the *claims administrator* is not a substitute for a Centers of Expertise Agreement.

**Centers of Expertise negotiated rate (COE negotiated rate)** is the fee COE agree to accept as payment for covered services. It is usually lower than their normal charge. COE negotiated rates are determined by Centers of Expertise Agreements.

**Child** meets the *plan's* eligibility requirements for children outlined in the UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA ELIGIBILITY, ENROLLMENT, TERMINATION AND PLAN ADMINISTRATION PROVISIONS insert attached to this booklet.

**Claims administrator** refers to BC Life & Health Insurance Company. On behalf of BC Life & Health Insurance Company, Blue Cross of California shall perform all administrative services in connection with the processing of claims under the *plan*.

**Covered expense** is the expense you incur for a covered service or supply, but not more than the maximum amounts described in YOUR MEDICAL BENEFITS: HOW COVERED EXPENSE IS DETERMINED. Expense is incurred on the date you receive the service or supply.

**Creditable coverage** is any individual or group plan that provides medical, hospital and surgical coverage, including continuation or conversion coverage, coverage under a publicly sponsored program such as Medicare or Medicaid, CHAMPUS, the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program, programs of the Indian Health Service or of a tribal organization, a state health benefits risk pool, or coverage through the Peace Corps. Creditable coverage does not include accident only, credit, coverage for on-site medical clinics, disability income, coverage only for a specified disease or condition, hospital indemnity or other fixed indemnity insurance, Medicare supplement, long-term care insurance, dental, vision, workers' compensation insurance, automobile insurance, no-fault insurance, or any medical coverage designed to supplement other private or governmental plans.

You are considered to have been covered under a creditable coverage if you: (1) were covered under a creditable coverage on the date that coverage terminated; (2) were in an eligible status under this *plan* within 63 days of termination of the creditable coverage; and (3) properly enrolled for coverage within 31 days of the eligibility date.

You are also considered to have been covered under a creditable coverage if your employment ended, the availability of medical coverage offered through employment or sponsored by an employer terminated, or an employer's contribution toward medical coverage terminated, provided that you: (1)

were covered under a creditable coverage on the date that coverage terminated; (2) were in an eligible status under this *plan* within 180 days of termination of the creditable coverage; and (3) properly enrolled for coverage within 31 days of the eligibility date.

**Custodial care** is care provided primarily to meet your personal needs. This includes help in walking, bathing or dressing. It also includes preparing food or special diets, feeding, administration of medicine which is usually self-administered or any other care which does not require continuing services of medical personnel.

**Customary and reasonable charge**, as determined annually by the *claims administrator*, is a charge which falls within the common range of fees billed by a majority of *physicians* for a procedure in a given geographic region. If it exceeds that range, the expense must be justified based on the complexity or severity of treatment for a specific case.

**Drug (prescription drug)** means a prescribed drug approved by the Food and Drug Administration for general use by the public. For the purposes of this *plan*, insulin will be considered a prescription drug.

**Effective date** is the date your coverage begins under this *plan*.

**Emergency** is a sudden, serious, and unexpected acute illness, injury, or condition (including without limitation sudden and unexpected severe pain) which the *member* reasonably perceives could permanently endanger health if medical treatment is not received immediately. Final determination as to whether services were rendered in connection with an emergency will rest solely with the *claims administrator*.

**Emergency services** are services provided in connection with the initial treatment of a medical *emergency*.

**Experimental** procedures are those that are mainly limited to laboratory and/or animal research.

**Family Member** meets the *plan's* eligibility requirements for family members outlined in the UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA ELIGIBILITY, ENROLLMENT, TERMINATION AND PLAN ADMINISTRATION PROVISIONS insert attached to this booklet.

**Home health agencies** are home health care providers which are licensed according to state and local laws to provide skilled nursing and other services on a visiting basis in your home, and recognized as home health providers under Medicare and/or accredited by a recognized accrediting agency such as the Joint Commission on the Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations.

**Home infusion therapy provider** is a provider licensed according to state and local laws as a pharmacy, and must be either certified as a home health care provider by Medicare, or accredited as a home pharmacy by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Health Care Organizations.

**Hospice** is an agency or organization providing a specialized form of interdisciplinary health care that provides palliative care (pain control and symptom relief) and alleviates the physical, emotional, social, and spiritual discomforts of a terminally ill person, as well as providing supportive care to the primary caregiver and the patient's family. A hospice must be: currently licensed as a hospice pursuant to Health and Safety Code section 1747 or a licensed *home health agency* with federal Medicare certification pursuant to Health and Safety Code sections 1726 and 1747.1. A list of hospices meeting these criteria is available upon request.

**Hospital** is a facility which provides diagnosis, treatment and care of persons who need acute inpatient hospital care under the supervision of *physicians*. It must be licensed as a general acute care hospital according to state and local laws. It must also be registered as a general hospital by the American Hospital Association and meet accreditation standards of the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Health Care Organizations.

**Infertility** is: (1) the presence of a condition recognized by a *physician* as a cause of infertility; or (2) the inability to conceive a pregnancy or to carry a pregnancy to a live birth after a year or more of regular sexual relations without contraception.

**Investigative** procedures or medications are those that have progressed to limited use on humans, but which are not widely accepted as proven and effective within the organized medical community.

**Medically necessary** procedures, supplies equipment or services are those the *claims administrator* determines to be:

1. Appropriate and necessary for the diagnosis or treatment of the medical condition;
2. Provided for the diagnosis or direct care and treatment of the medical condition;
3. Within standards of good medical practice within the organized medical community;
4. Not primarily for your convenience, or for the convenience of your *physician* or another provider; and
5. The most appropriate procedure, supply, equipment or service which can safely be provided. The most appropriate procedure, supply, equipment or service must satisfy the following requirements:
  - a. There must be valid scientific evidence demonstrating that the expected health benefits from the procedure, supply, equipment or service are clinically significant and produce a greater likelihood of benefit, without a disproportionately greater risk of harm or complications, for you with the particular medical condition being treated than other possible alternatives; and
  - b. Generally accepted forms of treatment that are less invasive have been tried and found to be ineffective or are otherwise unsuitable; and
  - c. For *hospital stays*, acute care as an inpatient is necessary due to the kind of services you are receiving or the severity of your condition, and safe and adequate care cannot be received by you as an outpatient or in a less intensified medical setting.

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

**Mental or nervous disorders**, for the purposes of this *plan*, are conditions that affect thinking and the ability to figure things out, perception, mood and behavior. A mental or nervous disorder is recognized primarily by symptoms or signs that appear as distortions of normal thinking, distortions of the way things are perceived (for example, seeing or hearing things that are not there), moodiness, sudden and/or extreme changes in mood, depression, and/or unusual behavior such as depressed behavior or highly agitated or manic behavior.

Any condition meeting this definition is a mental or nervous disorder no matter what the cause of the condition may be.

**Negotiated rate** is the amount *participating providers* agree to accept as payment in full for covered services. It is usually lower than their normal charge. Negotiated rates are determined by Prudent Buyer Plan Participating Provider Agreements. Note: If Medicare is the primary payor, the negotiated rate may be determined by Medicare's approved amount (see HOW COVERED EXPENSE IS DETERMINED).

**Non-participating provider** is one of the following providers which does NOT have a Prudent Buyer Plan Participating Provider Agreement in effect with the *claims administrator* at the time services are rendered:

1. A *hospital*;
2. A *physician*;
3. An *ambulatory surgical center*;

4. A *home health agency*;
5. A facility which provides diagnostic imaging services;
6. A durable medical equipment outlet;
7. A *skilled nursing facility*;
8. A clinical laboratory; or
9. A *home infusion therapy provider*.

They are not *participating providers*. Remember that only a portion of the amount which a *non-participating provider* charges for services may be treated as *covered expense* under this *plan*. See YOUR MEDICAL BENEFITS: HOW COVERED EXPENSE IS DETERMINED.

**Other health care provider** is one of the following providers:

1. A certified registered nurse anesthetist;
2. A blood bank;
3. A licensed ambulance company; or
4. A *hospice*.

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

**Participating provider** is one of the following providers which has a Prudent Buyer Plan Participating Provider Agreement in effect with the *claims administrator* at the time services are rendered:

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

*Participating providers* agree to accept the *negotiated rate* as payment for covered services. A directory of *participating providers* is available upon request.

**Pharmacy** means a licensed retail pharmacy.

**Physician** means:

1. A doctor of medicine (M.D.) or doctor of osteopathy (D.O.) who is licensed to practice medicine or osteopathy where the care is provided; or
2. One of the following providers, but only when the provider is licensed to practice where the care is provided, is rendering a service within the scope of that license, is providing a service for which benefits are specified in this booklet, and when benefits would be payable if the services were provided by a physician as defined above:
  - a. A dentist (D.D.S.)
  - b. An optometrist (O.D.)
  - c. A dispensing optician
  - d. A podiatrist or chiropodist (D.P.M., D.S.P. or D.S.C.)
  - e. A licensed clinical psychologist
  - f. A chiropractor (D.C.)
  - g. An acupuncturist (A.C.)

- h. A clinical social worker (L.C.S.W.)
- i. A marriage and family therapist (M.F.T.)
- j. A physical therapist (P.T. or R.P.T.)\*
- k. A speech pathologist\*
- l. An audiologist\*
- m. An occupational therapist (O.T.R.)\*
- n. A respiratory care practitioner (R.C.P.)\*
- o. A *psychiatric mental health nurse* (R.N.)\*
- p. A nurse midwife
- q. A registered dietitian (R.D.)\* for the provision of diabetic medical nutrition therapy only

**\*Note:** The providers indicated by asterisks (\*) are covered only by referral of a physician as defined in 1 above.

**Plan** is the set of benefits described in this *plan description* and in the amendments to this *plan description*, if any. These benefits are subject to the terms and conditions of the *plan*. If changes are made to the plan, an amendment or revised *plan description* will be issued to each *subscriber* affected by the change.

**Plan administrator** refers to UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, the entity which is responsible for the administration of the *plan*.

**Prescription** means a written order or refill notice issued by a licensed prescriber.

**Prior plan** is a plan sponsored by us which was replaced by this *plan* within 60 days. You are considered covered under the prior plan if you: (1) were covered under the prior plan on the date that plan terminated; (2) properly enrolled for coverage within 31 days of this *plan's* effective date; and (3) had coverage terminate solely due to the prior plan's termination.

**Prosthetic devices** are appliances which replace all or part of a function of a permanently inoperative, absent or malfunctioning body part. The term "prosthetic devices" includes orthotic devices, rigid or semi-supportive devices which restrict or eliminate motion of a weak or diseased part of the body.

**Reasonable charge** is a charge the *claims administrator* considers not to be excessive based on the circumstances of the care provided, including: (1) level of skill; experience involved; (2) the prevailing or common cost of similar services or supplies; and (3) any other factors which determine value.

**Skilled nursing facility** is an institution that provides continuous skilled nursing services. It must be licensed according to state and local laws and be recognized as a skilled nursing facility under Medicare.

**Special care units** are special areas of a *hospital* which have highly skilled personnel and special equipment for acute conditions that require constant treatment and observation.

**Spouse** meets the *plan's* eligibility requirements for spouses outlined in the UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA ELIGIBILITY, ENROLLMENT, TERMINATION AND PLAN ADMINISTRATION PROVISIONS insert attached to this booklet.

**Stay** is inpatient confinement which begins when you are admitted to a facility and ends when you are discharged from that facility.

**Subscriber** is the person who, by meeting the *plan's* eligibility requirements, is allowed to choose coverage under this *plan* for himself or herself and his or her eligible *family members*. Such requirements are outlined in the UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA ELIGIBILITY, ENROLLMENT, TERMINATION AND PLAN ADMINISTRATION PROVISIONS insert attached to this booklet.

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

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

**Totally disabled subscriber** is an *subscriber* who, because of illness or injury, is unable to work for income in any job for which he/she is qualified or for which he/she becomes qualified by training or experience, and who is in fact unemployed.

**Urgent care** is the services received for a sudden, serious, or unexpected illness, injury or condition, other than one which is life threatening, which requires immediate care for the relief of severe pain or diagnosis and treatment of such condition.

**We (us, our)** refers to UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA.

**Year or calendar year** is a 12 month period starting January 1 at 12:01 a.m. Pacific Standard Time.

**You (your)** refers to the *subscriber* and *family members* who are enrolled for benefits under this *plan*.

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