



AlaskaCare Employee Insurance Information Booklet

Effective January 1, 2025

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The Alaska Department of Administration complies with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990. This publication is available in alternative communication formats upon request. To make necessary arrangements, contact the ADA Coordinator for the Division of Retirement and Benefits at (907) 465-4460 or contact the TDD for the hearing impaired at (907) 465-2805.

AlaskaCare Claim Administrator

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Health Flexible Spending Accounts (HFSA): PayFlex Member Services: (800) 416-7053 COBRA & direct bill: (800) 359-3921 Health flexible spending accounts (HFSA): (888) 678-8242	PayFlex Systems USA, Inc. PO Box 14879 Lexington KY, 40512-4879
Vision & Audio Benefits: Aetna VSP Member Services: (855) 784-8646	Vision Services Plan (VSP) PO Box 997105 Sacramento, CA 95899-7105 vsp.com
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You may access the **Aetna** Clinical Policy Bulletins at aetna.com/health-care-professionals/clinical-policy-bulletins.html.

You may access the list of medical services requiring precertification at aetna.com/health-care-professionals/precertification/precertification-lists.html

Adoption Order

Paula Vrana, Commissioner Department of Administration, hereby adopts, pursuant to the authority under AS 39.30.090-098, the **AlaskaCare Employee Insurance Information Booklet**, dated January 1, 2025 as the official AlaskaCare Employee Plan (Plan) document governing the benefits contained therein. The **Plan** Booklet is effective January 1, 2025 and applies to claims submitted for payment with dates of service on or after the effective date. All prior Plan Booklets, documents, and related amendments are hereby repealed in their entirety.

Dated: 02/07/2025

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paula Vrana". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Paula Vrana, Commissioner
Department of Administration
State of Alaska

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1. INTRODUCTION TO PLAN

1.1. PLAN BENEFITS

You receive substantial value from the benefits the State of Alaska (“**State**”) makes available to you. The **plan** gives you an opportunity to select the **benefit options** and levels of coverage that reflect your own personal needs, lifestyle, and situation. The **State** provides comprehensive benefits under the **plan** for you and your family. Your coverage under the **plan** is good worldwide.

With the **plan**, you can choose the benefits that best fit your needs. The **plan** offers a range of choices for each **benefit option**. Each **benefit option** has a monthly employee contribution or premium based on the cost of providing that coverage. Unless you have timely waived coverage in the **plan**, you are required to participate in both the **medical plan** and the **dental plan**. You may also voluntarily elect coverage under the **vision plan**. Additionally, you may choose to make pre-tax contributions to a health flexible spending account (HFSA) to pay for health care expenses that are not covered by the **plan**. These **benefit options** are described in detail in this plan.

This **plan** may be updated from time to time to reflect changes in benefits. You should make sure that you are referencing the most current edition, which is available from the **Division** of Retirement and Benefits (“**Division**”), or AlaskaCare.gov.

This document is only intended to be a summary of the benefits available to you under the **plan**, and it is not possible to address every individual circumstance. If you have questions about how any provision under the **plan** pertains specifically to your situation, please contact the **claims administrator**.

1.2. DEFINED TERMS

Bolded words in the **plan** are defined in [section 16, Definitions](#)

1.3. ELIGIBILITY FOR COVERAGE

1.3.1. Eligible Employees

Benefit options under the **plan** are available to **eligible employees**. **Eligible employees** are permanent and long-term nonpermanent **employees** of the **State** whose bargaining unit or **employee** group participates in the **plan** and who are either:

- a) Full-time **employees** (including seasonal) who are scheduled to work 30 or more hours a week on a regular basis; or
- b) Part-time **employees** (including seasonal) who are scheduled to work at least 15 but less than 30 hours a week on a regular basis.

In addition to the above, **benefit options** may be offered to:

- a) **Employees** of the **State** whose bargaining unit or **employee** group participates in the **plan**, if the **employee** otherwise meets the criteria as outlined under the employer shared responsibility provisions in 26 U.S. Code § 4980H¹.
- b) Surviving **dependents** of a peace officer or a firefighter of the **State** whose bargaining unit or employee group participates in **the plan** or the surviving **dependents** of a peace officer or a firefighter who were enrolled in the former Public Safety Employee Association Health and Welfare Trust on later of the date of the peace officer or firefighter's death or June 30, 2019, provided that any such surviving **dependents** meet the criteria to receive medical insurance premium payments pursuant to Alaska Statute 39.60.040, Peace Officer and Firefighter Survivors' Fund.

Coverage under the **medical plan** and **dental plan** for **eligible employees** who are full-time **employees** is mandatory unless the employee timely waives coverage at the time benefit coverage is offered upon entry into the plan, or during an annual open enrollment. Coverage under the **medical plan** and **dental plan** is optional for **eligible employees** who are part-time **employees**.

The following bargaining units and **employee** groups participate in the **plan**:

- a) Confidential Employees Unit
- b) Supervisory Unit
- c) Unlicensed Vessel Personnel Unit (Inland Boatman's Union)
- d) Licensed Marine Engineers (Marine Engineers Beneficial Association)
- e) Alaska Vocational Technical Teachers Unit
- f) Mount Edgecumbe Teachers Unit
- g) Correctional Officers
- h) Employees not covered by a collective bargaining agreement

1.3.2. Eligible Dependents

You may enroll the following **dependents** in coverage under any or all of the **benefit options**:

- a) Your **spouse**.
- b) Your **children** until they attain age 26.
- c) Your **child** age 26 and older who is permanently and totally disabled. Permanent and **total disability** means the inability to engage in any substantial gainful activity due to a medically determinable physical or mental impairment which can be expected to result in death, or which has lasted or can be expected to last for a continuous period of not less than 12 months. The permanent and **total disability** must have existed before the **child** attains age 26 and the **child** must be (i) unmarried, (ii) provide less than one-half of their own support, and (iii) continue to meet all other eligibility criteria, except for age and having to live with you in a normal parent-child relationship. You must provide proof to the **claims administrator** of the permanent and **total disability**, proof that it existed

¹ [govinfo.gov/app/details/USCODE-2011-title26/USCODE-2011-title26-subtitleD-chap43-sec4980H](https://www.govinfo.gov/app/details/USCODE-2011-title26/USCODE-2011-title26-subtitleD-chap43-sec4980H)

before age 26, and proof of financial dependency, no later than 60 days after the **child's** 26th birthday. You must provide periodic proof of continued permanent and **total disability** as reasonably requested by the **claims administrator**.

Your **dependent children's** spouse or **children** are not eligible for coverage under the **plan**.

When you enroll in the **plan**, you must also enroll each of your **dependents** in order for their claims to be paid. If your **dependents** subsequently change, you must notify the **Division** within 30 days, as provided under [section 1.8.2, Changes in Status and other Applicable Events](#).

1.3.3. Waiver of Coverage

If you or your family maintain coverage under another medical plan, you may voluntarily waive your **medical plan, dental plan** and/or **vision plan** coverage under the **plan**. Your election to waive your own medical, or dental coverage, or if chose not to elect coverage under the **vision plan**, also waives coverage for your spouse and **child(ren)**. However, you may elect to waive the medical, dental and/or vision coverage for your **spouse** and **child(ren)** while maintaining your individual coverage.

- a) To elect to waive coverage under the **medical plan**, and/or **dental plan** for yourself, or to waive coverage for your **dependents** under the **medical plan, dental plan** and/or **vision plan** you must elect to *Opt Out* through the myRnB electronic enrollment system found at myrnb.alaska.gov. To elect to waive coverage you must elect to waive each component of the group health benefit plan coverage being waived and do so each **benefit year** during the annual open enrollment period. A waiver of coverage made during an annual open enrollment period is effective on the first day of the **benefit year** immediately following the open enrollment.
- b) You may elect to waive coverage during the 30-day period after you initially become eligible for coverage and before the date on which coverage becomes effective under the **plan**. Such waiver shall be effective as of the 31st consecutive day after you begin employment in a position eligible for coverage.
- c) If you change positions from a position in a bargaining unit that does not participate in the **plan** to a position covered by the **plan** you may elect to waive coverage within 30 days of the effective date of the change. The waiver shall be effective on the first day of the month following the change of position. If the change of position occurs on the first day of a month, the waiver shall be effective on such first day of the month.

During the term of a **benefit year** you may, based upon qualified changes in status or other applicable events that are allowed under [section 1.8.2, Changes in Status and other Applicable Events](#), elect to:

- a) waive coverage previously elected for the **benefit year**; or
- b) enroll in coverage that was previously waived for the **benefit year**.

Elections under this subsection may be made on behalf of the **employee**, a **spouse** and **child(ren)** consistent with the change in status or other applicable event; provided that **spouses** and **child(ren)** may not be covered under any component of the plan if the **employee** is not also covered. Such elections shall be made no later than 30 days after the date of the change in status or other applicable event, unless federal law requires a lengthier election period, and shall be effective as of the date of the change in status or other applicable event.

1.3.4. Dual Coverage

If you and your **spouse** both work for the **State**, you may both be covered under the **plan** as **employees**. You may also be covered as a **dependent** under the **plan**. Similarly, a **child** can be covered as a **dependent** of more than one **eligible employee**.

1.4. MONTHLY EMPLOYEE CONTRIBUTION

The **State** contributes towards the cost of **benefit options** under the **plan**. The amount the **State** contributes is determined by your bargaining unit contract, or in the case of **eligible employees** not covered by a bargaining unit, by the **State**. However, in most instances you are also required to pay a portion of the health costs through a monthly employee contribution.

Unless otherwise stated in the collective bargaining agreement, the **State** contribution for part-time **employees** is $\frac{1}{2}$ of the contribution for full-time **employee**, and the part-time **employee** must pay $\frac{1}{2}$ of the full premium cost for any **benefit options** elected.

You can elect which options under the **medical plan** and **dental plan** you want. You can also elect whether or not to participate in the **vision plan**. In addition, you can elect if you want one or all of these coverages to extend to your eligible **dependents**, including your **spouse**. Each option under the **medical plan** and **dental plan**, as well as the **vision plan**, has a premium, or employee contribution. The current employee monthly contribution amounts are available from your human resources office, the **Division**, or [AlaskaCare.gov](https://www.alaskacare.gov).

Your **monthly employee contribution** will be deducted on a pre-tax basis in equal installments from your paychecks in the month coverage is provided. For example, premiums for July are withheld from paychecks issued in July. If your paycheck is insufficient to pay the premium, you should contact your human resources office or the **Division** for information on paying your premiums directly on an after-tax basis.

You may also decide to make additional pre-tax contributions to a health flexible spending account (HFSA). See [section 6, Health Flexible Spending Account \(HFSA\)](#).

1.5. INITIAL COVERAGE ELECTIONS

1.5.1. New Employees

You must elect your **benefit options** and enroll your **eligible dependents** under the **plan** within 30 days of the date you are first hired.

- a) If you are an **eligible employee** who is a full-time **employee** and you do not timely elect your **benefit options**, you will be enrolled in the default option for the **medical plan** and for the **dental plan**. See [section 1.6, Default Options](#).
- b) If you are an **eligible employee** who is a part-time **employee** and you do not timely elect your **benefit options**, neither you nor your **dependents** will be enrolled in the **plan**.

1.5.2. Rehired Employees

Employees who terminate employment and are rehired in a *new benefit year* will be enrolled in the **plan** as new **employees**.

Employees who terminate employment and are rehired in the *same benefit year* will be re-enrolled in the same **benefit options** they had during their prior employment.

1.5.3. Employees Moving from a Nonparticipating Bargaining Unit

Employees who move from a bargaining unit that does not participate in the **plan** to a bargaining unit that participates in the **plan** have 30 days from the date of the bargaining unit change to elect coverage and enroll their eligible dependents under the **plan**. If timely elected, coverage is effective as provided in [section 1.7.4, Employees Moving from a Nonparticipating Bargaining Unit](#). If you do not timely elect coverage, you will be enrolled in the default option for the **medical plan** and the **dental plan**. See [section 1.6, Default Options](#).

1.5.4. Dependents

You must elect coverage for your **dependents** at the same time you enroll in the **plan**. If you do not timely enroll your **dependents** in the **plan**, they will not be covered under the **plan** until you enroll them during the next open enrollment or, if sooner, due to a change in status or another applicable event. See [section 1.8.2, Changes in Status or Other Applicable Events](#).

1.6. DEFAULT OPTIONS

The default options for the **medical plan** and **dental plan** for **eligible employees** who are full-time **employees** are established each **benefit year**. The default options are subject to change, generally effective the next **benefit year**. If you are enrolled in a default option and do not enroll in the **plan** during the following open enrollment, your defaults will be changed to the options established as the defaults for that **benefit year**. The default option for the **benefit year** beginning January 1, 2020 is the economy **medical plan** and economy **dental plan** for you and your eligible **dependents**. If you enroll no **dependents** under the **plan** within 30 days of the date you are first hired, the default option will be for employee-only economy **medical plan** and economy **dental plan**.

1.7. WHEN COVERAGE BEGINS

1.7.1. New Employees

If you are an **eligible employee** who is a full-time **employee**, you and your **dependents** are covered on the 31st consecutive day you are at work in pay status, unless coverage is waived in accordance with [section 1.3.3, Waiver of Coverage](#). For example, if you begin work on October 1, you are covered on October 31, if you have no periods of leave without pay and are still employed on that date.

If you are an **eligible employee** who is a part-time **employee** and you elect coverage for yourself and your **dependents** under the **plan** during the first 30 days of employment, you and your **dependents** are covered on the 31st consecutive day you are at work in pay status. For example, if you begin work on April 3, and you elect coverage by May 2, you are covered on May 3, if you have no periods of leave without pay and are still employed on that date.

If you have leave without pay (*except for a leave taken as a result of injury or illness*) during your first 30 days of employment, you are covered after you return to work and are in pay status for 31 consecutive days, unless coverage is waived in accordance with [section 1.3.3, Waiver of Coverage](#). For example, if you start work on October 1, but have leave without pay and return to work October 15, coverage begins on November 14, if you have no other periods of leave without pay and are still employed on that date.

Notwithstanding the above and, except if coverage is waived in accordance with [section 1.3.3, Waiver of Coverage](#), in no event will your waiting period be longer than 90 calendar days, if you are at work and in pay status on such date.

1.7.2. Rehired Employees

If you are covered under the **plan** as an actively working **employee**, terminate employment with the **State**, and:

- a) *are rehired within seven calendar days* of the date your coverage terminated; your coverage begins on the day you return to work. For example, if you terminate employment on July 5, your coverage ends July 31, and you return to work on or before August 7, you are covered under the plan the day you return to work; or
- b) *are rehired more than seven calendar days* after your coverage terminated, coverage begins as set forth under [section 1.7.1, New Employees](#).

1.7.3. Employees Returning from Leave Without Pay or Layoff

If you were covered under the **plan** when you were placed in leave without pay status or layoff status (through a personnel action), when you return to work, you are covered under the **plan** starting the day you return to work. For example, if you return to work from leave without pay on July 15, coverage begins under the **plan** for you and your **dependents** on July 15. This paragraph applies to the extent you did not continue coverage under the **plan** during an unpaid FMLA leave, as permitted under [section 14.9, Family and Medical Leave Act \(FMLA\)](#).

If you have scattered leave without pay on your timesheet(s), you will not experience a break in health coverage. You are responsible for paying any owed premiums if there are insufficient funds in your paycheck to cover the cost. If you are entering leave without pay status and have questions about how your health coverage may be impacted, please contact your payroll office.

1.7.4. Employees Moving from a Nonparticipating Bargaining Unit

Employees who move from a bargaining unit that does not participate in the **plan** to a bargaining unit that participates in the **plan** will be covered under the **plan** on the first day of the month after the date of the bargaining unit change unless coverage is waived in accordance with [section 1.3.3, Waiver of Coverage](#). For example, if your bargaining unit change is effective October 15, your coverage under the **plan** begins on November 1.

If the change is effective on the first day of the month, you will be covered under the **plan** on that day. For example, if your bargaining unit change is effective November 1, you will become covered under the **plan** on that day.

1.7.5. Dependents

Dependents are covered under the **plan**, unless coverage is waived in accordance with [section 1.3.3, Waiver of Coverage](#), on the same day that you are covered if they meet the eligibility requirements and you timely enroll them in the **plan** and update your elections to family coverage within 30 days.

Newborns are automatically covered under the **plan** for the first 31 days after birth. To continue coverage after 31 days, you will need to enroll the **child** under the **plan**.

New **dependent children** will be covered under the **plan** if you have elected a level of coverage that covers the new **dependent** and you timely enroll the **child** in the **plan**, in accordance with [section 1.8.2 Changes in Status or Other Applicable Events](#).

If you are already enrolled in family coverage, you may add additional eligible dependents to your existing coverage at any time. Coverage for dependents added to your family coverage outside of the enrollment periods outlined in section 1.8 Changing Your Coverage will be effective on the date your request to add the dependent is received.

1.7.6. Surviving Dependents of Peace Officer and Firefighters

In accordance with AS 39.60 and the corresponding regulations governing the Peace Officer and Firefighter Survivors' Fund, surviving **dependents** of a peace officer or a firefighter of the **State** whose bargaining unit or employee group participates in **the plan** or the surviving **dependents** of a peace officer or a firefighter who were enrolled in the former Public Safety Employee Association Health and Welfare Trust on later of the date of the peace officer or firefighter's death or June 30, 2019, provided that any such surviving **dependents** meet the criteria to receive medical insurance premium payments pursuant to Alaska Statute 39.60.040, Peace Officer and

Firefighter Survivors' Fund will receive the same level of coverage under the **plan** beginning the first day of the month following acknowledgement from Department of Public Safety that the **dependents** have presumptive or determined eligibility for benefits from the Peace Officer and Firefighter Survivors' Fund.

1.8. CHANGING YOUR COVERAGE

You may elect, change, or terminate coverage under **the health plan** as described in this section.

1.8.1. Open Enrollment

Open enrollment will be held annually. During open enrollment you may:

- a) elect to begin coverage under one or more **benefit options**;
- b) waive coverage as outlined in [section 1.3.3, Waiver of Coverage](#)
- c) change your **benefit options**; or
- d) terminate coverage under one or more **benefit options** (except that coverage under the **medical plan** and dental plan is mandatory for **eligible employees** who are full-time **employees** and have not waived coverage).

If you are on leave without pay status or layoff status on the date that open enrollment begins, you may elect coverage either during open enrollment or within 30 days of the date you return to work. Changes made during open enrollment are effective for the next **benefit year**.

If you do not make any elections during open enrollment:

- a) You will automatically be re-enrolled in the same **benefit options** you had in the prior year, except if you waived coverage under [section 1.3.3, Waiver of Coverage](#).
- b) If you waived coverage under [section 1.3.3, Waiver of Coverage](#), you must make an election during each open enrollment to continue to waive coverage or you will be placed in the default option for the **medical plan** and **dental plan**. See [section 1.6, Default Options](#).
- c) If you were enrolled in a default option for the **medical plan** or **dental plan** and the default options have changed, you will automatically be enrolled in the new default options.
- d) You will not be re-enrolled in the health flexible spending account (HFSA).

If you want to participate in the health flexible spending account (HFSA), you must make an election during each open enrollment.

Elections made during open enrollment will remain in effect until the end of the **benefit year** unless you terminate your employment or have an employment change that makes you ineligible for coverage, or change your elections due to a change in status or other applicable event. See [section 1.8.2, Change in Status or Other Applicable Events](#).

1.8.2. Changes in Status or Other Applicable Events

You may change your elections, make a new election or, if permitted by the **plan**, terminate your elections during the **benefit year** if you submit your request for a change within 30 days (60 days if noted below) of a change in status or other applicable event. The election change will be effective the date of the change in status or other applicable event.

1.8.2.1. Changes in Status

The following are changes in status:

- a) A change in your legal marital status, including divorce or marriage.
- b) A change in the number of your **dependents**, including the death of a **spouse** or **dependent** or the birth or adoption (or placement for adoption) of your **child**.
- c) A change in your, your **spouse's**, or your **dependent's** employment status, including:
 - the termination or commencement of employment;
 - a change from part-time to full-time or full-time to part-time employment;
 - a commencement of or return from an unpaid leave of absence;
 - a change in worksite that affects eligibility; or
 - a return from a strike or lockout.
- d) your **dependent** satisfying or ceasing to satisfy the definition of **dependent** under the **benefit option**.
- e) your, your **spouse's**, or your **dependent's** change in the place of residence that affects eligibility.

Changes in coverage under the **medical plan, dental plan, vision plan**, and health flexible spending account (HFSA) must be *on account of* the change in status, *necessary or appropriate* as a result of the change in status, and *consistent with* the terms and conditions of the **benefit option**.

1.8.2.2. Other Applicable Events

There are other situations in which you can change your elections during the **benefit year**, referred to as other applicable events. These do not apply to the health flexible spending account (HFSA) unless specifically provided. Other applicable events include:

a) Significant Change in Cost or Coverage

If you elect to participate in the **plan** and your cost for a **benefit option** significantly increases or decreases during the **benefit year**, you may:

- make a corresponding increase or decrease in your payments;
- if there is a significant cost increase, revoke your existing election and elect to receive coverage, on a prospective basis, under another **benefit option** providing similar coverage (if available), or if not available, drop coverage entirely (provided that you may not drop medical coverage unless you maintain medical coverage under another plan);
or

- if there is a significant cost decrease, begin participation in the **plan** and elect the coverage that significantly decreased in cost.

b) Cost Increase or Decrease

If you elect to participate in the **plan** and your cost for a **benefit option** increases or decreases during the **benefit year**, and you are required to make a corresponding change in your premium payments, the **plan** may make a prospective increase or decrease, as appropriate, in premium payments.

c) Coverage is Significantly Reduced (with a Loss of Coverage)

If you, your **spouse**, or **dependent** have a significant reduction in coverage that results in a “loss of coverage,” then you may cancel your election for coverage and elect to receive coverage, on a prospective basis, under another **benefit option** providing similar coverage (if available), or drop such coverage if no other **benefit option** providing similar coverage is available under the **plan** (provided that you may not drop medical or dental coverage if it is mandatory). A “loss of coverage” means:

- an elimination of a **benefit option**; or
- a substantial decrease in medical care providers under a **benefit option** (such as a **hospital** ceasing to be a member of a preferred provider network or a substantial decrease in **physicians** in a preferred provider network).

d) Coverage is Significantly Reduced (without a Loss of Coverage)

If you, your **spouse**, or **dependent** have a significant reduction in coverage but not a “loss of coverage” (for example, a significant increase in **deductible**, **copayment**, or **out-of-pocket limit**), then you may cancel your election for coverage and elect to receive coverage, on a prospective basis, under another **benefit option** providing similar coverage. Coverage under the plan is “significantly reduced” only if there is an overall reduction in coverage provided under the plan.

e) Addition or Significant Improvement of **Benefit Option** Providing Similar Coverage

If the plan adds a new **benefit option** or other coverage option (or significantly improves an existing **benefit option** or other coverage option), you may cancel your existing option and elect the newly added option or the significantly improved option providing similar coverage, on a prospective basis.

f) Change in or Loss of Coverage Under Other Employer’s Plan or Other Group Health Plan

You may make an election change that is on account of and corresponds with a change made under the group health plan of your **spouse’s**, former **spouse’s**, or **dependent’s** employer if the other plan permits participants to make an election change or this plan permits you to make an election for a period of coverage that is different from the period of coverage under the other plan. However, you may not drop coverage under the **medical plan** unless you maintain medical coverage under another plan.

g) Loss of Coverage Under Governmental/Educational Group Health Plan

You may make an election to add coverage under the **medical plan** or **dental plan** for you, your **spouse** or **dependent** if any of you lose coverage under any group health plan sponsored by a governmental or educational institution (including a state children’s health insurance program, medical program of an Indian Tribal government, a state health benefits risk pool or a foreign government group health plan).

h) Special Enrollment

If you or your **spouse** or **dependent** are entitled to HIPAA special enrollment under the **plan**, including the health flexible spending account (HFSA), due to the addition of a new **dependent** by adoption, placement for adoption, birth, or marriage, you may make a mid-year change to your election consistent with your change in enrollment.

You, your **spouse** or **dependent** may also be enrolled in the **plan** during special enrollment periods if (i) you, your **spouse** or **dependent** is covered under a Medicaid plan under Title XIX of the Social Security Act or a state children’s health plan under Title XXI of the Social Security Act, and (ii) coverage under such plan is lost due to a loss of eligibility for such coverage. In addition, you, your **spouse** or **dependent** may be enrolled under the **plan** if you, your **spouse** or **dependent** become eligible for premium assistance under such Medicaid plan or a state children’s health plan (including any waiver or demonstration project conducted under or in relation to such plan), to the extent required under HIPAA. *A 60-day enrollment period applies to this other applicable event.*

i) Entitlement to Medicare or Medicaid

If you, your **spouse**, or your **dependent** are covered under the **plan** and become entitled to coverage under Medicare or Medicaid (other than coverage solely under the program for distribution of pediatric vaccines), you may change your election to cancel or reduce coverage under the **plan** for the entitled person. If there is a loss of coverage under Medicare or Medicaid, you may elect to begin or increase coverage under the **plan** for the affected person.

j) Court Order/Medical **Child** Support Order

If you are subject to a judgment, decree, or order resulting from a divorce, legal separation, annulment, or change in legal custody (including a qualified medical **child** support order), you may make a consistent change in your benefits under the **plan**, including the health flexible spending account (HFSA), to either: (i) cover the **child** or (ii) cancel coverage of the **child**, as applicable.

1.9. WHEN COVERAGE ENDS

1.9.1. For Employees

Coverage under the **plan** terminates for **employees** as of the date that is the earliest of:

- a) The date that the **plan** or any **benefit option** under the **plan** is terminated.
- b) The date that the **plan** or any **benefit option** under the **plan** is voluntarily waived in accordance with [section 1.3.3, Waiver of Coverage](#).
- c) The last day of the month in which you cease to be an **eligible employee**.
- d) The date you die.
- e) The last day of the month in which you were last in pay status (whether actively at work or on paid leave).
- f) The last day of the month in which your employment is terminated.
- g) The last day of the month in which you are laid off or reduce your hours of employment such that you are no longer an **eligible employee**. Except, if leave without pay is for a furlough under 2 AAC 07.407, the furlough shall be treated as if the employee were in pay status in its effects on health benefit eligibility.
- h) The last day of the month in which you move from a position that participates in the **plan** to a position that does not.
- i) The last day of the month during which you fail to pay any required premium.
- j) The date you become a full-time member of the armed forces of any country.
- k) Notwithstanding the foregoing, if the state budget is not funded by July 1, necessitating a government shutdown, health benefits for noticed employees will stop on July 31 at 11:59 pm regardless of the start date of the government shutdown. A noticed **employee** is an **employee** who has been directed not to report to work due to the government shutdown and has not been recalled to work. Nothing in this provision waives the obligation of the noticed **employee** to pay the applicable **employee** contribution as outlined in [section 1.4, Monthly Employee Contribution](#).

1.9.2. For Dependents

Coverage under the plan terminates for **dependents** as of the date that is the earliest of:

- a) The date that the **plan** or any **benefit option** under the **plan** is terminated.
- b) The date that **dependent** coverage under the **plan** or the **plan** is terminated.
- c) The date that **dependent** coverage under the **plan** is waived in accordance with [section 1.3.3, Waiver of Coverage](#).
- d) The date a **spouse** ceases to be a **dependent** due to a divorce.
- e) The last day of the month in which a **dependent child** ceases to satisfy the eligibility requirements for a **dependent** under the **plan**.
- f) The date a **dependent** dies.
- g) The date that your coverage terminates, or for a **dependent** in the event of your death, the last day of the month in which you die.
- h) The last day of the month during which you fail to pay any required premium on behalf of your **dependents**.
- i) The date that you terminate coverage for your **dependents**.

1.9.3. Continued Coverage

You and/or your **dependents** may be eligible for continued health benefits when coverage ends under the **plan**. See [section 9, Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act \(COBRA\)](#) and [Extended Health Coverage, section 14.8, Continuation of Coverage under the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act of 1994 \(USERRA\)](#), and [section 14.9, Family and Medical Leave Act \(FMLA\)](#).

1.9.4. Surviving Dependents of Peace Officer and Firefighters

In accordance with AS 39.60, Peace Officer and Firefighters Survivors' Fund, for the surviving **dependent** of a peace officer or firefighter who is killed in the line of duty, coverage ends when the earliest event occurs:

- a) The date that the **plan** or any **benefit option** under the **plan** is terminated.
- b) The date that **dependent** coverage under the plan or the **plan** is terminated.
- c) The last day of the month in which the surviving **dependent** ceases to be eligible for benefits from the Peace Officer and Firefighter Survivors' Fund.

1.10. RECEIPT OF DOCUMENTS

If the **Division** has no record of receipt of an application, election, waiver of coverage or claim, such document will have no effect unless you can provide reasonable proof that it was sent to the **Division**. Reasonable proof includes such items as a certified mail receipt or a receipt stamp from the **Division**.

All **Division** documents should be sent directly to the **Division**, or in the case of a claim, to the appropriate **claims administrator's** address in the front of this plan. The **Division** will not be bound to any action due to receipt of a document at a location other than the **Division** or appropriate **claims administrator**.

1.11. FUTURE OF THE PLAN

Although the **State** intends to maintain the **plan** indefinitely, the **State** reserves the right, in its sole discretion, to alter, amend, delete, cancel, or otherwise change the **benefit options** or terms of the **plan** or any premium payments for the **plan** at any time and from time to time, and to any extent that it deems advisable. No **eligible employee, dependent, or covered person** will have any vested interest in the plan or the **benefit options** under the plan.

1.12. ADMINISTRATION OF THE PLAN

The **Commissioner** is the administrator of the **plan**, although the **Commissioner** has delegated to **claims administrators** the performance of certain responsibilities of the administrator. The **Commissioner** has full, discretionary authority to control and manage the operation of the **plan** and has all power necessary or convenient to enable it to exercise such authority. The **Commissioner** may provide rules and regulations, not inconsistent with the provisions hereof, for

the operation and the management of the **plan**, and may from time to time amend or rescind such rules or regulations.

Except as may be otherwise specifically provided in the **plan**, the **Commissioner** has full, discretionary authority to enable it to carry out its duties under the **plan**, including, but not limited to, the authority to determine eligibility under the **plan** and to construe the terms of the **plan** and to determine all questions of fact or law arising hereunder. The **Commissioner** has all power necessary or convenient to enable it to exercise such authority. All such determinations and interpretations will be final, conclusive, and binding on all persons affected thereby. The **Commissioner** has full, discretionary authority to correct any defect, supply any omission or reconcile any inconsistency and resolve ambiguities in the **plan** in such manner and to such extent as it may deem expedient, and the **Commissioner** will be the sole and final judge of such expediency.

2. BENEFIT SCHEDULES

2.1. Medical Benefit Schedule

Deductibles	Standard	Economy	Consumer Choice
Annual Individual deductible	\$300	\$500	\$2400
Annual family deductible	\$600	\$1000	\$4800

Office Visits – for In Network Providers	Standard	Economy	Consumer Choice
Primary Care Provider Visit	\$25 copay	\$35 copay	n/a
Specialty Care Provider Visit	\$45 copay	\$55 copay	n/a
The copayments cover professional charges billed by a primary care provider and/or specialty care provider but do not cover some other services that may be provided during the visit, such as laboratory work. Urgent and emergent care office visits are not eligible for copayments ; normal cost share provisions apply.			
Copayments accrue towards a member’s out-of-pocket maximums, but do not apply to a member’s deductible .			

Teladoc and Hinge Health	Standard	Economy	Consumer Choice
Teladoc General Medical Consultation	\$0 copay	\$0 copay	\$0 copay
Teladoc Dermatology Consultation	\$0 copay	\$0 copay	\$0 copay
Teladoc Behavioral Health Consultation*	\$0 copay	\$0 copay	\$0 copay
Teladoc Caregiver Consultation	\$45 copay	\$45 copay	\$45 copay
Hinge Health Visit	\$0 copay	\$0 copay	\$0 copay

*If you do not show up for your Teladoc behavioral health visit, or cancel with less than 24 hours’ notice, you may be charged a \$50 fee. This fee is your responsibility and is not payable by the plan.

Coinsurance	Standard	Economy	Consumer Choice
Most medical expenses <ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$100 penalty if you seek non-emergency care at the emergency room of a hospital 	80%	70%	70%
Most medical expenses after out-of-pocket limit is satisfied	100%	100%	100%
Most medical expenses for your spouse or dependent children if they are eligible to be covered by a State employee health trust and that coverage (i) has been waived, (ii) pays less than 70% of the covered expenses, or (iii) has an individual deductible, of at least \$5,000.	30%	30%	30%
Episode of Care received through Lantern benefits	100%	100%	100%
Facility services with a network provider	80%	70%	70%
Facility services with an out-of-network hospital, surgery center, rehabilitative facility, or free-standing imaging center in other 49 states or non-preferred provider hospital, surgery center, rehabilitative facility, or free-standing imaging center in Anchorage	60%	50%	50%
Transplant services if an Institute of Excellence™ (IOE) facility is used	80%	70%	70%
Transplant services if a non-Institute of Excellence™ (IOE) facility is used	60%	50%	50%
Preventive care with a network provider or when use of an out-of-network provider has been precertified.	100%	100%	100%
Preventive care with an out-of-network provider	80%	70%	70%
Hearing benefit	80%	80%	80%
Inpatient mental disorder treatment with a network provider	80%	70%	70%
Inpatient mental disorder treatment with an out-of-network provider	60%	50%	50%
Inpatient substance abuse disorder treatment with a network provider	80%	70%	70%
Inpatient substance abuse disorder treatment with an out-of-network provider	60%	50%	50%

Individual Out-of-Pocket Limit	Standard	Economy	Consumer Choice
Annual individual out-of-pocket limit	\$1,750	\$2,750	\$5,400
The following expenses do not apply toward the out-of-pocket limit: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> charges over the recognized charge; non-covered expenses; premiums; 	\$3,500 if use out-of-network hospital, surgery center, rehabilitative facility, or free-	\$5,500 if use out-of-network hospital, surgery center, rehabilitative facility, or free-	\$10,800 if use out-of-network hospital, surgery center, rehabilitative facility, or free-

Individual Out-of-Pocket Limit	Standard	Economy	Consumer Choice
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$100 penalty if seek non-emergency care at emergency room of a hospital; • Prescription drug expenses; • \$25 copayment for non-preventive services at a Coalition Health Clinic; • \$45 visit charge for caregiver consultation under section 3.5.4, Teladoc Services; and • Any amount of deductible waived under section 3.3.8, Bargaining Unit Change Deductible Waiver. 	standing imaging center for facility services outside Alaska, or non-preferred provider hospital, surgery center, rehabilitative facility, or free-standing imaging center in Anchorage	standing imaging center for facility services outside Alaska, or non-preferred provider hospital, surgery center, rehabilitative facility, or free-standing imaging center in Anchorage	standing imaging center for facility services outside Alaska, or non-preferred provider hospital, surgery center, rehabilitative facility, or free-standing imaging center in Anchorage

Family Out-of-Pocket Limit	Standard	Economy	Consumer Choice
Annual family out-of-pocket limit	\$3,500	\$5,500	\$10,800
<p>The following expenses do not apply toward the out-of-pocket limit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • charges over the recognized charge; • non-covered expenses; • premiums; • \$100 penalty if seek non-emergency care at emergency room of a hospital; • Prescription drug expenses; • Office visit copayments; • \$25 copayment for non-preventive services at a Coalition Health Clinic; • \$45 visit charge for caregiver consultation under section 3.5.4, Teladoc Services; and • Any amount of deductible waived under section 3.3.8, Bargaining Unit Change Deductible Waiver. 	\$7,000 if use out-of-network provider for hospital, surgery center, rehabilitative facility, or free-standing imaging center services outside Alaska, or non-preferred provider hospital, surgery center, rehabilitative facility, or free-standing imaging center in Anchorage	\$11,000 if use out-of-network provider for hospital, surgery center, rehabilitative facility, or free-standing imaging center services outside Alaska, or non-preferred provider hospital, surgery center, rehabilitative facility, or free-standing imaging center in Anchorage	\$21,600 if use out-of-network provider for hospital, surgery center, rehabilitative facility, or free-standing imaging center services outside Alaska, or non-preferred provider hospital, surgery center, rehabilitative facility, or free-standing imaging center in Anchorage

Benefit Maximums – Hearing Aids	Standard	Economy	Consumer Choice
Individual limit on hearing aids (Maximum applies to a rolling 36-month period)	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$3,000

Visit / Service Limits	
Spinal manipulations including medical massage therapy when done in conjunction with spinal manipulations	20 visits per benefit year

Visit / Service Limits	
Hearing exams	One per rolling 24-month period
Home health care. See section 3.5.9, Home Health Care , for exceptions.	120 visits per benefit year Up to 4 hours = 1 visit
Outpatient hospice expenses	Up to 8 hours per day
Cognitive therapy, physical therapy, occupational therapy, and speech therapy rehabilitation benefits	No more than 1 hour of therapy per provider specialty per date of service (limits will not apply to Medically Necessary treatment of mental health or substance use disorder)
Employee assistance program	8 visits per problem per benefit year
Travel Benefits: Therapeutic treatments	One visit and one follow-up per benefit year
Travel Benefits:	
• Prenatal/postnatal maternity care	One visit per benefit year
• Maternity delivery	One visit per benefit year
• Presurgical or postsurgical or second surgical opinion	One visit per benefit year
• Surgical procedure	One visit per benefit year
• Allergic condition	One visit per benefit year for each allergic condition

Travel Per Diems/Limitations	Standard
Travel per diem without overnight lodging. See section 3.5.24, Travel , for applicable criteria.	\$51/day
Travel per diem with overnight lodging. See section 3.5.24, Travel , for applicable criteria.	\$89/day
Companion per diem for children under age 18. See section 3.5.24, Travel , for applicable criteria.	\$31/day
Overnight lodging for transplant services, in lieu of other travel per diems. See section 3.5.26, Transplant Services , for other applicable criteria.	\$50 per person/night, up to \$100/night
Limit on travel for transplant services	\$10,000 per transplant occurrence
Daily per diem for benefits under section 3.5.25 Lantern Benefits	\$25 per patient per day Or \$50 per patient and companion per day Begins the first day of authorized travel – ends last day of authorized travel
Ground transportation expenses (in lieu of air fare) for benefits under section 3.5.25 Lantern Benefits	\$50 when most direct route to care is at least 100 miles from place of residence, but less than 200 miles \$100 when most direct route to care is 200 miles or more from place of residence
Travel benefits without precertification	Up to \$500, not to exceed eligible travel costs.

2.2. Prescription Drug Benefit Schedule

Prescription Tier	Retail 1-30 Day Supply: Network Pharmacy
Maintenance generic prescription drugs	\$5 copay per prescription
Generic prescription drugs	\$10 copay per prescription
Preferred brand-name prescription drugs	\$35 copay per prescription
Non-preferred brand-name prescription drugs	65% coinsurance with \$80 minimum / \$150 maximum per prescription

Prescription Tier	Home Delivery 31-90 Day Supply: Network Pharmacy
Maintenance generic prescription drugs	\$10 copay per prescription
Generic prescription drugs	\$20 copay per prescription
Preferred brand-name prescription drugs	\$50 copay per prescription
Non-preferred brand-name prescription drugs	\$100 copay per prescription

Out of Network Pharmacy	
Coinsurance for all prescription drugs	60%

Out-of-Pocket Limit	
Annual individual out-of-pocket limit	\$1,000
Annual family out-of-pocket limit	\$2,000
Any amount paid toward your prescription drug expenses by coupons through the Variable Copay Solution (VCS) program will not count towards your annual prescription drug out-of-pocket maximum. See Section 3.6.8 Drug Copay Assistance Program .	

2.3. Dental Benefit Schedule

Deductibles	Standard	Economy
Annual individual deductible	\$25 (waived for Class I services)	\$25 (waived for Class I services)
Annual family deductible	\$75 (waived for Class I services)	\$75 (waived for Class I services)

Coinsurance	Standard	Economy
Class I (preventive) services	100%	100%
Class II (restorative) services	80%	10%
Class III (prosthetic) services	50%	10%
Orthodontia	50%	Not covered

Benefit Maximums	Standard	Economy
Annual individual maximum*	\$1,500	\$500
Orthodontia lifetime individual maximum This maximum is not included in the annual individual maximum	\$1,000	Not covered
*Class I Preventive Services, as defined in section 4.3.1.2, Preventive Services and Limitations are exempt from the annual benefit maximums.		

2.4. Vision Benefit Schedule

Service or Supply	Network Provider	Out-of-Network Provider
Exam	One per calendar year \$10 copayment 100% after copayment	One per calendar year \$10 copayment Maximum reimbursement limit of \$100
Lenses <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Single vision • Lined bifocal • Lined trifocal • Lenticular • Progressive 	One pair per calendar year \$25 copayment 100% after copayment	One pair per calendar year Maximum reimbursement limit of: Single vision: \$75 Lined bifocal: \$115 Lined trifocal: \$130 Progressive: \$115
Lens options <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anti-reflecting coating • Polycarbonate • Scratch resistant coating 	Once per calendar year 100%	Not covered
Frames	One every two calendar years \$25 copayment 100% after copayment up to \$130 allowance 20% off amount over allowance	One every two calendar years Maximum reimbursement limit of \$130
Contact lenses Exam (fitting and evaluation)	\$60 copayment 100% after copayment 15% off usual and customary professional fees for evaluation and fitting	Not covered
Contact lenses (elective and in lieu of lenses and frame)	Once per calendar year \$130 allowance for contacts	Once per calendar year Maximum reimbursement limit of \$105
Additional pairs of glasses	30% off unlimited additional pairs of prescription glasses or non- prescription sunglasses from the same VSP doctor on the same day as eye exam 20% off unlimited additional pairs of prescription glasses or non-	Not covered

Service or Supply	Network Provider	Out-of-Network Provider
	prescription sunglasses from any VSP doctor within 12 months of your last eye exam	
Laser Vision Care Program	Average of 15% discounts off or 5% off promotional offer for laser surgery, including PRK, LASIK and Custom Lasik only available from contracted facilities.	Not covered
Low vision supplemental testing	Two tests every two calendar years Allowance up to \$125 (includes evaluation, diagnosis and prescription of vision aids where indicated)	Not covered
Low vision supplemental aids	75% coinsurance \$1,000 maximum benefit to all low vision services, testing and materials, every two calendar years	
Extra savings and discounts	Guaranteed pricing on retinal screening as an enhancement to eye exam, allowance up to \$39	Not covered

3. MEDICAL PLAN

3.1. About Your Medical Plan

The **medical plan** provides coverage for a wide range of medical expenses for the treatment of **illness** or **injury**. The **medical plan** also provides coverage for certain preventive and wellness benefits. With the **medical plan**, you can directly access any **network provider** or **out-of-network provider** for services and supplies covered under the **medical plan**. The **medical plan** pays benefits differently when services and supplies are obtained through **network providers** and **out-of-network providers**.

The **medical plan** will pay for **covered expenses** up to the maximum benefits shown in [section 2.1, Medical Benefit Schedule](#) and [section 2.2, Prescription Drug Benefit Schedule](#).

Coverage is subject to all the terms, policies and procedures outlined in the **medical plan**. Not all medical expenses are covered under the **medical plan**. Exclusions and limitations apply to certain medical services, supplies, and expenses. See [section 3.5, Covered Medical Expenses](#), [section 3.6.15, Pharmacy Benefit Limitations](#), [section 3.6.16, Pharmacy Benefit Exclusions](#), and [section 3.7, Medical Plan Exclusions](#), to determine if medical services are covered, excluded or limited.

The **medical plan** provides access to covered benefits through a network of health care **providers** and **facilities**. The **medical plan** is designed to lower your out-of-pocket costs when you use

network providers for **covered expenses**. Your **coinsurance** will generally be lower when you use **network providers** and **facilities**.

You also have the choice to access licensed **providers, hospitals** and other **facilities** outside the network for **covered expenses**. Your out-of-pocket costs will generally be higher when you use out-of-network providers because the **coinsurance** that you are required to pay is usually higher when you use out-of-**network providers**. Out-of-network providers have not agreed to accept the **negotiated charge** and may balance bill you for charges over the amount the **medical plan** pays. Additionally, when receiving services at an out-of-**network hospital** or other **facility** in the Municipality of Anchorage or outside of Alaska, the **recognized charge** is reduced to a percentage of Medicare that most closely reflects the aggregate contracted rate at the preferred **hospital** or other **facility** in the Anchorage area. See [section 3.3.3, *Accessing Out-of-Network Provider and Benefits*](#) and [section 3.3.4, *Cost Sharing for Out-of-Network Benefits*](#), for additional information.

Some services and supplies may only be covered through **network providers**. See [section 3.5, *Covered Medical Expenses*](#), to determine if any services are limited to network coverage only.

Your out-of-pocket costs may vary between network and out-of-network benefits. Read the **medical plan** carefully to understand the cost sharing charges applicable to you.

3.2. Medical Plan Options

There are three options available under the **medical plan**: consumer choice, economy, and standard. You elect which option under the **medical plan** that you want for you and your **dependents**. These options are identical in what is covered and how benefits are paid. However, the **deductibles, coinsurance, and out-of-pocket limits** are different with each option. See [section 2.1, *Medical Benefit Schedule*](#), for details about how these items differ between the options. Additionally, the consumer choice plan offers a Health Reimbursement Arrangement (HRA) account not available under the remaining plans. See [section 7, *Health Reimbursement Arrangement \(HRA\)*](#) for details.

3.3. How the Medical Plan Works

3.3.1. Accessing Network Providers and Benefits

You may select any medical **network provider** from **Aetna's provider** directory. You can access **Aetna's** online **provider** directory, at aetna.com/docfind/custom/alaskacare, for the names and locations of **physicians, hospitals** and **other healthcare providers** and **facilities**. Due to AlaskaCare having a custom provider network it is important that you use the AlaskaCare specific DocFind® tool rather than **Aetna's** public DocFind® tool to get accurate results. You can change your health care provider at any time.

If a service or supply you need is covered under the **medical plan** but not available from a **network provider**, please contact **Aetna** at the toll-free number on your ID card for assistance.

Some health care services, such as hospitalization, outpatient surgery and certain other outpatient services, require **precertification** with **Aetna** to verify coverage for these services. You do not need to **precertify** services provided by a **network provider**. **Network providers** will be responsible for obtaining the necessary **precertification** for you. Since **precertification** is the **provider's** responsibility, there is no additional out-of-pocket cost to you as a result of a **network provider's** failure to **precertify** services. See [section 3.4, *Understanding Precertification*](#), for more information.

You will not have to submit medical claims for treatment received from **network providers**. Your **network provider** will take care of claim submission. The **medical plan** will directly pay the **network provider** less any cost sharing required by you. You will be responsible for **deductibles**, **coinsurance**, and **copayments**, if any.

You will receive notification of what the **medical plan** has paid toward your **covered expenses**. It will indicate any amounts you owe toward any **deductible**, **copayment**, **coinsurance**, or other **non-covered expenses** you have incurred. You may elect to receive this notification by e-mail or through the mail. Contact **Aetna** if you have questions regarding this notification.

3.3.2. Cost Sharing for Network Benefits

Network providers have agreed to accept the **negotiated charge**. The **medical plan** will reimburse **covered expenses** incurred from a **network provider**, subject to the **negotiated charge** and the maximum benefits under the **medical plan**, less any cost sharing required by you such as **deductibles**, **copayments** and **coinsurance**. Your **coinsurance** is based on the **negotiated charge**. You will not have to pay any balance bills above the **negotiated charge** for that covered service or supply.

You must satisfy any applicable **deductibles** before the **medical plan** begins to pay benefits.

Coinsurance paid by the **plan** is usually higher when you use **network providers** than when you use out-of-**network providers**.

After you satisfy any applicable **deductible**, you will be responsible for any applicable **coinsurance** for **covered expenses** that you incur up to the applicable **out-of-pocket limit**.

Once you satisfy any applicable **out-of-pocket limit**, the **medical plan** will pay 100% of the **covered expenses** that apply toward the limit for the rest of the **benefit year**. Certain out-of-pocket costs may not apply to the **out-of-pocket limit**. See [section 2.1, *Medical and Prescription Drug Benefits*](#), for information on what **covered expenses** do not apply to the **out-of-pocket limits** and for the specific **out-of-pocket limits** under the **medical plan**.

The **medical plan** will pay for **covered expenses**, up to the maximums shown in [section 2.1, *Medical and Prescription Drug Benefits*](#). You are responsible for any expenses incurred over these maximum limits.

You may be billed for any **deductible, copayment, or coinsurance** amounts, or any **non-covered expenses** that you incur.

3.3.3. Accessing Out-of-Network Providers and Benefits

You have the choice to directly access out-of-**network providers**. You will still be covered when you access out-of-**network providers** for covered benefits. When your medical service is provided by an out-of-**network provider**, the level of reimbursement from the **medical plan** for some **covered expenses** will usually be lower. This means your out-of-pocket costs will generally be higher.

Some health care services, such as hospitalization, outpatient surgery and certain other outpatient services, require **precertification** with **Aetna** to verify coverage for these services. When you receive services from an out-of-**network provider**, you are responsible for obtaining the necessary **precertification** from **Aetna**. Your provider may precertify your treatment for you. However, you should verify with **Aetna** prior to receiving the services that the provider has obtained **precertification**. If the service is not precertified, the benefit payable maybe significantly reduced or may not be covered. This means you will be responsible for the unpaid balance of any bills. You must call **Aetna** to precertify services. See [section 3.4, Understanding Precertification](#), for more information on the **precertification** process and what to do if your request for **precertification** is denied. **Precertification** is not required for **emergency care** received from out-of-**network providers** or at out-of-**network facilities**.

When you use out-of-**network providers**, you may have to pay for services at the time they are rendered. You may be required to pay the charges and submit a claim form for reimbursement. When you pay an out-of-**network provider** directly, you will be responsible for completing a claim form to receive reimbursement of **covered expenses** under the **medical plan**. You must submit a completed claim form and proof of payment to **Aetna**. See [section 8, How to File a Claim](#), for a complete description of how to file a claim under the **medical plan**.

You will receive notification of what the **medical plan** has paid toward your **covered expenses**. It will indicate any amounts you owe toward your **deductible, coinsurance, or other non-covered expenses** you have incurred. You may elect to receive this notification by email or through the mail. Contact **Aetna** if you have questions regarding this notification.

IMPORTANT: Failure to precertify services and supplies provided by an out-of-**network provider** may result in a reduction of benefits or no coverage for the services and supplies under this **medical plan**. See [section 3.4, Understanding Precertification](#), for information on how to request **precertification** and the applicable **precertification** benefit reduction.

3.3.4. Cost Sharing for Out-of-Network Benefits

Out-of-**network providers** have not agreed to accept the **negotiated charge**. The **medical plan** will reimburse you for a **covered expense** incurred from an out-of-**network provider**, subject to

the **recognized charge** and the maximum benefits under the **medical plan**, less any cost sharing required by you such as **deductibles**, **copayments**, and **coinsurance**. The **recognized charge** is the maximum amount the **medical plan** will pay for a **covered expense** from an out-of-network **provider**. Your **coinsurance** is based on the **recognized charge**. If your out-of-network **provider** charges more than the **recognized charge**, you may be responsible for any expenses above the **recognized charge**. Except for **emergency** services, the **medical plan** will only pay up to the **recognized charge**.

When receiving **involuntary out-of-network services** at an out-of-network **hospital** or **facility** in the Municipality of Anchorage or outside of Alaska, the **recognized charge** for the out-of-network **hospital** or **facility** services is reduced to a percentage of Medicare that most closely reflects the aggregate contracted rate at the preferred **hospital** or **facility** in the Anchorage area.

You must satisfy any applicable **deductibles** before the **medical plan** begins to pay benefits.

Coinsurance paid by the plan is usually lower when you use out-of-network **providers** than when you use **network providers**.

For certain types of services and supplies, you will be responsible for a **copayment**. The **copayment** will vary depending upon the type of service.

After you satisfy any applicable **deductible**, you will be responsible for any applicable **coinsurance** for **covered expenses** that you incur up to the applicable **out-of-pocket limit**.

Once you satisfy any applicable **out-of-pocket limit**, the **medical plan** will pay 100% of the **covered expenses** that apply toward the limit for the rest of the **benefit year**. Certain out-of-pocket costs may not apply to the **out-of-pocket limit**. See [section 2.1, Medical Benefit Schedule](#), and [section 2.2, Prescription Drug Benefit Schedule](#) for information on what **covered expenses** do not apply to the **out-of-pocket limit** and for the specific **out-of-pocket limits** under the **medical plan**.

The **medical plan** will pay for **covered expenses** up to the maximums shown in [section 2.1, Medical Benefit Schedule](#), and [section 2.2, Prescription Drug Benefit Schedule](#). You are responsible for any expenses incurred over these maximum limits.

You may be billed for any **deductible**, **copayment**, or **coinsurance** amounts, or any **non-covered expenses** that you incur.

3.3.4.1. Involuntary Out-of-Network Services

Emergency services (including air **ambulance** services) and non-**emergency** services delivered by an out-of-network **provider** at a **network facility** for which you did not receive notice and did not provide written consent are **involuntary out-of-network services**.

We will calculate your cost share for **involuntary out-of-network services** in the same way as we would if you received the services from a **network provider**. If you receive **involuntary out-of-network services**, your cost share will be calculated based on the **median contracted rate**.

Important Note:

If an out-of-**network provider** bills you for an amount above your cost share for **involuntary out-of-network services**, you are not responsible for paying that amount. You should send the bill to the address listed on your ID card and the **plan** will resolve any payment dispute with the **provider** over that amount. Make sure the member's ID number is on the bill.

3.3.5. Coalition Health Center

The **medical plan** provides access to the Coalition Health Centers for primary and preventive care services, as a covered medical expense effective March 1, 2018. Coalition Health Centers are located in Anchorage, Wasilla and Fairbanks and provide primary care, preventive care, chronic and acute **illness** prevention and management and urgent care to **eligible employees** and **dependents** who have not waived coverage under [section 1.3.3, Waiver of Coverage](#). Additional on-site services include prescription dispensary, laboratory and EKG services.

Locations are open Monday through Friday, 7:30 a.m. - 6:30 p.m. (last appointment scheduled for 6:30 p.m.). Walk-ins are accepted from 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

The **deductible** is waived for services obtained at the Coalition Health Centers. There is no **copay** for preventive care medical or **pharmacy** benefits as outlined under [section 3.5.5, Preventive Care and Screening](#) Services and [section 3.6.13, Other Covered Expenses](#). The **plan** covers 100% after a \$25 **copay** per visit for all other visits. The **copay** does not apply toward the **out-of-pocket limit**. There is no **copay** for routine preventative lab charges or generic medications dispensed at the Coalition Health Centers.

3.3.6. Availability of Providers

Aetna cannot guarantee the availability or continued network participation of a particular **provider** (e.g. **physician** or **hospital**). Either **Aetna** or any network provider may terminate the **provider** contract. To identify **network providers**, visit

aetna.com/docfind/custom/alaskacare for **Aetna's** online **provider** directory or call the **Aetna** concierge at (855) 764-8646.

If you are provided inaccurate information about a **provider** or **facility's network** status prior to receiving services, you will be responsible for the same cost share (**deductible, coinsurance, or copayment**) as if the **provider** or **facility** were in-**network**.

3.3.6.1. Continuity of Care

If your **provider** stops participating in the **network**, you may be able to keep going to your **provider** and have the **medical plan** cover your services as if your **provider** was still in the **network only** to:

- a) complete a treatment
- b) have treatment that was already scheduled

This is called continuity of care and is intended to transition the patient to a network provider.

If this situation applies to you, call the number on the back of your ID card to request continuity of care with your **provider**. If your request is approved, you will be notified how long you can continue to see your **provider** (up to 90 days depending on your circumstances) and have your services covered as if your **provider** was still in the **network**. If you are pregnant and have entered your second trimester, this will include the time required for postpartum care directly related to the delivery.

3.3.7. Recognized Charge

The **recognized charge** is the charge contained in an agreement **Aetna** has with a **network provider**. If you use an out-of-**network provider**, the **covered expense** is the part of a charge which is the **recognized charge** as described in [section 16, Definitions](#) – “*Recognized Charge*”. If you elect to use an out-of-**network provider** and the charge exceeds the **recognized charge**, the amount above the **recognized charge** is not covered by the **medical plan** and is your responsibility to pay. You are not responsible for charges exceeding the **recognized charge** when you use a **network provider** or for **involuntary out-of-network services**.

If two or more surgical procedures are performed through the same site or bilaterally (on two similar body parts, such as two feet) during a single operation, **Aetna** will determine which procedures are primary, secondary and tertiary, taking into account the billed charges, and payment for each procedure will be made at the lesser of the billed charge or the following percentage of the **recognized charge**:

- a) Primary: 100%
- b) Secondary: 50%
- c) All others: 25%

Incidental procedures, such as those that take little or no additional resources or time when performed at the same time as another procedure, are not covered by the **medical plan**.

3.3.8. Bargaining Unit Change Deductible Waiver

Employees of the **State** of Alaska who move from a bargaining unit that does not participate in the plan to a bargaining unit that participates in the plan, who have satisfied all or a portion of the current **benefit year deductible** under the Union Health Trust prior to the bargaining unit change, may request a waiver of all or a portion of the plan **deductible**. The employee is

responsible for securing documentation from the Union Health Trust to demonstrate the amount of the **deductible** met under the Union Health Trust plan. The plan **deductible** for the plan year in which the bargaining unit change occurred will be reduced by the demonstrated amount, up to the maximum **deductible** of their selected AlaskaCare plan. The carryover amount will not apply towards the annual out-of-pocket maximum or any other member cost share under the plan.

3.3.9. Common Accident Deductible Limit

The common **accident deductible** limit applies when two or more family members are injured in the same **accident**. The common **accident deductible** limit places a limit on your deductible for the **benefit year** when **covered expenses** are applied toward the separate individual **deductibles** for the **benefit year**. When all **covered expenses** related to the **accident** in that **benefit year** exceed the common **accident deductible** limit, the **medical plan** will then begin to pay for **covered expenses** based on the applicable **coinsurance**.

The common **accident deductible** limit is a single annual individual **deductible**.

3.3.10. Lifetime Maximum

There is no overall lifetime maximum that applies to **covered expenses** under the **medical plan**.

3.4. Understanding Precertification

3.4.1. Precertification

Certain services, such as inpatient stays, certain tests and procedures, and outpatient surgery require **precertification**. **Precertification** is a process that helps you and your **physician** determine whether the services being recommended are **covered expenses** under the plan. It also allows **Aetna** to help your **provider** coordinate your transition from an inpatient setting to an outpatient setting (called discharge planning), and to register you for specialized programs or case management when appropriate.

You do not need to **precertify** services if the plan is secondary to coverage you have from another health plan.

You do not need to **precertify** services provided by a **network provider**. **Network providers** will be responsible for obtaining the necessary **precertification** for you. Since **precertification** is the provider's responsibility, there is no additional out-of-pocket cost to you as a result of a **network provider's** failure to **precertify** services.

When you receive services from an out-of-**network provider**, you are responsible for obtaining the necessary **precertification** from **Aetna** for any services or supplies that require **precertification** as described in [section 3.4.3, Services Requiring Precertification](#). If you do not **precertify**, your benefits may be reduced, or the **medical plan** may not pay any benefits.

3.4.2. The Precertification Process

Prior to being hospitalized or receiving certain other medical services or supplies, there are certain **precertification** procedures that must be followed. Note: **emergency care** services do not require **precertification**.

You or a member of your family, a **hospital** staff member, or the attending **physician**, must notify **Aetna** to **precertify** the admission or medical services and expenses prior to receiving any of the services or supplies that require **precertification** under the **medical plan**. To obtain **precertification**, call, fax or mail **Aetna** at the telephone number or address listed on your ID card in accordance with the following timelines:

For non- emergency admissions:	You, your physician or the facility must call and request precertification at least 15 days before the date you are scheduled to be admitted.
For an emergency outpatient medical condition:	You or your physician must call prior to the outpatient care, treatment or procedure, if possible, or as soon as reasonably possible.
For an emergency admission:	You, your physician or the facility must call within 48 hours or as soon as reasonably possible after you have been admitted.
For an urgent admission :	You, your physician or the facility must call before you are scheduled to be admitted.
For outpatient non- emergency medical services requiring precertification :	You or your physician must call at least 14 days before the outpatient care is provided, or the treatment or procedure is scheduled.

Aetna will provide a written notification to you and your **physician** of the **precertification** decision. If **Aetna** precertifies your supplies or services, the approval is good for 60 days as long as you remain enrolled in the **medical plan**.

When you have an inpatient admission to a **facility**, **Aetna** will notify you, your **physician** and the **facility** about your precertified length of stay. If your **physician** recommends that your stay be extended, additional days will need to be precertified. You, your **physician**, or the **facility** must call **Aetna** at the number on your ID card as soon as reasonably possible, but no later than the final authorized day. **Aetna** will review and process the request for an extended stay. You and your **physician** will receive a notification of an approval or **denial**.

If **Aetna** determines that the stay or services and supplies are not **covered expenses**, the notification will explain why and how **Aetna**'s decision can be appealed. You or your provider may request a review of the **precertification** decision in accordance with [section 8, How to File a Claim](#).

If you do not have your services or supplies precertified, the services will be subject to retrospective review (or post-service review) to determine if they are Medically Necessary. If, during the retrospective review, Aetna determines that the services or supplies were not Medically Necessary, **no benefits will be provided by the Plan for those services or supplies**.

3.4.3. Services Requiring Precertification

Precertification is handled by the medical plan administrator and the full list of services requiring precertification can be located at: aetna.com/health-care-professionals/precertification/precertification-lists.html. All in-patient hospital, rehabilitation facility and skilled nursing facility admissions require precertification. Certain outpatient surgery and other outpatient services may also require Precertification.

In addition to the medical services listed on the medical **claims administrator**'s website, travel expenses must be precertified. You are responsible for requesting **precertification** for eligible travel expenses.

The following list identifies some, but not all, of the services and supplies that may require **precertification** under the **medical plan**. Services requiring precertification are subject to change. **Precertification** is required for the following types of medical expenses:

- Stays in a **hospital**
- Stays in a **skilled nursing facility**
- Stays in a **rehabilitation facility** (including a licensed residential treatment facility)
- Transportation by fixed wing aircraft (plane)
- Arthroscopic hip surgery to repair impingement syndrome including labral repair
- Autologous chondrocyte implantation, Carticel (injection into the knee of cartilage cells grown from tissue cultures)
- Chiari malformation decompression surgery
- Cochlear implant (surgical implant of a device into the ear to try to improve hearing)
- Dental **implants** and oral appliances
- Dialysis visits
- Dorsal column (lumbar) neurostimulators: trial or implantation (for relief of severe pain)
- Electric or motorized wheelchairs and scooters
- Endoscopic nasal balloon dilation procedures
- Functional endoscopic sinus surgery (FESS)
- Gender affirmation surgery

- Hip surgery to repair impingement syndrome
- Hyperbaric oxygen therapy
- Lower Limb prosthetics
- **Infertility** services and pre-implantation genetic testing
- Nonparticipating freestanding ambulatory surgical facility services, when referred by a participating provider
- Organ transplants
- Orthognathic surgery procedures, bone grafts, osteotomies and surgical management of the temporomandibular joint (reconstructive surgeries to attempt to correct structural abnormalities of the jaw bones)
- Osseointegrated implant
- Osteochondral allograft/knee (grafting of cartilage and bone from a cadaver to the knee joint)
- Proton beam radiotherapy
- Reconstructive or other procedures that may be considered **cosmetic**
- Shoulder arthroplasty including revision procedures
- Surgical spinal procedures
- Uvulopalatopharyngoplasty, including laser-assisted procedures (surgery to reconfigure the soft palate to try to help with sleep apnea)
- Ventricular assist devices
- Coverage at an in-network benefit level for out-of-network provider or facility unless services are emergent
- Transcranial magnetic stimulation (TMS)
- Partial Hospitalization
- Maternity and newborn stays that exceed the standard length of stay

3.4.4. How Failure to Precertify Affects your Benefits

If you do not obtain a required **precertification** prior to incurring medical expenses from an out-of-network provider, your benefits will be paid in accordance with the terms of the plan, however your expenses may not be covered if they do not meet the criteria in [Section 3. Medical Plan](#). You will be responsible for all expenses that are not covered.

You are responsible for obtaining the necessary **precertification** from **the medical claims administrator** prior to receiving services from an out-of-network provider. Your **provider** may **precertify** your treatment for you; however, you should verify with the **medical claims administrator** prior to the procedure that the **provider** has obtained **precertification**.

If **precertification** of travel expenses is not requested, maximum reimbursement for travel expenses will be limited to \$500 per round trip travel claim, not to exceed eligible travel costs.

If **precertification** for the use of an out-of-**network provider** for preventive care services is not requested, all charges incurred for preventive care services will be subject to payment under the **medical plan** provisions governing non-preventive care services.

3.5. Covered Medical Expenses

The **medical plan** provides coverage for a wide range of medical expenses for the treatment of **illness** or **injury**, as well as coverage for certain preventive and wellness benefits, for you and your **dependents**. It does not provide benefits for all medical care. The service, supply or **prescription drug** must meet all of the following requirements:

- a) Be included as a **covered expense** under the **medical plan**.
- b) Not be an excluded expense under the **medical plan**. See [section 3.7, Medical Benefit Exclusions](#), for a list of services and supplies that are excluded, and section 3.6.16, *Pharmacy Benefit Exclusions*, for additional exclusions that apply with respect to the **prescription drug** benefit under the **medical plan**.
- c) Not exceed the maximums and limitations outlined in the **medical plan**. [section 2.1, Medical Benefit Schedule](#), [section 2.2, Prescription Drug Benefit Schedule](#), and [section 3.3, How the Medical Plan Works](#), for information about certain maximums and limits.
- d) Be obtained in accordance with all the terms, policies and procedures outlined in the **medical plan**.
- e) Be provided while coverage is in effect. See [section 1.7, When Coverage Begins](#), and [section 1.9, When Coverage Ends](#), for details on when coverage begins and ends.

This section describes **covered expenses** under the **medical plan**.

3.5.1. Medically Necessary Services and Supplies

The **medical plan** pays only for **medically necessary** services and supplies. The **medical plan** will utilize **Aetna's** current Medical Clinical Policy Bulletins for purposes of determining medical necessity for medical services covered under the plan. You may access **Aetna's** Clinical Policy Bulletins at [aetna.com/healthcare-professionals/policies-guidelines/clinical_policy_bulletins.html](https://www.aetna.com/healthcare-professionals/policies-guidelines/clinical_policy_bulletins.html). See [section 3.6, Your Prescription Drug Benefits](#), for information on medical necessity criteria for **prescription drugs**.

When **Aetna's** Clinical Policy Bulletins do not address the specific service or supply under review, a determination of medical necessity will be made when **Aetna** determines that the medical services and supplies would be given to a patient for the purpose of evaluating, diagnosing, or treating an **illness**, an **injury**, a disease, or its symptoms by a **physician** or **other health care** provider, exercising prudent clinical judgment.

In making a determination of medical necessity when there is no applicable Clinical Policy Bulletin, the provision of the service or supply must be:

- a) in accordance with generally accepted standards of medical practice;

- b) clinically appropriate, in terms of type, frequency, extent, site and duration, and considered effective for the patient’s **illness, injury** or disease;
- c) not mostly for the convenience of the patient or **physician** or **other health care** provider; and
- d) no more costly than an alternative service or sequence of services at least as likely to produce the same therapeutic or diagnostic results as to the diagnosis or treatment of that patient’s **illness, injury**, or disease. This provision does not require the use of generic drugs.

“**Generally accepted standards of medical practice**” means standards that are based on credible scientific evidence published in peer reviewed medical literature generally recognized by the relevant medical community. Otherwise, the standards must be consistent with **physician** specialty society recommendations. They must be consistent with the views of **physicians** practicing in relevant clinical areas and any other relevant factors.

IMPORTANT: Not every service, supply or **prescription drug** that fits the definition of medical necessity is covered by the **medical plan**. Exclusions and limitations apply to certain medical services, supplies and expenses. For example, some benefits are limited to a certain number of days or visits or to a dollar maximum.

In no event will the following services or supplies be considered **medically necessary**:

- a) Those that do not require the technical skills of a medical professional who is acting within the scope of their license.
- b) Those furnished mainly for the comfort or convenience of the person, the person’s family, anyone who cares for him or her, a health care provider or health care **facility**.
- c) Those furnished only because the person is in the **hospital** on a day when the person could safely and adequately be diagnosed or treated while not in the **hospital**.
- d) Those furnished only because of the setting if the service or supply can be furnished in a doctor’s office or other less costly setting.

3.5.2. Physician Services

3.5.2.1. Physician Visits

Covered expenses include charges made by a **physician** during a visit to treat an **illness** or **injury**. The visit may be at the **physician’s** office, in your home, in a **hospital** or other **facility** during your stay, or in an outpatient **facility**.

3.5.2.2. Surgery

Covered expenses include charges made by a **physician** for:

- a) performing your surgical procedure;
- b) pre-operative and post-operative visits; and

- c) consultation with another **physician** to obtain a second opinion prior to the surgery.

3.5.2.3. Providers

Providers who are covered by the **medical plan** are individuals licensed to practice in:

- a) Dentistry (D.D.S. or D.M.D.)
- b) Medicine and surgery (M.D.)
- c) Osteopathy and surgery (D.O.)

The following **providers** are also covered by the **medical plan**:

- a) Acupuncturists
- b) Advanced nurse practitioners
- c) Audiologists
- d) Chiropractors
- e) Christian Science practitioners authorized by the Mother Church, First Church of Christ Scientist, Boston, Massachusetts
- f) Dieticians
- g) Licensed clinical social workers
- h) Licensed marital and family counselors
- i) Massage therapists
- j) Naturopaths
- k) Nutritionists
- l) Occupational therapists
- m) Ophthalmologists
- n) Optometrists
- o) Physical therapists
- p) **Physician** assistants
- q) Podiatrists
- r) Practitioners with a master's degree in psychology or social work, if supervised by a psychologist, medical doctor or licensed clinical social worker
- s) Psychological associates
- t) Psychologists
- u) State-certified nurse midwives or registered midwives

All providers must be: (i) licensed as a health care practitioner by the state in which they practice; (ii) practicing within the scope of that license; and (iii) providing a service that is covered under the **medical plan**. If a state does not issue licenses with respect to a category of health care practitioners, the **provider** must be supervised by a **provider** practicing within the scope of their license.

3.5.3. Nurse Advice Line

A registered nurse is available to you by phone 24 hours a day, free of charge by calling **Aetna's** number listed in the front of the **medical plan**. The nurse can be a resource in considering options for care or helping you decide whether you or your **dependent** needs to visit your doctor, an urgent care **facility** or the emergency room. The nurse can also provide information on how you can care for yourself or your **dependent**. Information is available on **prescription drugs**, tests, surgery, or any other health-related topic. This service is confidential.

3.5.4. Teladoc Services

3.5.4.1. Teladoc General Medical and Dermatology Consultations

An experienced **physician** is available to you for consult by phone or video 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, by calling Teladoc's number listed in the front of the **medical plan**. This service is confidential. The **physicians** are U.S. board certified in Internal Medicine, Family Practice or Pediatrics, they are state-licensed and can be a resource in considering options for adult and pediatric medical care including, but not limited to:

- a) Cold and flu symptoms
- b) Allergies
- c) Bronchitis
- d) Pink Eye
- e) Skin problems
- f) Respiratory infections
- g) Sore throat
- h) Sinus problems
- i) Dermatology
- j) Caregiving.

The **physicians** can prescribe short-term medication for a wide range of conditions when medically appropriate. Teladoc **physicians** do not prescribe substances controlled by the DEA, non-therapeutic and/or certain other drugs which may be harmful because of their potential abuse.

The **deductible** is waived for services obtained from a Teladoc **physician** for general medical consultations and dermatology consultations. General medical and dermatology consultations are not subject to a **deductible, coinsurance, or copay**. The plan covers 100%.

3.5.4.2. Teladoc Behavioral Health Consultations

Behavioral health professionals are available to eligible members to help with depression, anxiety, stress, panic disorder, ADHD, schizophrenia, work-related issues, personal issues, and other behavioral health needs. You can schedule a video visit with a board-certified psychiatrist, licensed psychologist, social worker, or family/marriage therapist 7 days a week, 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. by calling Teladoc's number listed in the front of the medical plan. You can choose to meet with

a new provider whenever you need services, or you can establish an ongoing relationship with the provider that works best for you. This service is confidential.

Members aged 18 and over are eligible to access all Teladoc behavioral health services. Members aged 13-17 are eligible to access all Teladoc behavioral health services except psychiatric services or mental health medication management.

Teladoc behavioral health consultations are not subject to a **deductible, coinsurance, or copay**. The plan covers 100%.

Teladoc charges a **\$50 fee** for no-shows and cancellations within 24 hours of a scheduled Behavioral Health visit. This is not a **covered expense** under the Plan and will be your responsibility to pay in full.

3.5.4.3. Teladoc Caregiver Consultations

If you are a caregiver for another person not covered under the Plan, such as a parent, and have legal documents authorizing you to act on their behalf, you can speak to Teladoc **physician** about their general medical care as long as they are also present. If you do not have legal documents, Teladoc can obtain their authorization during the registration process. The cost for general medical consultation of a person not covered under the Plan is \$45 per consult. This is not a **covered expense** under the Plan and will be your responsibility to pay in full. The cost of this service does not apply toward the **out-of-pocket limit**.

3.5.5. Preventive Care and Screening Services

The purpose of providing preventive care benefits is to promote wellness, disease prevention and early detection by encouraging **covered persons** to have regular preventive examinations to identify potential health risks and provide the opportunity for early intervention. This section describes **covered expenses** for preventive care and supplies when you are well.

The recommendations and guidelines referenced in this [section 3.5.5, Preventive Care and Screening Services](#) will be updated periodically. This plan is subject to updated recommendations or guidelines that are issued by the following organizations beginning on the first day of the **benefit year**, one year after the recommendation or guideline is issued:

- a) Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention;
- b) United States Preventive Services Task Force;
- c) Health Resources and Services Administration; and
- d) American Academy of Pediatric/Bright Futures Guidelines for Children and Adolescents.

3.5.5.1. Scope of Preventive Care Services

Services are considered preventive care when a **covered person**:

- a) does not have symptoms or any abnormal studies indicating an abnormality at the time the service is performed;
- b) has had a screening done within the age and gender guidelines recommended by the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force with the results being considered normal;
- c) has a diagnostic service with normal results, after which the **physician** recommends future preventive care screenings using the appropriate age and gender guidelines recommended by the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force; or
- d) has a preventive service done that results in a diagnostic service being done at the same time because it is an integral part of the preventive service (*e.g.*, polyp removal during a preventive colonoscopy).

If a health condition is diagnosed during a preventive care exam or screening, the preventive exam or screening still qualifies for preventive care coverage.

Services are considered diagnostic care, and not preventive care, when:

- a) abnormal results on a previous preventive or diagnostic screening test requires further diagnostic testing or services;
- b) abnormal test results found on a previous preventive or diagnostic service requires the same test be repeated sooner than the normal age and gender guideline as recommended by the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force would require; or
- c) services are ordered due to current symptom(s) that require further diagnosis.

3.5.5.2. Coverage

Unless otherwise specified, preventive care services are not subject to a **copayment** or **deductible** and will be paid at 100% of the provider's rate if the **provider** is a **network provider**. Preventive care services provided by an out-of-**network provider** are subject to payment under **medical plan** provisions governing non-preventive care services.

If there are no **network providers** in the area where you live, you may contact **Aetna** and request to use an out-of-**network provider** for preventive care services under this section. Your request must be pre-certified by **Aetna** before you may utilize an out-of-network provider. If your request to use an out-of-**network provider** is authorized, the preventive care services you receive will not be subject to a **copayment** or **deductible** and will be paid at 100% of the **recognized charge**. If your request to use an out-of-**network provider** is denied, or if you fail to request **pre-certification**, all charges incurred for preventive care services will be subject to payment under the **medical plan** provisions governing non-preventive care services.

Unless otherwise specified, preventive care services under this [section 3.5.4, Preventive Care and Screening Services](#), are limited to once per **calendar year**.

3.5.5.3. Routine Physical Exams

Covered expenses include charges made by your **physician, primary care provider** or other **health professional** for routine physical exams. This includes routine vision and hearing screenings given as part of the routine physical exam. A routine exam is a medical exam given by a **physician** or other **health professional** for a reason other than to diagnose or treat a suspected or identified **illness** or **injury**, and also includes:

- a) Evidence-based items that have in effect a rating of A or B in the current recommendations of the United States Preventive Services Task Force.
- b) Services as recommended in the American Academy of Pediatrics/Bright Futures/Health Resources and Services Administration Guidelines for Children and Adolescents.
- c) Screenings and counseling services as provided for in the comprehensive guidelines recommended by the Health Resources and Services Administration. These services may include, but are not limited to:
 - Screening and counseling services, such as:
 - Interpersonal and domestic violence;
 - Sexually transmitted diseases; and
 - Human Immune Deficiency Virus (HIV) infections.
 - Screening for gestational diabetes for women.
 - High risk Human Papillomavirus (HPV) DNA testing for women age 30 and older.
- d) X-rays, lab and other tests given in connection with the exam.
- e) For covered **children**, from birth to age 2:
 - an initial hospital checkup
 - periodic well **child** exams
 - consultation between the health professional and a parent

3.5.5.4. **Newborn hearing screening exam**

Covered expenses include screening test for hearing loss prior to the date the **child** is 30 days old and diagnostic hearing evaluation if the initial screening test shows the **child** may have a hearing impairment.

3.5.5.5. **Preventive Care Immunizations**

Covered expenses include charges made by your **physician** or a provider for immunizations and the materials for administration that have been recommended by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

3.5.5.6. **Well Woman Preventive Visits**

Covered expenses include charges made by your **physician**, obstetrician, or gynecologist for:

- a) A routine well woman preventive exam office visit, including Pap smears. A routine well woman preventive exam is a medical exam given by a **physician** for a reason other than to diagnose or treat a suspected or identified **illness** or **injury**.

- b) Routine preventive care breast cancer genetic counseling and breast cancer (BRCA) gene blood testing.
- c) **Covered expenses** include charges made by a **physician** and lab for the BRCA gene blood test and charges made by a genetic counselor to interpret the test results and evaluate treatment.

These benefits will be subject to guidelines on the basis of age; family history; and frequency that are:

- a) Evidence-based items or services that have in effect a rating of A or B in the recommendations of the United States Preventive Services Task Force; and
- b) Evidence-informed items or services provided in the comprehensive guidelines supported by the Health Resources and Services Administration.

3.5.5.7. Routine Cancer Screenings

Covered expenses include, but are not limited to, charges incurred for routine cancer screening as follows:

- a) Colonoscopies (removal of polyps performed during a screening procedure is a **covered expense**);
- b) Digital rectal exams;
- c) Double contrast barium enemas (DCBE)
- d) Fecal occult blood tests;
- e) Lung cancer screening
- f) Mammograms;
- g) Prostate specific antigen (PSA) tests; and
- h) Sigmoidoscopies

These benefits will be subject to guidelines on the basis of age, family history, and frequency that are:

- a) Evidence-based items or services that have in effect a rating of A or B in the recommendations of the United States Preventive Services Task Force; and
- b) Evidence-informed items or services provided in the comprehensive guidelines supported by the Health Resources and Services Administration
- c) Found in the American Cancer Society guidelines for colorectal cancer screening

3.5.5.8. Preventive Screening and Counseling Services

Covered expenses include screening and counseling by your **health professional** for some conditions.

- a) Obesity and/or Healthy Diet

Screening and counseling services to aid in weight reduction due to obesity. **Covered expenses** include:

- Preventive counseling visits and /or risk factor reduction intervention;
- Nutrition counseling; and
- Healthy diet counseling visits provided in connection with Hyperlipidemia (high cholesterol) and other known risk factors for cardiovascular and diet-related disease.

For persons age 22 and older, the **medical plan** will cover up to 26 visits per 12 consecutive months. However, of these only 10 visits will be allowed under the **medical plan** for healthy diet counseling provided in connection with Hyperlipidemia (high cholesterol) and other known risk factors for cardiovascular and diet related chronic disease. In determining the maximum visits, each session of up to one hour is equal to one visit.

b) Misuse of Alcohol and/or Drugs

Screening and counseling services to aid in prevention or reduction of the use of an alcohol agent or controlled substance. **Covered expenses** include preventive counseling visits, risk factor reduction intervention and a structured assessment.

The **medical plan** will cover a maximum of five screening and preventive counseling visits of up to one hour in a 12 consecutive month period. These visits are separate from outpatient treatment visits.

c) Use of Tobacco Products

Screening and counseling services to aid in the cessation of the use of tobacco products. A tobacco product means a substance containing tobacco or nicotine including cigarettes, cigars, smoking tobacco, snuff, smokeless tobacco, and candy-like products that contain tobacco. Coverage includes the following to aid in the cessation of the use of tobacco products:

- Preventive counseling visits;
- Treatment visits; and
- Class visits.
- Tobacco cessation prescription and over-the-counter drugs
 - **Eligible health services** include FDA- approved **prescription drugs** and over-the-counter (OTC) drugs to help stop the use of tobacco products, when prescribed by a **prescriber** and the **prescription** is submitted to the pharmacist for processing.

The **medical plan** will cover a maximum of eight visits of up to one hour in a 12 consecutive month period.

d) Sexually Transmitted Infections

Covered expenses include the counseling services to help you prevent or reduce sexually transmitted infections.

e) Genetic Risks for Breast and Ovarian Cancer

Covered expenses include counseling and evaluation services to help you assess whether or not you are at increased risk for breast and ovarian cancer.

f) Prenatal Care

Prenatal care will be covered as preventive care for pregnancy-related **physician** office visits including the initial and subsequent history and physical exams of the pregnant woman (maternal weight, blood pressure, fetal heart rate check, and fundal height) received in a **physician's**, obstetrician's, or gynecologist's office.

g) Comprehensive Lactation Support and Counseling Services

1. Lactation Support

Covered expenses include comprehensive lactation support (assistance and training in breast feeding) and counseling services provided to females during pregnancy, or at any time following delivery, for breast-feeding by a certified lactation support provider.

Covered expenses also include the rental or purchase of breast-feeding equipment as described below.

Lactation support and lactation counseling services are **covered expenses** when provided in either a group or individual setting. Benefits for lactation counseling services are subject to a maximum of 6 visits in a 12 consecutive month period.

Visits in excess of the lactation counseling maximum as shown above, are subject to the cost sharing provisions outlined in [section 3.3.2, Cost Sharing for Network Benefits](#) or [section 3.3.4, Cost Sharing for Out-of-Network Benefits](#).

2. Breast Feeding **Durable Medical Equipment**

Coverage includes the rental or purchase of breast feeding **durable medical equipment** for the purpose of lactation support (pumping and storage of breast milk) as follows.

3. Breast Pump, once every 12 months

Covered expenses include the following:

- The rental of a **hospital**-grade electric pump for a newborn **child** when the newborn **child** is confined in a **hospital**.
- The purchase of:
 - An electric breast pump (non-hospital grade). A purchase will be covered once every 12 months; or

- o A manual breast pump. A purchase will be covered once per pregnancy.

If an electric breast pump was purchased within the previous 12 month period, the purchase of another breast pump will not be covered until a 12 month period has elapsed from the last purchase.

4. Breast Pump Supplies

Coverage is limited to only one purchase per pregnancy in any year where a covered female would not qualify for the purchase of a new pump.

Coverage for the purchase of breast pump equipment is limited to one item of equipment, for the same or similar purpose, and the accessories and supplies needed to operate the item. You are responsible for the entire cost of any additional pieces of the same or similar equipment you purchase or rent for personal convenience or mobility.

The plan reserves the right to limit the payment of charges up to the most cost efficient and least restrictive level of service or item which can be safely and effectively provided, as determined by the **claims administrator**.

h) Family Planning Services – Female Contraceptives

For females with reproductive capacity, **covered expenses** include those charges incurred for services and supplies that are provided to prevent pregnancy. All contraceptive methods, services and supplies covered under this preventive care benefit must be approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

Coverage includes counseling services on contraceptive methods provided by a **physician**, obstetrician or gynecologist. Such counseling services are **covered expenses** when provided in either a group or individual setting. Contraceptive counseling services are subject to a two-visit maximum in a 12 consecutive month period. Visits in excess of this maximum are subject to the cost sharing provisions outlined in [section 3.3.2, Cost Sharing for Network Benefits](#) or [section 3.3.4, Cost Sharing for Out-of-Network Benefits](#).

The following contraceptive methods are **covered expenses**:

1. Voluntary Sterilization

Covered expenses include charges billed separately by the provider for female voluntary sterilization procedures and related services and supplies including, but not limited to, tubal ligation and sterilization implants for women. **Covered expenses** do not include charges for a voluntary sterilization procedure to the extent that the procedure was not billed separately by the provider or because it was not the primary purpose of a confinement.

2. Contraceptives

Contraceptives can be paid either as a medical benefit or **pharmacy** benefit depending on the type of expense and how and where the expense is incurred. Benefits are paid as a medical benefit for female contraceptive **prescription drugs** and devices (including any related services and supplies) when they are provided, administered, or removed, by a **physician** during an office visit.

3.5.5.9. Limitations

Unless specified above, preventive care services do not include:

1. Diagnostic lab, diagnostic tests, diagnostic procedures, or other labs, tests or procedures ordered, or given, in connection with any of the preventive care benefits described above;
2. Exams given during your inpatient stay for medical care;
3. Services not given by a **physician** or under their direction;
4. Immunizations that are not considered preventive care such as those required due to your employment or travel;
5. Pregnancy expenses (other than prenatal care as described above);
6. Services and supplies incurred for an abortion;
7. Services as a result of complications resulting from voluntary sterilization procedure and related follow-up care;
8. Any contraceptive methods that are only “reviewed” by the FDA and not “approved” by the FDA;
9. Male contraceptive methods, sterilization procedures or devices;
10. The reversal of voluntary sterilization procedures, including any related follow-up care; or
11. Charges incurred for family planning services while confined as an inpatient in a **hospital** or other **facility** for medical care.

3.5.6. Immunizations

In addition to the immunizations covered under [section 3.5.5, Preventive Care and Screening Services](#), **covered expenses** include other immunizations for communicable diseases, including serums administered by a nurse or **physician**. Charges for office visits in connection with the immunizations are not covered.

3.5.7. Hospital Expenses

Covered expenses include services and supplies provided by a **hospital** during your stay.

a) Room and board

Covered expenses include charges for **room and board** provided at a **hospital** during your stay. Private room charges that exceed the **hospital's** semiprivate room rate are not covered unless a private room is required because of a contagious **illness** or immune system problem.

Room and board charges also include:

- Services of the **hospital's** nursing staff
- Admission and other fees
- General and special diets
- Sundries and supplies

b) Other Hospital Services and Supplies

Covered expenses include charges made by a **hospital** for services and supplies furnished to you in connection with your stay. **Covered expenses** include **hospital** charges for other services and supplies provided, such as:

- **Ambulance** services
- **Physicians** and surgeons
- Operating and recovery rooms
- Intensive or special care facilities
- Administration of blood and blood products, but not the cost of the blood or blood products
- Radiation therapy
- Speech therapy, physical therapy and occupational therapy
- Oxygen and oxygen therapy
- Radiological services, laboratory testing and diagnostic services
- Medications
- Intravenous (IV) preparations
- Discharge planning

c) Outpatient **Hospital** Expenses

- **Covered expenses** include **hospital** charges made for covered services and supplies provided by the outpatient department of a **hospital**.
- The **medical plan** will only pay for nursing services provided by the **hospital** as part of its charge. The **medical plan** does not cover private duty nursing services as part of an inpatient **hospital** stay.
- If a **hospital** or other health **facility** does not itemize specific **room and board** charges and other charges, **Aetna** will assume that 40% of the total is for **room and board** charge and 60% is for other charges.

d) Coverage for **Emergency** Medical Conditions

Covered expenses include charges made by a **hospital** or a **physician** for services provided in an emergency room to evaluate and treat an **emergency** medical condition. The **emergency care** benefit covers:

- Use of emergency room facilities
- Emergency room **physician** services

- **Hospital** nursing staff services
- Radiologists and pathologists services

With the exception of urgent care described below, if you visit a **hospital** emergency room for a non-**emergency** medical condition, the **medical plan** will pay a reduced benefit, as shown in [section 2.1, Medical Benefit Schedule](#). No other plan benefits will pay for non-**emergency care** in the emergency room.

In addition to charges made by the **hospital**, certain **physicians** and other providers may bill you separately during your stay.

e) Coverage for Urgent Conditions

Covered expenses include charges made by a **hospital** or **urgent care provider** to evaluate and treat an **urgent condition**. Your coverage includes:

- Use of emergency room facilities when network urgent care facilities are not in the **service area** and you cannot reasonably wait to visit your **physician**
- Use of urgent care facilities
- **Physicians** services
- Nursing staff services
- Radiologists and pathologists services

f) **Facility-Only Preferred Provider Agreements**

The **medical plan** has **facility-only** preferred provider agreements for **facility** services in the Municipality of Anchorage. The preferred facilities in the Municipality of Anchorage are Alaska Regional **Hospital**, Providence Alaska Medical Center, and in-network ambulatory **surgery centers**.

The preferred provider facilities have agreed to charge a rate for services which results in lower costs to the **covered person** and the Plan. Non-preferred providers, and non-network providers, are facilities within the Anchorage area have not agreed to charge a lower rate for services. Coverage for services will be reduced by 20% when provided by a non-preferred **hospital**, **surgery center**, rehabilitative **facility** or free-standing imaging center within the Anchorage municipal area, or a non-network **hospital**, **surgery center**, rehabilitative **facility** or free-standing imaging center in the other 49 states.

When receiving services at an out-of-network **hospital** or other type of **facility**, the **recognized charge** for the out-of-network **facility** services is reduced to the percentage of Medicare that most closely reflects the aggregate contracted rate at the preferred **hospital** or **facility** in the Municipality of Anchorage.

In addition, the **out-of-pocket limit** that otherwise applies under the medical option you are covered by will be doubled. All services provided by a **hospital**, **surgery center**, rehabilitative

facility, or free-standing imaging center, including imaging, testing or outpatient surgery, are subject to this provision except for:

- services that cannot be performed at a preferred provider **hospital** or **facility**; and
- **emergency** services.

3.5.8. Alternatives to Hospital Stays

IMPORTANT NOTE: The **medical plan** will reduce benefits by 20% if a **covered person** receives services from a non-preferred **hospital, surgery center, rehabilitative facility**, or free-standing imaging center in the Municipality of Anchorage or from an out-of-network **hospital, surgery center, rehabilitative facility**, or free-standing imaging center provider in the other 49 states. In addition, when receiving services at an out-of-network **hospital** or other type of **facility**, the **recognized charge** for the out-of-network **facility** services is reduced to a percentage of Medicare that most closely reflects the aggregate contracted rate at the preferred **hospital** or **facility** in the Municipality of Anchorage.

3.5.8.1. Surgery Centers

Covered expenses include charges for services and supplies furnished in connection with outpatient surgery made by a **surgery center**. The surgery must be able to be performed adequately and safely in a **surgery center** and must not be a surgery that is normally performed in a **physician's** or **dentist's** office.

The following **surgery center** expenses are covered:

- a) Services and supplies provided by the **surgery center** on the day of the procedure.
- b) The operating **physician's** services for performing the procedure, related pre- and post-operative care, and administration of anesthesia.
- c) Services of another **physician** for related post-operative care and administration of anesthesia. This does not include a local anesthetic.

3.5.8.2. Birthing Centers

Covered expenses include charges made by a **birthing center** for services and supplies related to your care in a **birthing center** for:

- a) prenatal care;
- b) delivery; and
- c) postpartum care within 48 hours after a vaginal delivery and 96 hours after a cesarean delivery.

3.5.9. Home Health Care

Covered expenses include charges made by a **home health care agency** for home health care, and the care:

- a) is given under a **home health care plan**; and
- b) is given to you in your home while you are **homebound**.

Home health care expenses include charges for:

- a) Part-time or intermittent care by a registered nurse or by a licensed practical nurse if a registered nurse is not available.
- b) Part-time or intermittent home health aide services provided in conjunction with and in direct support of care by a registered nurse or a licensed practical nurse.
- c) Physical, occupational, and speech therapy.
- d) Part-time or intermittent medical social services by a social worker when provided in conjunction with and in direct support of care by a registered nurse or a licensed practical nurse.
- e) Medical supplies, **prescription drugs** and lab services by or for a **home health care agency** to the extent they would have been covered under the **medical plan** if you had a **hospital stay**.

Benefits for home health care visits are payable up to the home health care maximum of 120 visits per **benefit year**. In determining the **benefit year** maximum visits, each visit of up to four hours is one visit. This maximum will not apply to care given by a registered nurse or licensed practical nurse when:

- a) care is provided within 10 days of discharge from a **hospital** or skilled nursing **facility** as a full time inpatient; and
- b) care is needed to transition from the **hospital** or skilled nursing **facility** to home care.

When the above criteria are met, **covered expenses** include up to 12 hours of continuous care by a registered nurse or licensed practical nurse per day.

Coverage for home health care services is not determined by the availability of caregivers to perform them. The absence of a person to perform a non-skilled or **custodial care** service does not cause the service to become covered. If the **covered person** is a minor or an adult who is dependent upon others for non-skilled care (*e.g.* bathing, eating, toileting), coverage for home health services will only be provided during times when there is a family member or caregiver present in the home to meet the person's non-skilled needs.

Unless specified above, not covered under this benefit are charges for:

- a) Services or supplies that are not a part of the **home health care plan**.
- b) Services of a person who usually lives with you, or who is a member of your or your spouse's family.
- c) Services of a certified or licensed social worker.
- d) Services for infusion therapy.
- e) Transportation.

- f) Services or supplies provided to a minor or dependent adult when a family member or caregiver is not present.
- g) Services that are **custodial care**.

IMPORTANT: The **medical plan** does not cover **custodial care**, even if care is provided by a nursing professional and family members or another caretaker cannot provide the necessary care.

3.5.10. Private Duty Nursing

Covered expenses include private duty nursing provided by a registered nurse or licensed practical nurse if the person's condition requires **skilled nursing care** and visiting nursing care is not adequate.

The **medical plan** also covers skilled observation for up to one four-hour period per day for up to ten consecutive days following:

- a) A change in your medication.
- b) Treatment of an urgent or **emergency** medical condition by a **physician**.
- c) The onset of symptoms indicating a need for **emergency** treatment.
- d) Surgery.
- e) An inpatient stay.

Unless specified above, not covered under this benefit are charges for:

- a) Nursing care that does not require the education, training and technical skills of a registered nurse or licensed practical nurse.
- b) Nursing care assistance for daily life activities, such as:
 - transportation
 - meal preparation
 - vital sign charting
 - companionship activities
 - bathing
 - feeding
 - personal grooming
 - dressing
 - toileting
 - getting in/out of bed or a chair.
- c) Nursing care provided for skilled observation.
- d) Nursing care provided while you are an inpatient in a **hospital** or health care **facility**.
- e) A service provided solely to administer oral medicine, except where law requires a registered nurse or licensed practical nurse to administer medicines.

3.5.11. Skilled Nursing Facility

IMPORTANT NOTE: The **medical plan** will reduce benefits by 20% if a **covered person** receives services from a non-preferred **hospital, surgery center, rehabilitative facility**, or free-standing imaging center in the Municipality of Anchorage or from an out-of-network **hospital, surgery center, rehabilitative facility**, or free-standing imaging center provider in the other 49 states. In addition, when receiving services at an out-of-network **hospital** or other type of **facility**, the **recognized charge** for the out-of-network **facility** services is reduced to the percentage of Medicare that most closely reflects the aggregate contracted rate at the preferred **hospital** or **facility** in the Municipality of Anchorage.

Covered expenses include charges made by a skilled nursing **facility** during your stay for the following services and supplies.

The following services at a skilled nursing **facility** are covered:

- a) **Room and board**, up to the semi-private room rate. The **medical plan** will cover up to the private room rate if it is needed due to an infectious **illness** or a weak or compromised immune system.
- b) Use of special treatment rooms.
- c) Radiological services and lab work.
- d) Physical, occupational, or speech therapy.
- e) Oxygen and other gas therapy.
- f) Other medical services and general nursing services usually given by a skilled nursing **facility** (not including charges made for private or special nursing or **physician's** services).
- g) Medical supplies.

Unless specified above, not covered under this benefit are charges for the treatment of drug addiction, alcoholism, senility, intellectual disability, or any other mental **illness**.

3.5.12. Hospice Care

Covered expenses include charges for **hospice care** when furnished under a **hospice care program**.

3.5.12.1. Facility Expenses

IMPORTANT NOTE: The **medical plan** will reduce benefits by 20% if a **covered person** receives services from a non-preferred **hospital, surgery center, rehabilitative facility**, or free-standing imaging center in the Municipality of Anchorage or from an out-of-network **hospital, surgery center, rehabilitative facility**, or free-standing imaging center provider in the other 49 states. In addition, when receiving services at an out-of-network **hospital** or other type of **facility**, the **recognized charge** for the out-of-network **facility** services is reduced to the percentage of Medicare that most closely reflects the aggregate contracted rate at the preferred **hospital** or **facility** in the Municipality of Anchorage.

Covered expenses include charges made by a **hospital, hospice facility** or skilled nursing **facility** for:

- a) **Room and board** and other services and supplies furnished during a stay for pain control and other acute and chronic symptom management.
- b) Services and supplies furnished to you on an outpatient basis.

3.5.12.2. Outpatient Hospice Expenses

Covered expenses include charges made on an outpatient basis by a **hospice care agency** for:

- a) Part-time or intermittent nursing care by a registered nurse or licensed practical nurse for up to eight hours a day.
- b) Part-time or intermittent home health aide services to care for you up to eight hours a day.
- c) Medical social services under the direction of a **physician**, including but not limited to:
 - assessment of your social, emotional and medical needs, and your home and family situation;
 - identification of available community resources; and
 - assistance provided to you to obtain resources to meet your assessed needs.
- d) Physical and occupational therapy.
- e) Consultation or case management services by a **physician**.
- f) Medical supplies.
- g) **Prescription drugs**.
- h) Dietary counseling.
- i) Psychological counseling.

Charges made by the providers below if they are not an employee of a **hospice care agency** and such agency retains responsibility for your care:

- a) A **physician** for a consultation or case management.
- b) A physical or occupational therapist.
- c) A **home health care agency** for:
 - Physical and occupational therapy;
 - Part-time or intermittent home health aide services for your care up to eight hours a day;
 - Medical supplies;
 - **Prescription drugs**;
 - Psychological counseling; and
 - Dietary counseling.

Unless specified above, not covered under this benefit are charges for:

- a) Daily **room and board** charges over the semi-private room rate.
- b) Funeral arrangements.
- c) Pastoral counseling.
- d) Financial or legal counseling. This includes estate planning and the drafting of a will.

- e) Homemaker or caretaker services. These are services which are not solely related to your care. These include, but are not limited to, sitter or companion services for either you or other family members, transportation, or maintenance of a house.
- f) Services that are **custodial care**.

3.5.13. Second Surgical Opinions

Covered expenses include obtaining a second surgical opinion when a surgeon has recommended non-**emergency** surgery.

Charges for complex imaging services, radiological services and diagnostic tests required in connection with the second opinion are covered by the **medical plan**. However, to avoid duplication, the attending **physician** is encouraged to share X-ray and test results with the consulting **physician(s)**.

To qualify for second opinion benefits, the **physician** may not be in practice with the **physician** who provided the first or second opinion and the proposed surgery:

- a) Must be recommended by the **physician** who plans to perform the surgery;
- b) Will, if performed, be covered under this **medical plan**; and
- c) Must require general or spinal anesthesia.

The second opinion must be obtained before you are hospitalized. You may choose your consulting **physician**. If you desire, **Aetna** can provide you with a list of names of qualified **physicians**.

If the first and second opinions differ, you may seek a third opinion. The **medical plan** pays benefits for a third opinion the same as for a second opinion.

3.5.14. Diagnostic and Preoperative Testing

IMPORTANT NOTE: The **medical plan** will reduce benefits by 20% if a **covered person** receives services from a non-preferred **hospital, surgery center, rehabilitative facility, or free-standing imaging center** in the Municipality of Anchorage or from an out-of-network **hospital, surgery center, rehabilitative facility, or free-standing imaging center provider** in the other 49 states. In addition, when receiving services at an out-of-network **hospital** or other type of **facility**, the **recognized charge** for the out-of-network **facility** services is reduced to the percentage of Medicare that most closely reflects the aggregate contracted rate at the preferred **hospital** or **facility** in the Municipality of Anchorage.

3.5.14.1. Diagnostic Complex Imaging Expenses

Covered expenses include charges made on an outpatient basis by a **physician, hospital** or a licensed imaging or radiological **facility** for complex imaging services to diagnose an **illness** or **injury**, including:

- a) Computed Tomography (CAT or CT) scans.
- b) Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI).
- c) Positron Emission Tomography (PET) scans.
- d) Any other outpatient diagnostic imaging service costing over \$500.
- e) Complex imaging expenses for preoperative testing.

The **medical plan** does not cover diagnostic complex imaging expenses under this benefit if such imaging expenses are covered under any other part of the **medical plan**.

3.5.14.2. Outpatient Diagnostic Lab Work and Radiological Services

Covered expenses include charges for radiological services (other than diagnostic complex imaging), lab services, and pathology and other tests provided to diagnose an **illness** or **injury**. You must have definite symptoms that start, maintain or change a plan of treatment prescribed by a **physician**. The charges must be made by a **physician, hospital** or licensed radiological **facility** or lab.

3.5.14.3. Outpatient Preoperative Testing

Prior to a scheduled covered surgery, **covered expenses** include charges made for tests performed by a **hospital, surgery center, physician** or licensed diagnostic laboratory provided the charges for the surgery are **covered expenses** and the tests are:

- a) related to your surgery, and the surgery takes place in a **hospital** or **surgery center**;
- b) completed within 14 days before your surgery;
- c) performed on an outpatient basis;
- d) covered if you were an inpatient in a **hospital**; and
- e) not repeated in or by the **hospital** or **surgery center** where the surgery will be performed.

Test results should appear in your medical record kept by the **hospital** or **surgery center** where the surgery is performed.

The **medical plan** does not cover diagnostic complex imaging expenses under this benefit if such imaging expenses are covered under any other part of the **medical plan**.

If your tests indicate that surgery should not be performed because of your physical condition, the **medical plan** will pay for the tests, but surgery will not be covered.

3.5.15. Cognitive Therapy, Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy, and Speech Therapy Rehabilitation Benefits

Covered expenses include the services listed in this section in either an inpatient or outpatient setting. If provided on an inpatient basis, such services will be paid as part of your inpatient **hospital** and **skilled nursing facility** benefits under the **medical plan**. Coverage is subject to the limits, if any, shown in [section 2.1, Medical Benefit Schedule](#).

- a) Physical therapy is covered for non-chronic conditions and acute **illnesses** and **injuries**, provided the therapy expects to significantly improve, develop or restore physical functions lost or impaired as a result of an acute **illness, injury** or surgical procedure. Physical therapy is also covered for Medically Necessary treatment of autism (or other mental health diagnosis). Physical therapy does not include educational training or services designed to develop physical function.
- b) Occupational therapy (except for vocational rehabilitation or employment counseling) is covered for non-chronic conditions and acute **illnesses** and **injuries**, provided the therapy expects to significantly improve, develop or restore physical functions lost or impaired as a result of an acute **illness, injury** or surgical procedure, or to relearn skills to significantly improve independence in the activities of daily living. Occupational therapy is also covered for Medically Necessary treatment of autism (or other mental health diagnosis). Occupational therapy does not include educational training or services designed to develop physical function.
- c) Speech therapy is covered for non-chronic conditions and acute **illnesses** and **injuries** and expected to restore the speech function or correct a speech impairment resulting from **illness or injury**; or for delays in speech function development as a result of a gross anatomical defect present at birth. Speech therapy is also covered for Medically Necessary treatment of autism (or other mental health diagnosis). Speech function is the ability to express thoughts, speak words and form sentences. Speech impairment is difficulty with expressing one's thoughts with spoken words.
- d) Cognitive therapy associated with physical rehabilitation is covered when the cognitive deficits have been acquired as a result of neurologic impairment due to trauma, stroke, or encephalopathy, and when the therapy is part of a treatment plan intended to restore previous cognitive function. Cognitive therapy is also covered for Medically Necessary treatment of a mental health or substance use disorder.

A visit consists of no more than one hour of therapy. **Covered expenses** include charges for no more than 1 hour of therapy per provider specialty per date of service (visit limits will not apply to Medically Necessary treatment of mental health or substance use disorder).

The therapy should follow a specific treatment plan that:

- a) details the treatment, and specifies frequency and duration; and
- b) provides for ongoing reviews and is renewed only if continued therapy is appropriate.

Exception: Care for treatment of a mental health or substance use disorder will not be subject to the treatment plan requirements.

Unless specifically covered above, not covered under this benefit are charges for:

- a) Therapies for the treatment of delays in development, unless resulting from acute **illness** or **injury**, or congenital defects amenable to surgical repair (such as cleft lip/palate). This exclusion does not apply to Medically Necessary treatment of a mental health condition including, but not limited to, autism. Examples of non-covered diagnoses include Down's syndrome and Cerebral Palsy, as they are considered both developmental and/or chronic in nature.
- b) Any services which are **covered expenses** in whole or in part under any other group plan sponsored by an employer.
- c) Any services unless provided in accordance with a specific treatment plan, except for Medically Necessary treatment of a mental health or substance use disorder.
- d) Services for the treatment of delays in speech development, unless resulting from **illness**, **injury**, or congenital defect (or a mental health or substance use disorder).
- e) Services provided during a **stay** in a **hospital, skilled nursing facility, or hospice facility** except as stated above.
- f) Services not performed by a **physician** or under the direct supervision of a **physician**.
- g) Treatment covered as part of spinal manipulation treatment. This applies whether or not benefits have been paid under that section.
- h) Services provided by a **physician** or physical, occupational or speech therapist who resides in your home or who is a member of your family, or a member of your **spouse's** family.
- i) Special education to instruct a person whose speech has been lost or impaired to function without that ability. This includes lessons in sign language.

3.5.16. Massage Therapy

Covered expenses include the services listed in this section in an outpatient setting. Coverage is subject to the limits and **copayments**, if any, shown in [section 2.1, Medical Benefit Schedule](#).

- a) Massage therapy is covered in conjunction with and for the purpose of making the body more receptive of spinal manipulation provided under [section 3.5.31 Treatment of Spinal Disorders](#)
- b) **Medically necessary** massage therapy is a **covered expense** if it is limited to the initial or acute phase of an **injury** or **illness** and is part of a specific treatment plan for physical or occupational rehabilitative therapy as outlined in [section 3.5.15, Cognitive Therapy, Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy, and Speech Therapy Rehabilitation Benefits](#).

3.5.17. Acupuncture

Acupuncture

Covered expenses include services listed in this section and performed by a licensed acupuncturist on an outpatient basis for acupuncture and acupuncture therapy.

Acupuncture for medically necessary indications is a **covered expense** if it is part of an ongoing and written plan of care plan. The following indications are considered medically necessary:

- A. Chronic (minimum 12 weeks duration) neck pain; *or*
- B. Chronic (minimum 12 weeks duration) headache; *or*
- C. Low back pain; *or*
- D. Nausea of pregnancy; *or*
- E. Pain from osteoarthritis of the knee or hip (adjunctive therapy); *or*
- F. Post-operative and chemotherapy-induced nausea and vomiting; *or*
- G. Post-operative dental pain; *or*
- H. Temporomandibular disorders (TMD)

Limitations:

Maintenance treatment, where symptoms are neither regressing nor improving, is considered not medically necessary.

Coverage is subject to the limits and **copayments**, if any, shown in [section 2.1, Medical Benefit Schedule](#).

3.5.18. Anesthetic

Covered expenses include the cost of administration of anesthetics and oxygen by a **physician**, other than the operating **physician**, or a certified registered nurse anesthetist (C.R.N.A.) in connection with a covered procedure. This includes injections of muscle relaxants, local anesthesia, and steroids. When billed by a **hospital** or **physician**, the services of an anesthetist are covered.

3.5.19. Pregnancy Related Expenses

Covered expenses include charges made by a **physician** for pregnancy and childbirth services and supplies at the same level as any **illness** or **injury**. This includes prenatal visits, delivery and postnatal visits.

For inpatient care of the mother and newborn **child**, **covered expenses** include charges made by a **hospital** for a minimum of:

- a) 48 hours after a vaginal delivery;
- b) 96 hours after a cesarean section; and
- c) a shorter **stay**, if the attending **physician**, with the consent of the mother, discharges the mother or newborn earlier.

Covered expenses also include charges made by a **birthing center**, as described under alternatives to **hospital** care.

Covered expenses also include services and supplies provided for circumcision of the newborn during the **stay**.

If you are **totally disabled** as a result of a problem with your pregnancy and your coverage under the **medical plan** ends, you may be eligible for extended benefits. See [section 9, Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act \(COBRA\) and Extended Health Coverage](#).

3.5.20. Newborn Care

Covered expenses include newborn care provided within the first 31 days after birth. Newborn services provided after 31 days are not covered, unless you enroll your **child** under the **medical plan** within 30 days of birth. See [section 1.7.5., Dependents](#).

Charges for a newborn who has suffered an accidental **injury, illness**, or premature birth are covered like any other **medically necessary** services.

3.5.21. Durable Medical and Surgical Equipment

Covered expenses include **durable medical equipment** prescribed by a **physician**, including:

- a) Bandages and surgical dressings.
- b) Rental or purchase of autorepositioning appliances, casts, splints, trusses, braces, crutches, and other similar, durable medical or mechanical equipment.
- c) Rental or purchase of a wheelchair or **hospital**-type bed.
- d) Rental or purchase of iron lungs or other mechanical equipment required for respiratory treatment.
- e) Blood transfusions, including the cost of blood and blood derivatives.
- f) Oxygen or rental of equipment for the administration of oxygen.
- g) Insulin pumps or tubing or other ancillary equipment and supplies for insulin pumps.

Charges for the purchase repair or replacement of **durable medical equipment** will be included as **covered expenses** as follows:

- a) The initial purchase of such equipment and accessories to operate the equipment is covered only if **Aetna** is shown that:
 - long-term use is planned, and the equipment cannot be rented; or
 - it is likely to cost less to buy the equipment than to rent it.
- b) Maintenance and repair of purchased equipment is covered unless needed due to misuse or abuse of the equipment.
- c) Replacement of purchased equipment and accessories is covered only if **Aetna** is shown that:
 - it is needed due to a change in the person's physical condition; or

- it is likely to cost less to buy a replacement than to repair the existing equipment or to rent similar equipment.

The **medical plan** does not cover charges for more than one item of equipment for the same or similar purpose. The **medical plan** may limit the payment of charges to the most cost efficient and least restrictive level of service or item which can be safely and effectively provided.

3.5.22. Experimental or Investigational Treatment

Covered expenses include charges made for **experimental or investigational** drugs, devices, treatments or procedures, provided that all of the following conditions are met, except as noted in [section 3.5.21 Experimental or Investigational Treatment](#):

- a) You have been diagnosed with cancer, a severe mental health diagnosis or substance use disorder, or you are **terminally ill**.
- b) Standard therapies have not been effective or are inappropriate.
- c) **Aetna** determines, based on at least two documents of medical and scientific evidence, that you would likely benefit from the treatment.
- d) You are enrolled in an ongoing clinical trial that meets all of the following criteria:
 - The drug, device, treatment or procedure to be investigated has been granted investigational new drug (IND) or group c/treatment IND status.
 - The clinical trial has passed independent scientific scrutiny and has been approved by an institutional review board that will oversee the investigation.
 - The clinical trial is sponsored by the National Cancer Institute (NCI) or similar national organization (such as the Food and Drug Administration or the Department of Defense) and conforms to the NCI standards.
 - The clinical trial is not a single institution or investigator study unless the clinical trial is performed at an NCI designated cancer center.
 - You are treated in accordance with protocol.

3.5.23. Prosthetic Devices

Covered expenses include charges made for internal and external prosthetic devices and special appliances, if the device or appliance improves or restores body part function that has been lost or damaged by **illness, injury** or congenital defect. **Covered expenses** also include instruction and incidental supplies needed to use a covered prosthetic device.

The **medical plan** covers the first prosthesis you need that temporarily or permanently replaces all or part of a body part lost or impaired as a result of **illness** or **injury** or congenital defects, as described in the list of covered devices below, for an:

- a) internal body part or organ; or
- b) external body part.

Covered expenses also include replacement of a prosthetic device if:

- a) the replacement is needed because of a change in your physical condition or normal growth or wear and tear;
- b) it is likely to cost less to buy a new prosthetic device than to repair the existing one; or
- c) the existing prosthetic device cannot be made serviceable.

The list of covered devices includes, but is not limited to:

- a) An artificial arm, leg, hip, knee or eye.
- b) Eye lens.
- c) An external breast prosthesis and the first bra made solely for use with it after a mastectomy.
- d) A breast implant after a mastectomy.
- e) Ostomy supplies, urinary catheters and external urinary collection devices.
- f) Speech generating device.
- g) A cardiac pacemaker and pacemaker defibrillators.
- h) A durable brace that is custom made for and fitted for you.

The **medical plan** will not cover expenses and charges for, or expenses related to:

- a) Orthopedic shoes, therapeutic shoes, foot orthotics, or other devices to support the feet, unless the orthopedic shoe is an integral part of a covered leg brace.
- b) Trusses, corsets, and other support items.
- c) Repair and replacement due to misuse or abuse.
- d) Any item listed in [section 3.7, Medical Benefit Exclusions](#).

3.5.24. Ambulance Services

Covered expenses include charges made by a professional **ambulance** as follows:

- a) **Ground Ambulance. Covered expenses** include charges for transportation:
 - To the first **hospital** where treatment is given in a medical **emergency**.
 - From one **hospital** to another **hospital** in a medical **emergency** when the first **hospital** does not have the required services or facilities to treat your condition.
 - From **hospital** to home or to another **facility** when other means of transportation would be considered unsafe due to your medical condition.
 - From home to **hospital** for covered inpatient or outpatient treatment when other means of transportation would be considered unsafe due to your medical condition.
 - When during a covered inpatient **stay** at a **hospital, skilled nursing facility** or acute rehabilitation **hospital**, an **ambulance** is required to safely and adequately transport you to or from inpatient or outpatient **medically necessary** treatment.

- b) Air or Water **Ambulance**. **Covered expenses** include charges for air or water transportation to the closest facility able to treat the condition when:
- ground **ambulance** transportation is not available;
 - your condition is unstable, and requires medical supervision and rapid transport; and
 - in a medical **emergency**, transportation from one **hospital** to another **hospital**, when the first **hospital** does not have the required services or facilities to treat your condition and you need to be transported to another **hospital**, and the two conditions above are met.

Unless specified above, not covered under this benefit are charges incurred to transport you:

- a) if an **ambulance** service is not required for your physical condition;
- b) if the type of **ambulance** service provided is not required for your physical condition; or
- c) by any form of transportation other than a professional **ambulance** service.

3.5.25. Travel

Travel is a **covered expense** only in the circumstances set forth in this section. Travel for Lantern benefits is set forth in section [3.5.24, Lantern Benefits](#). Travel for transplant services is set forth in [section 3.5.27, Transplant Services](#).

3.5.25.1. Treatment Not Available Locally

Travel is a **covered expense** if necessary for you to receive treatment which is not available in the area you are located when the need for treatment occurs. Treatment must be received for travel to be covered.

If you require treatment that is not available locally, **covered expenses** include round-trip transportation, not exceeding the cost of coach class commercial air transportation, from the site of the **illness** or **injury** to the nearest professional treatment. If you use ground transportation and the most direct one-way distance exceeds 100 miles, the **medical plan** pays the per diem set forth below. If you are transported by professional **ambulance**, the plan pays returning travel as listed above.

Travel benefits for treatment which is not available locally are limited during each **benefit year** to:

- a) One visit and one follow-up visit for a condition requiring therapeutic treatment.
- b) One visit for prenatal or postnatal maternity care and one visit for the actual maternity delivery.
- c) One presurgical or postsurgical visit and one visit for the surgical procedure.
- d) Second surgical opinions which cannot be obtained locally (this will count as a presurgical trip).
- e) One visit for each allergic condition.

3.5.25.2. Surgery or Diagnostic Procedures in Other Locations

Travel is a **covered expense** if you have surgery or a diagnostic procedure which is provided less expensively in another location.

If the actual cost of surgery or diagnostic procedure, and all associated costs related to the surgery or diagnostic procedure, including travel, is less expensive than the **recognized charge** for the same expenses at the nearest location you could obtain the surgery or diagnostic procedure, your travel costs may be paid. The amount of travel costs paid cannot exceed the difference between the cost of surgery or diagnostic procedure and associated expenses in the nearest location and those same expenses in the location you choose.

If you require preoperative testing and surgery more than 100 miles from your home, the per diem rate set forth below is paid only for the day(s) on which you actually receive preoperative testing. Preoperative testing is testing performed within seven days prior to surgery.

Contact **Aetna** for assistance with identifying less expensive options for surgery or diagnostic procedures.

3.5.25.3. Limitations

Travel benefits apply only with respect to conditions covered under the **medical plan**. They do not apply to the **dental plan** or **vision plan**.

Travel does not include reimbursement of airline miles used to obtain tickets.

Travel does not include the cost of lodging, food, or local ground transportation such as airport shuttles, cabs or car rental. The **medical plan** does, when applicable, pay a per diem in lieu of these expenses.

If the patient is a **child** under 18 years of age, a parent or legal guardian's transportation charges are allowed. When authorized by **Aetna**, travel charges for a **physician** or a registered nurse are covered.

3.5.25.4. Per Diem

The **medical plan** will pay \$51 per day without overnight lodging or \$89 per day if overnight lodging is required. If a parent or legal guardian accompanies a **child** under age 18, the **medical plan** pays an additional \$31 per day.

3.5.26. Lantern Benefits

3.5.26.1. Covered Expenses

Covered expenses include travel and charges incurred during a covered **Episode of Care** with a Lantern surgeon and **facility**. Services received outside an **Episode of Care** or with a surgeon or

facility outside the Lantern network will be subject to coverage under other provisions of the medical plan.

Services covered under this section are paid at 100%. Lantern negotiates all costs before you have surgery, then coordinates the payment for you.

Lantern travel benefits may not be used in conjunction with other AlaskaCare travel benefits provided in [section 3.5.24, Travel](#) and [section 3.5.27, Transplant Services](#).

NOTE: The travel benefit available through Lantern, is only available through the Employee Plan members' primary AlaskaCare health plan; it does not coordinate with additional AlaskaCare or other health plans.

3.5.26.2. Covered Services and Procedures

When your doctor recommends a surgery, the Lantern Benefit will assist you with both planning and paying for the covered medical procedure, including necessary travel associated with the covered procedure. A Lantern Care Advocate can help you find a board certified, high-quality surgeon for your procedure, set up an initial consultation, schedule your procedure appointments, make travel reservations (if required), transfer your medical records and coordinate all your surgery bills. You can utilize the Lantern benefit for the non-emergent procedures listed below. This is not an exhaustive list, but a general guideline of the types of procedures the benefit will cover. Please contact the Lantern Care Advocate at 855-715-1680 for additional information.

- | | | |
|--------------------|--|--|
| a) Knee | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Knee Replacement• Knee Replacement Revision | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Knee Arthroscopy• ACL/MCL/PCL Repair |
| b) Hip | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hip Replacement• Hip Replacement Revision | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hip Arthroscopy |
| c) Shoulder | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Shoulder Replacement• Shoulder Arthroscopy | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rotator Cuff Repair• Bicep Tendon Repair |
| d) Foot and Ankle | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ankle Replacement• Bunionectomy• Hammer Toe Repair | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ankle Fusion• Ankle Arthroscopy |
| e) Spine | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Laminectomy/Laminotomy• Anterior Lumbar Interbody Fusion• Posterior Lumbar Interbody Fusion | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Anterior Cervical Disk Fusion• 360 Spinal Fusion• Artificial Disk |
| f) Wrist and Elbow | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Elbow Replacement• Elbow Fusion• Wrist Fusion | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Wrist Replacement• Carpal Tunnel Release |

- | | | |
|--------------------|---|---|
| g) General Surgery | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gallbladder Removal • Hernia Repair | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thyroidectomy |
| h) GI | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Colonoscopy • Endoscopy | |
| i) GYN | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hysterectomy • Bladder Repair | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hysteroscopy |
| j) Bariatric | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gastric Bypass • Laparoscopic Gastric Bypass | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Laparoscopic Sleeve Gastrectomy |
| k) ENT | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ear Tube Insertion (Ear Infection) • Septoplasty | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thyroidectomy • Sinuplasty |

3.5.26.3. Limitations

Certain examinations, tests, treatments or other medical services may be required prior to, or following, a planned medical procedure with a Lantern provider. Any medical services performed by anyone other than a Lantern doctor, including pre- and post-care, shall be subject to the coverage limits and other terms on the **medical plan**.

Subsequent to an **Episode of Care**, if a member needs **emergency care** for any reason this would be subject to coverage under the **medical plan**.

The Lantern **Episode of Care** ends when the member is discharged from the **facility**.

Lantern **Episode of Care** does not cover:

- a) diagnostic testing in advance to determine whether a procedure is necessary;
- b) convenience expenses;
- c) procedures or care that are not **medically necessary**; and
- d) Serious Reportable Events (SREs) as defined by the National Quality Forum at qualityforum.org/Home.aspx.

3.5.26.4. Network of Lantern Surgeons and Facilities

Through the Lantern network, you will have convenient access to high quality, low cost care for a select set of non-emergent procedures. Lantern only includes in their network, facilities and physicians that pass rigorous quality screening and credentialing standards. These standards include, but are not limited to, board certifications, specialized fellowship training, minimum volume requirements, complication rate thresholds, background and malpractice checks, medical practices and policies, public perception and customer service standards.

3.5.26.5. Travel Expenses

Your Lantern benefit will help pay for necessary travel associated with the covered procedure. Only travel arrangements made through the Lantern Care Advocate are eligible for coverage

under the Lantern benefits. The specific travel benefit depends on the procedure, the provider and the distance between the provider and a member's residence.

Covered expenses may include the following as arranged by the Lantern Care Advocate:

- a) Roundtrip coach class commercial air transportation for patient.
- b) Roundtrip coach class commercial air transportation for one companion.
- c) Mileage credit to/from airport to hotel and hotel to doctor's office or **facility**.
- d) Lodging away from home while traveling to receive pre-operative consult services and procedures covered under the Lantern benefits and through post-procedural consult, or until such time as the provider has advised that the patient is cleared to travel and does not require a near term in-person visit with the treating provider, or in any case where the member does not have easy access to primary care.
- e) Pre-loaded debit card to cover \$25 per patient per day (\$50 per day for patient & companion) for meals and incidental expenses traveling away from home to receive services covered under the Lantern benefits, during the stay to obtain a Lantern **Episode of Care** and for the travel from the place of care to the member's home of residence.
- f) When member uses ground transportation in lieu of air travel, and the most direct one-way distance
 - a. is less than 100 miles from the member's residence, a pre-loaded debit card of \$25 to help with fuel;
 - b. exceeds 100 miles but is less than 200 miles from the member's residence, a pre-loaded debit card of \$50 to help with fuel;
 - c. is 200 miles or more from the member's residence, a pre-loaded debit card of \$100 to help with fuel.

3.5.27. Gene Based, Cellular and other Innovative Therapies (GCIT)

GCIT services help patients who have been diagnosed with certain genetic conditions that may be treated with the use of innovative FDA-approved GCIT products. GCIT services include cellular immunotherapy, genetically modified viral therapy and cell and tissue therapy.

GCIT Designated Network program The **Aetna** GCIT Designated Network program provides benefits for specific GCIT services at GCIT-designated **facilities** as well as additional care coordination and support from a clinical team with specific GCIT experience. **Aetna** GCIT Designated Network program **covered services** include charges incurred for certain GCIT services and supplies provided by GCIT-designated **facility** and **provider** and certain travel and lodging expenses.

GCIT therapies covered by the **Aetna** GCIT Designated Network program include but are not limited to the following:

- Zolgensma
- Spinraza
- Luxturna
- Zyntelgo
- Hemgenix
- Skysona

For the current list of services included in the **Aetna** GCIT Designated Network program, call Aetna at the number on the back of your insurance ID card.

Aetna Institutes GCIT program **covered services** also include:

- Travel and lodging expenses
 - If you receive care at a GCIT-designated **facility** that is 100 or more miles away from where you live, travel and lodging expenses are **covered services** for you and a companion, to travel between home and the GCIT **facility**.
 - Expenses incurred by the patient and one adult companion for hotel lodging is reimbursed at a rate of \$50 per night per person (or \$100 per night total). The total travel and lodging benefit payable will not exceed \$10,000 per **episode of care**.

Aetna designates GCIT facilities and providers to provide specific services or procedures. They are listed as GCIT providers in **Aetna’s provider** directory.

The amount you will pay for **Aetna** GCIT Designated Network program **covered services** depends on where you get the care. These services received from an approved GCIT-designated **facility** and **provider** are subject to the network **copayment, coinsurance, deductible, maximum out-of-pocket** and limits.

Aetna GCIT Designated Network program **covered services** received from a non GCIT designated **facility** or **provider** are not covered by the plan.

Other GCIT Services

Some GCIT services are not included in the **Aetna** GCIT Designated Network program. These services will be covered according to the plan’s provisions, based on the type of service and where it is received.

Limitations

Aetna GCIT Designated Network program **covered services** received from non GCIT-designated facilities and providers, including providers who are otherwise part of the network are not covered.

3.5.28. Transplant Services

3.5.28.1. Covered Expenses

Covered expenses include charges incurred during a transplant occurrence. The following will be considered to be one transplant occurrence once it has been determined that you or one of your

dependents may require an organ transplant. Organ means solid organ, stem cell, bone marrow, and tissue.

- a) Heart
- b) Lung
- c) Heart/lung
- d) Simultaneous pancreas kidney (SPK)
- e) Pancreas
- f) Kidney
- g) Liver
- h) Intestine
- i) Bone marrow/stem cell
- j) Multiple organs replaced during one transplant surgery
- k) Tandem transplants (stem cell)
- l) Sequential transplants
- m) Re-transplant of same organ type within 180 days of the first transplant
- n) Any other single organ transplant, unless otherwise excluded under the **medical plan**

The following will be considered to be *more than one* transplant occurrence:

- a) Autologous blood/bone marrow transplant followed by allogenic blood/bone marrow transplant (when not part of a tandem transplant).
- b) Allogenic blood/bone marrow transplant followed by an autologous blood/bone marrow transplant (when not part of a tandem transplant).
- c) Re-transplant after 180 days of the first transplant.
- d) Pancreas transplant following a kidney transplant.
- e) A transplant necessitated by an additional organ failure during the original transplant surgery/process.
- f) More than one transplant when not performed as part of a planned tandem or sequential transplant, (*e.g.*, a liver transplant with subsequent heart transplant).

3.5.28.2. Network Level of Benefits

The network level of benefits is paid only for a treatment received at a **facility** designated by the **medical plan** as an Institute of Excellence™ (IOE) for the type of transplant being performed. Each IOE **facility** has been selected to perform only certain types of transplants.

Services obtained from a **facility** that is not designated as an IOE for the transplant being performed will be covered as out-of-**network services and supplies**, even if the **facility** is a **network provider** or IOE for other types of services.

The **medical plan** covers:

- a) Charges made by a **physician** or transplant team.

- b) Charges made by a **hospital**, outpatient **facility** or **physician** for the medical and surgical expenses of a live donor, but only to the extent not covered by another health plan or program.
- c) Related supplies and services provided by the **facility** during the transplant process. These services and supplies may include physical, speech and occupational therapy; bio-medicals and immunosuppressants; and home health care expenses and home infusion services.
- d) Charges for activating the donor search process with national registries.
- e) Compatibility testing of prospective organ donors who are immediate family members. For the purpose of this coverage, an “immediate” family member is defined as a first-degree biological relative. These are your biological parents, siblings or **children**.
- f) Inpatient and outpatient expenses directly related to a transplant.

3.5.28.3. Levels of Transplant Care

Covered expenses are typically incurred during the four phases of transplant care described below. Expenses incurred for one transplant during these four phases of care will be considered one transplant occurrence.

A transplant occurrence is considered to begin at the point of evaluation for a transplant and end either 180 days from the date of the transplant or upon the date you are discharged from the **hospital** or outpatient **facility** for the admission or visit(s) related to the transplant, whichever is later.

The four phases of one transplant occurrence and a summary of covered transplant expenses during each phase are:

1. Pre-transplant evaluation/screening: Includes all transplant-related professional and technical components required for assessment, evaluation and acceptance into a transplant **facility**'s transplant program.
2. Pre-transplant/candidacy screening: Includes Human Leukocyte Antigen (HLA) typing/compatibility testing of prospective organ donors who are immediate family members.
3. Transplant event: Includes inpatient and outpatient services for all covered transplant-related health services and supplies provided to you and a donor during the one or more surgical procedures or medical therapies for a transplant; **prescription drugs** provided during your inpatient **stay** or outpatient visit(s), including bio-medical and immunosuppressant drugs; physical, speech or occupational therapy provided during your inpatient **stay** or outpatient visit(s); cadaveric and live donor organ procurement.
4. Follow-up care: Includes all covered transplant expenses; home health care services; home infusion services; and transplant-related outpatient services rendered within 180 days from the date of the transplant event.

If you are a participant in the Institute of Excellence™ (IOE) program, the program will coordinate all solid organ and bone marrow transplants and other specialized care you need. Any **covered expenses** you incur from an IOE **facility** will be considered **network services and supplies**.

3.5.28.4. Limitations

Unless specified above, not covered under this benefit are charges incurred for:

- a) Outpatient drugs including bio-medicals and immunosuppressants not expressly related to an outpatient transplant occurrence.
- b) Services that are covered under any other benefit under this **medical plan**.
- c) Services and supplies furnished to a donor when the recipient is not covered under the **medical plan**.
- d) Home infusion therapy after the transplant occurrence.
- e) Harvesting or storage of organs, without the expectation of immediate transplantation for an existing **illness**.
- f) Harvesting and/or storage of bone marrow, tissue or stem cells, without the expectation of transplantation within 12 months for an existing **illness**.
- g) Cornea (Corneal Graft with Amniotic Membrane) or Cartilage (autologous chondrocyte or autologous osteochondral mosaicplasty) transplants, unless otherwise authorized by **Aetna**.

3.5.28.5. Network of Transplant Specialist Facilities

Through the Institute of Excellence™ (IOE) network, you will have access to a **network provider** that specializes in transplants. Benefits will be reduced by 20% if a non-IOE or out-of-**network provider** is used. In addition, some expenses are payable only within the IOE network. The IOE **facility** must be specifically approved and designated by **Aetna** to perform the procedure you require. Each **facility** in the IOE network has been selected to perform only certain types of transplants, based on quality of care and successful clinical outcomes.

3.5.28.6. Travel Expenses

Travel is a **covered expense** for transplant services only in the circumstances set forth in this section.

Covered expenses include the following:

- a) Transportation Expense
 - Expenses incurred by an Institute of Excellence™ (IOE) patient, and approved in advance by **Aetna**, for transportation between the patient's home and the Institute of Excellence™ (IOE) to receive services in connection with any listed procedure or treatment.
 - Expenses incurred by a companion and approved in advance by **Aetna** for transportation when traveling with an Institute of Excellence™ (IOE) patient

between the patient's home and the Institute of Excellence™ (IOE) to receive such services.

b) Lodging Expenses

- Expenses incurred by an Institute of Excellence™ (IOE) patient, and approved in advance by **Aetna**, for lodging away from home:
 - while traveling between the patient's home and the Institute of Excellence™ (IOE) to receive services in connection with any listed procedure or treatment; or
 - to receive outpatient services from the Institute of Excellence™ (IOE) in connection any listed procedure or treatment.
- Expenses incurred by a companion and approved in advance by **Aetna** for lodging away from home:
 - while traveling with an Institute of Excellence™ (IOE) patient between the patient's home and the Institute of Excellence™ (IOE) to receive services in connection with any listed procedure or treatment; or
 - when the companion's presence is required to enable an Institute of Excellence™ (IOE) patient to receive such services from the Institute of Excellence™ (IOE) on an inpatient or outpatient basis.
- The **medical plan** will pay \$50 per night per person for overnight lodging, up to a \$100 maximum.
- For purposes of determining travel expenses or lodging expenses, a **hospital** or other temporary residence from which an Institute of Excellence™ (IOE) patient travels in order to begin a period of treatment at the Institute of Excellence™ (IOE), or to which the patient travels after dismissal from the Institute of Excellence™ (IOE) at the end of a period of treatment, will be considered to be the patient's home.

c) Travel and Lodging Benefit Maximum

- For all travel expenses and lodging expenses incurred in connection with any one Institute of Excellence™ (IOE) procedure or treatment type:
 - The total benefit payable will not exceed \$10,000 per transplant occurrence.
 - Benefits will be payable only for such expenses incurred during a period which begins on the day a **covered person** becomes an Institute of Excellence™ (IOE) patient and ends on the earlier to occur of:
 - one year after the date the procedure is performed or;
 - the date the Institute of Excellence™ (IOE) patient ceases to receive any services from the Institute of Excellence™ (IOE) in connection with the procedure.

3.5.29. Employee Assistance Program (EAP)

The Employee Assistance Program (EAP) is a confidential counseling service, free of charge to you and your **dependents**, administered by **Aetna**. This service provides assessment, treatment and referral services, and covers up to eight counseling sessions per problem. The program is geared to provide assistance with difficulties that you may encounter at work, emotional problems, stress, family or relationship problems, and drug and alcohol abuse.

Call the number shown in the front of the **plan** booklet for the EAP counselor. EAP staff is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. When you call, you may be able to work through your problem on the phone with an EAP staff member. In most cases, however, the staff will try to schedule an appointment with a local counselor. The counselor will then assess your situation in person. Based upon this assessment, he or she will either counsel you or refer you to another professional for specialized care. In an **emergency**, the EAP counselor will provide crisis counseling by phone or will direct you immediately to appropriate medical or psychiatric facilities in your area.

Your call or visit to the EAP counselor is completely confidential. Unless you choose to tell others, no one needs to know about your EAP counseling sessions. EAP counseling offices are located away from your work site. Discussions with an EAP counselor will not be revealed to anyone without your written permission unless required by law.

Additional services may be available through the EAP program. Visit [AlaskaCare.com](https://www.alaskacare.com) for more information.

3.5.30. Mental Disorder and Substance Abuse Treatment

3.5.30.1. Mental Disorders

Covered expenses include charges incurred in a **hospital, psychiatric hospital, residential treatment facility, or behavioral health provider's** office for the treatment of **mental disorders** by **behavioral health providers** as follows:

- a) **Inpatient Treatment: Covered expenses** include charges for **room and board** at the semi-private room rate, and other services and supplies provided during your **stay** in a **hospital, psychiatric hospital or residential treatment facility**. Inpatient benefits are available only if your condition requires services that are only available in an inpatient setting.
- b) **Partial Confinement Treatment: Covered expenses** include charges made for **partial confinement treatment** provided in a **facility** or program for the intermediate short-term or medically directed intensive treatment of a **mental disorder**. Such benefits are payable if your condition requires services that are only available in a **partial confinement treatment** setting.
- c) **Outpatient Treatment: Covered expenses** include charges for treatment received while not confined as a full-time inpatient in a **hospital, psychiatric hospital or residential**

treatment facility, and certain early intensive behavioral interventions such as **applied behavior analysis**.

3.5.30.2. Substance Abuse

Covered expenses include charges incurred in a **hospital, residential treatment facility, or behavioral health provider's office**, for the treatment of **substance abuse** by **behavioral health providers** as follows:

- a) **Inpatient Treatment: Covered expenses** include charges for **room and board** at the semi-private room rate, and other services and supplies provided during your **stay** in a **psychiatric hospital or residential treatment facility**, appropriately licensed by the state department of health or its equivalent. Inpatient benefits include treatment in a **hospital** for the medical complications of **substance abuse**. Medical complications include **detoxification**, electrolyte imbalances, malnutrition, cirrhosis of the liver, delirium tremens and hepatitis. Treatment in a **hospital** is covered only when the **hospital** does not have a separate treatment **facility** section.
- b) **Partial Confinement Treatment: Covered expenses** include charges made for **partial confinement treatment** provided in a **facility** or program for the intermediate short-term or medically directed intensive treatment of **substance abuse**. Such benefits are payable if your condition requires services that are only available in a **partial confinement treatment** setting.
- c) **Outpatient Treatment: Covered expenses** include charges for treatment received for **substance abuse** while not confined as a full-time inpatient in a **hospital, psychiatric hospital or residential treatment facility**.

3.5.31. Treatment of Spinal Disorders

Covered expenses include charges made by a **physician** on an outpatient basis for manipulative (adjustive) treatment or other physical treatment for conditions caused by or related to biomechanical or nerve conduction disorders of the spine.

Benefits are subject to the maximum shown in [section 2.1, Medical Benefit Schedule](#). However, this maximum does not apply to expenses incurred:

- a) during your **hospital stay**; or
- b) for surgery, including pre- and post-surgical care provided or ordered by the operating **physician**.

3.5.32. Medical Treatment of Mouth, Jaws, and Teeth

Covered expenses include charges made by a **physician, dentist and hospital** for services and supplies for treatment of, or related conditions of, the teeth, mouth, jaw, and jaw joints, as well as supporting tissues including bones, muscles, and nerves. **Covered expenses** include:

- a) Inpatient **hospital** care to perform dental services if required due to an underlying medical condition.
- b) Surgery needed to treat wounds, cysts or tumors or to alter the jaw, joint or bite relationships when appliance therapy alone cannot provide functional improvement.
- c) Nonsurgical treatment of infections or diseases not related to the teeth, supporting bones or gums.
- d) Dental **implants** if necessary due to an underlying medical condition, **accident** or disease, other than periodontal disease. False teeth for use with the **implants** are covered only under the **dental plan** as a Class III service.
- e) Services needed to treat accidental fractures or dislocations of the jaw or **injury** to natural teeth if the **accident** occurs while the individual is covered by the **medical plan**. Treatment must begin during the year the **accident** occurred or the year following. The teeth must have been damaged or lost other than in the course of biting or chewing and must have been free of decay or in good repair.
- f) Diagnosis, appliance therapy (excluding braces), nonsurgical treatment, and surgery by a cutting procedure which alters the jaw joints or bite relationship for temporomandibular joint disorder or similar disorder of the joint.

Myofunctional therapy is not covered. This includes muscle training or in-mouth appliances to correct or control harmful habits.

3.5.33. Medical Treatment of Obesity

Covered expenses include charges made by a **physician**, licensed or certified dietician, nutritionist or **hospital** for the non-surgical treatment of obesity for the following outpatient weight management services:

- a) An initial medical history and physical exam
- b) Diagnostics tests given or ordered during the first exam
- c) **Prescription drugs**

Covered expenses include:

- a) An initial medical history and physical exam
- b) Diagnostic tests given or ordered during the first exam
- c) Outpatient **prescription** drugs included under the *Outpatient prescription drugs* section
- d) One obesity **surgical procedure** within a two-year period, beginning with the date of the first **morbid obesity** surgical procedure, unless a multi-stage procedure is planned
- e) A multi-stage procedure when planned and approved by the plan

- f) Adjustments after an approved lap band procedure, including approved adjustments in an office or outpatient setting

3.5.34. Reconstructive or Cosmetic Surgery and Supplies

Covered expenses include charges made by a **physician, hospital, or surgery center** for reconstructive services and supplies, including:

- a) Surgery needed to improve a significant functional impairment of a body part.
- b) Surgery to correct the result of an accidental **injury**, including subsequent related or staged surgery.
- c) Surgery to correct the result of an **injury** that occurred during a covered surgical procedure provided that the reconstructive surgery occurs no more than 24 months after the original **injury**.

Note: **Injuries** that occur as a result of a medical (non-surgical) treatment are not considered accidental **injuries**, even if unplanned or unexpected.

- a) Surgery to correct a gross anatomical defect present at birth or appearing after birth (but not the result of an **illness or injury**) when the defect results in severe facial disfigurement, or the defect results in significant functional impairment and the surgery is needed to improve function.

Covered expenses include reconstruction of the breast on which a mastectomy was performed, including an implant and areolar reconstruction. Also included is surgery on a healthy breast to make it symmetrical with the reconstructed breast and physical therapy to treat complications of mastectomy, including lymphedema.

3.5.35. Audio Services

Covered expenses include the following audio services:

- a) An otological (ear) examination by a **physician** or surgeon every 24 consecutive months.
- b) An audiological (hearing) examination and evaluation by a certified or licensed audiologist, including a follow up consultation. This includes claims for evaluation and management services.
- c) An electronic hearing aid (monaural or binaural) prescribed as a result of the examination. This includes ear mold(s), hearing aid instrument, initial batteries, cords, and other necessary supplementary equipment as well as warranty and follow-up consultation within 30 days following delivery of the hearing aid. Hearing aids are limited to one in a rolling 36 month period, and are subject to the maximums set forth in [section 2.1, Medical Benefit Schedule](#).
- d) Repairs, servicing or alteration of hearing aid equipment.

You must provide **Aetna** with written certification from the examining **physician** explaining that you are suffering a hearing loss that may be lessened by the use of a hearing aid.

Expenses incurred for a hearing aid within 30 days of termination of the **covered person's** coverage under the **medical plan** will be **covered expenses** under the **medical plan** if during the 30 days before the date coverage terminates:

- a) the **prescription** for the hearing aid was written; and
- b) the hearing aid was ordered.

3.5.36. Medical Foods

Covered expenses include the formulas necessary for the treatment of phenylketonuria, only when administered under the direction of a physician. Formulas must be prescribed by a physician in conjunction with the treatment of the inborn metabolic disease phenylketonuria.

3.5.37. Hinge Health Benefits

3.5.37.1. Hinge Health Services

The Hinge Health Digital Clinic provides you additional care and treatment programs for **musculoskeletal** conditions. Hinge Health services and equipment provided through an approved program of care are not subject to a **deductible, coinsurance, or copay**. The plan covers 100% of the cost for approved services received through Hinge Health. Any medical services for **musculoskeletal** conditions performed by anyone other than a Hinge Health provider are subject to coverage limits and other terms of the **medical plan**.

Areas eligible for treatment through Hinge Health include the neck/upper back, shoulder, elbow, lower back, forearm, hip, wrist, hand, thigh, knee, shin, calf, ankle, and foot. Prior to beginning a program of care, Hinge Health will perform a clinical suitability evaluation.

Hinge Health programs include:

- 1) Prevention – designed to increase education regarding strengthening and stretching exercises and healthy habits.
- 2) Chronic – designed to address long-term back and joint pain.
- 3) Acute – designed to address recent **musculoskeletal** injuries.
- 4) Surgery – designed to support pre- and post-surgery rehabilitation for common **musculoskeletal** surgeries.

Hinge Health programs may include the following services or equipment as appropriate:

- a) Tablet computer
- b) Wearable sensors
- c) ENSO High Frequency Impulse Therapy™ pain management device
- d) Live virtual sessions with a licensed physical therapist

- e) Software guided rehabilitation
- f) 1:1 access to a personalized health coach
- g) Personalized educational content delivered via the Hinge Health software application or website

For applicable Hinge Health programs, members may obtain up to six virtual physical therapy sessions before an in-person healthcare provider or physical therapy care visit is required.

Services and equipment covered in this section are only considered covered services when offered through the Hinge Health program. All other plan exclusions apply.

Visit hingehealth.com/Alaska or call (855) 907-2777 to enroll.

3.5.37.2. Hinge Health Eligibility

Hinge Health's services are limited to AlaskaCare employee health plan members and dependents age 18 or older, who have been approved through a clinical suitability evaluation performed by Hinge Health prior to enrollment in a program of care. Hinge Health's services are only available to members located in the United States.

3.6. Your Prescription Drug Benefits

Covered expenses do not include all **prescription drugs**, medications and supplies. The **medical plan** pays benefits only for **prescription drug** expenses that are **medically necessary**. **Covered expenses** are subject to cost sharing requirements as described in [section 2.2, Prescription Drug Benefit Schedule](#).

3.6.1. Accessing Pharmacies and Benefits

The **medical plan** provides access to covered benefits through a network of **pharmacies**, vendors and suppliers. **OptumRx** has contracted for these **network pharmacies** to provide **prescription drugs** and other supplies to you. You also have the choice to access state licensed **pharmacies** outside of the network for covered services.

Obtaining your benefits through **network pharmacies** has many advantages. Your out-of-pocket costs may vary between **network pharmacies** and out-of- **network pharmacies**. Benefits and cost sharing may also vary by the type of **network pharmacy** where you obtain your **prescription drug** and whether or not you purchase a **non-preferred brand-name drug**, **preferred brand-name drug** or **generic prescription drug**.

3.6.2. Accessing Network Pharmacies and Benefits

You may select any **network pharmacy** from the **OptumRx** Pharmacy Locator Tool. You can access **OptumRx's** online **pharmacy** directory, at

optumrx.com/oe_alskeert/pharmacy-locator for the names and locations of **network pharmacies**. If you cannot locate a **network pharmacy** in your area, call **OptumRx**.

You must present your ID card to the **network pharmacy** every time you get a **prescription** filled to be eligible for network benefits. The **network pharmacy** will calculate your claim online. You will pay the **deductible, copayment or coinsurance**, if any, directly to the **network pharmacy**.

You do not have to complete or submit claim forms. The **network pharmacy** will take care of claim submission.

Optum Specialty Pharmacy is the only **network pharmacy** available to members filling prescriptions for **specialty care drugs**.

3.6.3. Emergency Prescriptions

When you need a **prescription** filled in an **emergency** or urgent care situation, or when you are traveling, you can obtain network benefits by filling your **prescription** at any network retail **pharmacy**. The **network pharmacy** will fill your **prescription** and only charge you the **medical plan's** cost sharing amount. If you access an out-of-**network pharmacy**, you will pay the full cost of the **prescription** and will need to file a claim for reimbursement. You will be reimbursed for your **covered expenses** up to the cost of the **prescription** less the **pharmacy** benefit's cost sharing for network benefits.

3.6.4. Availability of Providers

OptumRx cannot guarantee the availability or continued network participation of a particular **pharmacy**. Either **OptumRx** or any **network pharmacy** may terminate the **provider** contract.

3.6.5. Medical Necessity

To be covered under the **plan, prescription drugs** must be **medically necessary** and clinically appropriate. Determination of medical necessity will be based on recommendations by the federal Food and Drug Administration (FDA), combined with the pharmacy benefit manager's standard coverage policies designed to ensure the medication prescribed is safe and effective. The plan will cover some **prescription drugs** only if prescribed for certain uses, or durations. Certain medications have specific dispensing limitation for quantity, age, gender and maximum dose.

For this reason, some prescription medications may be subject to prior authorization to determine that the requested prescription drug is **medically necessary**. The prior authorization ensures you are getting the most appropriate care in the most appropriate setting. This helps produce improved health outcomes and lower health care costs by reducing duplication, waste, and unnecessary treatments.

3.6.6. Cost Sharing for Prescription Drug Tiers

The **medical plan** provides a four-tier **prescription drug** program. Cost sharing amounts and provisions are described in [section 2.2, Prescription Drug Benefit Schedule](#). Your **copayment** is based on the tier under which your **prescription drug** is categorized:

- a) First Tier: **maintenance generic prescription drug** - You pay the lowest cost for **prescription drugs** in this level.
- b) Second Tier: **generic prescription drug** - You pay a slightly higher cost for **prescription drugs** in this level.
- c) Third Tier: **preferred brand-name drug** – You pay a slightly higher cost for **prescription drugs** in this level.
- d) Fourth Tier: **non-preferred brand-name drug** – You pay the highest cost for **prescription drugs** in this level.

You and your **physician** can search for a drug at AlaskaCare.gov, to verify that it is covered under the **plan**, and to determine what tier it is categorized under and if it is on the **Formulary**. You can also see if there are alternatives that cost less, or which drugs are excluded from coverage. Make sure your **physician** knows that you pay more for third and fourth tier drugs. He or she can consider this before writing a **prescription**.

If you have a medical need for a **non-preferred brand-name drug**, your doctor can ask for a medical exception. If the exception is granted, the drug will be subject to **preferred brand-name drug** cost sharing. Exceptions granted as a result of a medical exception shall be based on individual case by case medical necessity determinations and do not apply or extend to other **covered persons**.

Drugs may be added or removed from the **Formulary** by the **claims administrator** for certain reasons. A **prescription drug** may also be moved from one tier to another. Here are some reasons why:

- a) As **brand-name prescription drugs** lose their patents and generic versions become available, the **brand-name prescription drug** may be covered at a higher out-of-pocket cost while the **generic prescription drug** may be covered at a lower out-of-pocket cost.
- b) The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approves many new **prescription drugs** throughout the year.
- c) Drugs can be withdrawn from the market or may become available without a **prescription**.

The most up-to-date **formulary** information can be found at AlaskaCare.gov.

3.6.7. Cost Sharing for Network Benefits

You share in the cost of your benefits. Cost sharing amounts and provisions are described in [section 2.2, Prescription Drug Benefit Schedule](#). All cost sharing is payable directly to the **network pharmacy** at the time the **prescription** is dispensed.

3.6.8. Drug Copay Assistance Program

If you are prescribed an eligible **specialty care drug**, you may enroll in **OptumRx's** Variable Copay Solution (VCS) program to reduce your **copayment** for that drug. You can enroll in the VCS program when you fill a prescription for an eligible **specialty care drug** with Optum Specialty Pharmacy. Once you are enrolled, **OptumRx** will adjust your **copayment** for VCS-eligible **specialty care drugs** to match the amount of any available discount coupons provided by the drug manufacturer, and then will apply the coupon to reduce your **copayment** for that drug. Any amount paid toward your **prescription drug** expenses by coupons through the VCS program will not count towards your annual **prescription drug out-of-pocket maximum**.

3.6.9. When You Use an Out-of-Network Pharmacy

You can directly access an out-of-network **pharmacy** to obtain covered outpatient **prescription drugs**. You will pay the **pharmacy** for your **prescription drugs** at the time of purchase and submit a claim form to receive reimbursement from the **medical plan**. You are responsible for completing and submitting claim forms for reimbursement of **covered expenses** you paid directly to an **out-of-network pharmacy**. The **medical plan** will reimburse you for a **covered expense** up to the **recognized charge**, less any cost sharing required by you.

3.6.10. Cost Sharing for Out-of-Network Pharmacy Benefits

You share in the cost of your benefits. Cost sharing amounts and provisions are described in [section 2.2, Prescription Drug Benefit Schedule](#). You will be responsible for any applicable **copayment** or **coinsurance** for **covered expenses** that you incur. Your **coinsurance** is based on the **recognized charge**, see [section 16, Definitions](#) – “Recognized Charge”. If the out-of-network **pharmacy** charges more than the **recognized charge**, you will be responsible for any expenses above the **recognized charge**.

3.6.11. Pharmacy Benefit

The **medical plan** covers charges for outpatient **prescription drugs** for the treatment of an **illness** or **injury**, subject to the limitations and maximums set forth in [section 2.2, Prescription Drug Benefit Schedule](#) and the exclusions set forth in [section 3.6.14, Pharmacy Benefit Limitations](#), and [section 3.6.15, Pharmacy Benefit Exclusions](#). **Prescriptions** must be written by a **provider** licensed to prescribe federal legend **prescription drugs**.

Generic prescription drugs may be substituted by your pharmacist for **brand name prescription drugs**. You may minimize your out-of-pocket costs by selecting a **generic prescription drug** when available.

Your **prescription drugs** benefit features OptumRx's premium drug **formulary**, from which certain drugs (or services) are excluded. See AlaskaCare.gov for a list of drugs that are not covered

under the plan. For each drug on the exclusion drug list there are preferred alternatives that are covered by the plan.

Coverage of **prescription drugs** may be subject to the **medical plan's** requirements or limitations. **Prescription drugs** covered by the **medical plan** are subject to drug utilization review by **OptumRx** and/or your **provider** and/or your **network pharmacy**.

Coverage for **prescription drugs** and supplies is limited to the supply limits as described below.

3.6.12. Retail Pharmacy Benefits

Outpatient **prescription drugs** are covered when dispensed by a network retail **pharmacy**. **Copay** applies to each 30-day supply. Each prescription fill is limited to a maximum 90-day supply, as applicable, when filled at a network **pharmacy**.

3.6.13. Home Delivery Pharmacy

Outpatient **prescription drugs** are covered when dispensed by a network **home delivery pharmacy**. Each **prescription** fill is limited to a maximum 90-day supply when filled at a network **home delivery pharmacy**. **Prescriptions** for more than a 90-day supply are not eligible for coverage when dispensed by a network **home delivery pharmacy**.

The **medical plan** will not cover outpatient **prescription drugs** received through an out-of-network **home delivery pharmacy**.

3.6.14. Other Covered Expenses

The following **prescription drugs**, medications and supplies are also **covered expenses** under the **medical plan**:

- a) **Self-injectable prescription medications**. Injectable medication that can be self-administered by the patient, and are not administered during an inpatient stay, in a provider's office or by a **health care professional**.
- b) **Off-Label Use**. FDA approved **prescription drugs** may be covered when the off-label use of the drug has not been approved by the FDA for that indication. The drug must be:
 - recognized for treatment of the indication in one of the standard compendia (the United States Pharmacopoeia Drug Information, the American Medical Association Drug Evaluations or the American Hospital Formulary Service Drug Information); or
 - the safety and effectiveness of use for this indication has been adequately demonstrated by at least one study published in a nationally recognized peer review journal.

Coverage of off-label use of these drugs may be subject to the **medical plan's** requirements or limitations.

c) **Diabetic Supplies.** The following diabetic supplies upon **prescription** by a **physician**:

- Diabetic needles and syringes
- Test strips for glucose monitoring and/or visual reading
- Diabetic test agents
- Lancets/lancing devices
- Alcohol swabs

d) **Preventive Care Drugs and Supplements**

Covered expenses include preventive care drugs and supplements (including over-the-counter drugs and supplements) obtained at a network **pharmacy**. They will be covered at 100%, without a **copayment** or **coinsurance**, when they are:

- prescribed by a physician;
- obtained at a network **pharmacy**; and
- submitted to a pharmacist for processing.

The preventive care drugs and supplements covered under this plan include, but may not be limited to:

- Aspirin: Benefits are available to adults.
- Oral Fluoride Supplements: Benefits are available to **children** whose primary water source is deficient in fluoride.
- Folic Acid Supplements: Benefits are available to adult females planning to become pregnant or capable of pregnancy.
- Iron Supplements: Benefits are available to **children** without symptoms of iron deficiency. Coverage is limited to **children** who are at increased risk for iron deficiency anemia.
- Vitamin D Supplements: Benefits are available to adults to promote calcium absorption and bone growth in their bodies.
- Risk-Reducing Breast Cancer Prescription Drugs: **Covered expenses** include charges incurred for **generic prescription drugs** prescribed by a physician for a woman who is at increased risk for breast cancer and is at low risk for adverse medication side effects.
- FDA-approved **prescription drugs** and over-the-counter (OTC) drugs to help stop the use of tobacco products.

Coverage of preventive care drugs and supplements will be subject to any sex, age, medical condition, family history, and frequency guidelines in the recommendations of the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force.

e) **Contraceptives**

Covered expenses include charges made by a network **pharmacy** for the following contraceptive methods when prescribed by a health care provider and the prescription is submitted to the pharmacist for processing:

- Female oral and injectable contraceptives that are **generic prescription drugs** and brand-name **prescription drugs**.
- Female contraceptive devices.
- FDA-approved brand-name **emergency** contraceptives (for women) when obtained at a network **pharmacy**.
- FDA-approved female generic over-the-counter (OTC) contraceptives.

The plan does not cover all contraceptives. A current listing of contraceptives that are covered under the plan is available from the **claims administrator** and can be found by calling the toll-free number on the back of your ID card or [AlaskaCare.gov](https://www.alaskacare.gov).

f) **Cost Sharing Waiver for Prescription Drug Contraceptives**

Contraceptives are covered at 100% without a **copayment** or **coinsurance** if they are:

- Female generic contraceptive **prescription drugs** or devices;
- FDA-approved female generic **emergency** contraceptives, when obtained at a network **pharmacy**.

With respect to out-of-network **pharmacy** contraceptive **prescription drugs** or devices, the per **coinsurance** will apply.

The **copayment** and **coinsurance** apply to contraceptive **prescription drugs** or devices that have a generic equivalent **prescription drug** or **generic alternative prescription drug** available within the same therapeutic drug class unless you are granted a medical exception, and the **prescription drugs** or devices are:

- brand-name **prescription drugs** and brand-name devices; or
- FDA-approved female brand-name **emergency** contraceptives when obtained at a network **pharmacy**.

3.6.15. Pharmacy Benefit Limitations

- a) A **network pharmacy** may refuse to fill a **prescription** order or refill when in the professional judgment of the pharmacist the **prescription** should not be filled.
- b) The **medical plan** will not cover expenses for any **prescription drug** for which the actual charge to you is less than the required **copayment** or **deductible**, or for any **prescription drug** for which no charge is made to you.
- c) You will be charged the out-of-network **prescription drug** cost sharing for **prescription drugs** recently approved by the FDA, but which have not yet been reviewed by the **OptumRx Health Pharmacy Management Department** and Therapeutics Committee.
- d) **OptumRx** has the right to review all requests for **prescription drug** reimbursement and in its sole discretion make reimbursement determinations subject to [section 8.14, If a Claim Is Denied](#).
- e) The number of **copayments** and/or **deductibles** you are responsible for per vial of Depo-Provera, an injectable contraceptive, or similar type contraceptive dispensed for more than a 30-day supply, will be based on the 90-day supply level. Coverage is limited to a maximum of 5 vials per **benefit year**.

3.6.16. Pharmacy Benefit Exclusions

Not every health care service or supply is covered by the **medical plan**, even if prescribed, recommended, or approved by your **provider**. The **medical plan** covers only those services and supplies that are **medically necessary** and included in [section 3.5, Covered Medical Expenses](#), or [section 3.6, Your Prescription Drug Benefits](#). Charges made for the following are not covered except to the extent listed under [section 3.5, Covered Medical Expenses](#), [section 3.6, Your Prescription Drug Benefits](#).

The following **prescription drug** exclusions are in addition to the exclusions listed under [section 3.7, Medical Benefit Exclusions](#).

- a) Administration or injection of any drug, except as provided under [section 3.5.5.5, Preventive Care Immunizations](#)
- b) Non-**medically necessary** services, including but not limited to **prescription drugs** and supplies which are not **medically necessary**, as determined by **OptumRx**, for the treatment of **illness, injury**, restoration of physiological functions, or covered preventive services. This applies even if they are prescribed, recommended or approved by your **physician** or **dentist**.
- c) Any drugs or medications listed on the **OptumRx** current year *Exclusion Drug List*.
- d) Biological sera, blood, blood plasma, blood products or substitutes or any other blood products, with the exception of hemophilia and hereditary angioedema products.
- e) Over-the-counter contraceptive supplies except as provided under section 3.6.14, Other Covered Expenses - Preventive Care Drugs and Supplements, including but not limited to:
 - condoms
 - contraceptive foams
 - jellies
 - ointments
 - services associated with the prescribing, monitoring and/or administration of contraceptives.
- f) Compounded medications that do not contain at least one prescription ingredient that is FDA approved for medical use in the United States. This includes compounded medications formulated from any drug coded as over-the-counter, and any drugs coded as a pharmaceutical aid, such as bulk chemical.
- g) Drugs with active ingredients that do not have a valid NDC identifier number, or drugs prescribed and obtained outside the United States that do not have the same active ingredient as a drug with a valid NDC identifier number.
- h) **Cosmetic** drugs, medications or preparations used for **cosmetic** purposes or to promote hair growth, including but not limited to:
 - health and beauty aids
 - chemical peels

- dermabrasion treatments
 - bleaching creams
 - ointments or other treatments or supplies, to remove tattoos, scars or to alter the appearance or texture of the skin.
- i) Drugs given or entirely consumed at the time and place they are prescribed and dispensed.
- j) Drugs or supplies used for the treatment of erectile dysfunction, impotence, or sexual dysfunction or inadequacy (regardless of cause), in oral, injectable and topical forms or any other form used internally or externally (including but not limited to gels, creams, ointments and patches). Any **prescription drug** in oral, topical or any other form that is in a similar or identical class, has a similar or identical mode of action or exhibits similar or identical outcomes, including but not limited to:
- Sildenafil citrate
 - Phentolamine
 - Apomorphine
 - Alprostadil
 - Any other **prescription drug** that is in a similar or identical class or has a similar or identical mode of action or exhibits similar or identical outcomes.
- k) Drugs which do not, by federal or state law, need a **prescription** order (*i.e.* over-the-counter drugs), even if a **prescription** is written.
- l) Drugs given by, or while the person is an inpatient in, any health care **facility**, or for any drugs provided on an outpatient basis in any such institution to the extent benefits are payable for it.
- m) Drugs used primarily for the treatment of **infertility**, or for or related to artificial insemination, in vitro fertilization, or embryo transfer procedures.
- n) Drugs used for the purpose of weight gain or weight loss, except as provided in section [3.5.32 Medical Treatment of Obesity](#), including but not limited to:
- stimulants
 - preparations
 - foods or diet supplements
 - dietary regimens and supplements
 - food or food supplements
 - appetite suppressants
 - other medications
- o) Drugs used for the treatment of obesity, except as provided in section [3.5.32 Medical Treatment of Obesity](#).
- p) All drugs or medications in a therapeutic drug class if one of the drugs in that therapeutic drug class is not a **prescription drug**.
- q) **Durable medical equipment**, monitors or other equipment, except for blood glucose monitors and diabetes meters.

- r) **Experimental or investigational** drugs or devices. This exclusion will not apply with respect to drugs that:
- have been granted treatment investigational new drug (IND), or group c/treatment IND status; or
 - are being studied at the Phase III level in a national clinical trial sponsored by the National Cancer Institute (or being studied at a Phase III level in a clinical trial for treatment of a mental health or substance use disorder); and
- OptumRx** determines, based on available scientific evidence, are effective or show promise of being effective for the **illness**.
- s) Any treatment, device, drug, or supply to alter the body's genes, genetic make-up, or the expression of the body's genes, except for the treatment of a life threatening medical condition.
- t) Implantable drugs and associated devices, except as provided in section 3.5.5 [Preventive Care and Screening Services](#).
- u) Injectables:
- Any charges for the administration or injection of **prescription drugs, except vaccines**, or injectable insulin and other injectable drugs covered by the medical benefit portion of the **medical plan**.
 - Needles and syringes, except when associated with the administration of a prescribed drugs.
- v) Insulin pumps or tubing or other ancillary equipment and supplies for insulin pumps.
- w) **Prescription drugs** for which there is an over-the-counter product which has the same active ingredient and strength, even if a **prescription** is written.
- x) **Prescription drug** or medication that is therapeutically equivalent or therapeutically alternative to an over-the-counter (OTC) product.
- y) **Prescription drugs**, medications, injectables or supplies provided through a third-party vendor contract.
- z) **Prescription** orders filled prior to the effective date or after the termination date of coverage under the **medical plan**.
- aa) Prophylactic drugs for travel.
- bb) Refills in excess of the amount specified by the **prescription** order. Before recognizing charges, **OptumRx** may require a new **prescription** or evidence as to need, if a **prescription** or refill appears excessive under accepted medical practice standards.
- cc) Refills dispensed more than one year from the date the latest **prescription** order was written, or as otherwise permitted by applicable law of the jurisdiction in which the drug is dispensed.
- dd) Replacement of lost or stolen **prescriptions**.
- ee) Drugs, services and supplies provided in connection with treatment of an occupational **injury** or occupational **illness**.

- ff) Drugs or preparations, devices and supplies to enhance strength, physical condition, endurance or physical performance, including performance enhancing steroids.
 - gg) Any drug or supply to treat sexual dysfunction (regardless of cause), enhance sexual performance or increase sexual desire, including drugs, implants, devices or preparations to correct or enhance erectile function, enhance sensitivity, or change the shape or appearance of a sex organ (except as specifically provided).
 - hh) Supplies, devices or equipment of any type.
 - ii) Test agents except diabetic test agents.
- jj) Products that meet all the following criteria are considered medical treatments and are not covered through the prescription drug benefit:
- o designated as an orphan drug or exhibits Gene Therapy technology; and
 - o annual drug cost is over \$500,000; and
 - o is not self-administered; and
 - o the first dose may be administered in an inpatient setting.

3.7. Medical Plan Exclusions

Not every medical service or supply is covered by the **medical plan**, even if prescribed, recommended, or approved by your **provider**. The **medical plan** covers only those services and supplies that are **medically necessary** and included under [section 3.5, Covered Medical Expenses](#), or [section 3.6, Your Prescription Drug Benefits](#). The exclusions listed below apply to all coverage under the **medical plan**. Additional exclusions apply to specific **prescription drug** coverage under [section 3.6.15, Pharmacy Benefit Limitations](#) and [section 3.6.16, Pharmacy Benefit Exclusions](#).

The **medical plan** does not cover any condition, ailment, or **injury** for which you receive:

1. benefits from your employer’s liability plan, federal or state workers’ compensation, or similar law; or
2. benefits available under any Federal or state act (except services received from Alaska Native Health), even though you waive rights to those benefits.

Charges made for the following are **not** covered except to the extent listed under [section 3.5, Covered Medical Expenses](#).

1. Acupressure.
2. Specific non-standard allergy services and supplies, including but not limited to, skin titration (Rinkel method), cytotoxicity testing (Bryan’s Test), treatment of non-specific candida sensitivity, and urine auto-injections.
3. Any charges in excess of the benefit, dollar, day, visit or supply limits stated in the **medical plan**.
4. Any non-**emergency** charges incurred outside of the United States if you traveled to such location to obtain medical services, **prescription drugs**, or supplies, even if otherwise covered under the **medical plan**. This also includes **prescription drugs** or supplies if:

- a. such **prescription drugs** or supplies are unavailable or illegal in the United States; or
 - b. the purchase of such **prescription drugs** or supplies outside the United States is considered illegal.
5. Behavioral health services:
- a. Treatment of a covered health care **provider** who specializes in the mental health care field and who receives treatment as a part of their training in that field (unless such treatment is Medically Necessary and covered under the mental health benefits of the Plan).
 - b. Treatment of impulse control disorders such as pathological gambling, kleptomania, pedophilia, caffeine use.
 - c. Treatment of antisocial personality disorder.
 - d. Treatment in wilderness programs or other similar programs. **Exception:** Medically Necessary services or supplies received in this setting (such as prescription drugs or therapy by a covered healthcare practitioner may be covered).
 - e. Treatment of intellectual disability, defects, and deficiencies.
6. Charges for a service or supply furnished by a **network provider** in excess of the **negotiated charge**.
7. Charges for a service of supply furnished by an out-of-**network provider** or for **other health care** in excess of the **recognized charge**.
8. Charges submitted for services that are not rendered or rendered to a person not eligible for coverage under the **medical plan**.
9. Charges submitted for services by an unlicensed **hospital, physician** or other **provider** or not within the scope of the **provider's** license.
10. **Cosmetic** services and plastic surgery except as may be provided under [section 14.10, Statement of Rights Under the Women's Health and Cancer Rights Act of 1998](#); any treatment, surgery (**cosmetic** or plastic), service or supply to alter, improve or enhance the shape or appearance of the body whether or not for psychological or emotional reasons including:
- a. Face lifts, body lifts, tummy tucks, liposuctions, removal of excess skin, removal or reduction of non-malignant moles, blemishes, varicose veins, **cosmetic** eyelid surgery, and other surgical procedures.
 - b. Procedures to remove healthy cartilage or bone from the nose (or other part of the body).
 - c. Chemical peels, dermabrasion, laser or light treatments, bleaching, creams, ointments or other treatments or supplies to alter the appearance or texture of the skin.

- d. Insertion or removal of any implant that alters the appearance of the body (such as breast or chin implants); except removal of an implant will be covered when **medically necessary**.
 - e. Removal of tattoos (except for tattoos applied to assist in covered medical treatments, such as markers for radiation therapy).
 - f. Repair of piercings and other voluntary body modifications, including removal of injected or implanted substances or devices.
 - g. Surgery to correct Gynecomastia.
 - h. Breast augmentation.
 - i. Otoplasty.
11. Counseling services and treatment by a marriage, religious, family, career, social adjustment, pastoral, or financial counselor. However, Medically Necessary individual counseling by a licensed marriage counselor for each spouse (for their own diagnosis) may be covered under the behavioral health benefits of the Plan.
12. Court ordered services, including those required as a condition of parole or release (unless such services are otherwise Medically Necessary and a covered benefit of the Plan).
- 13. Custodial care.**
14. Dental services covered under the **dental plan**.
15. Drugs, medications and supplies:
- a. Over-the-counter drugs, biological or chemical preparations and supplies that may be obtained without a **prescription**, including vitamins.
 - b. Any services related to the dispensing, injection or application of a drug.
 - c. Any **prescription drug** purchased illegally outside the United States, even if otherwise covered under the **medical plan** within the United States.
 - d. Immunizations that are not considered preventive care such as those required due to your employment or travel.
 - e. Needles, syringes and other injectable aids, except as covered for diabetic supplies.
 - f. Drugs related to the treatment of non-**covered expenses**.
 - g. Performance enhancing steroids.
 - h. Injectable drugs if an alternative oral drug is available.
 - i. Outpatient **prescription drugs**.
 - j. **Self-injectable drugs** and medications.
 - k. Any expenses for **prescription drugs**, and supplies covered under the **pharmacy** benefit portion of the **medical plan**.
 - l. Charges for any **prescription drug** for the treatment of erectile dysfunction, impotence, or sexual dysfunction or inadequacy (regardless of cause).
16. Educational services:
- a. Education, training and **room and board** while confined to an institution which is primarily a school or other institution for training.

- b. Any services or supplies related to education, training or retraining services or testing, including special education, remedial education, job training and job hardening programs.
 - c. Evaluation or treatment of learning disabilities, minimal brain dysfunction, developmental, learning and communication disorders, behavioral disorders , training or cognitive rehabilitation, regardless of the underlying cause.
 - d. Services, treatment, and educational testing and training related to behavioral (conduct) problems, learning disabilities and delays in developing skills.
 - e. Services or supplies which any school system is legally required to provide.
17. Any health examinations required:
- a. By a third party, including examinations and treatments required to obtain or maintain employment, or which an employer is required to provide under a labor agreement or by any law of a government.
 - b. For securing insurance, school admissions or professional or other licenses, to travel, or to attend a school, camp, or sporting event or participate in a sport or other recreational activity.
18. Any special medical reports not directly related to treatment except when provided as part of a covered service.
19. **Experimental or investigational** drugs, devices, treatments or procedures.
20. **Facility** charges for care services or supplies provided in:
- a. Rest homes
 - b. Assisted living facilities
 - c. Similar institutions serving as an individual’s primary residence or providing primarily **custodial care** or rest care
 - d. Health resorts
 - e. Spas, sanitariums
 - f. Infirmaries at schools, colleges, or camps
21. Any food item, including infant formulas, nutritional supplements, vitamins, including **prescription** vitamins, medical foods and other nutritional items, even if it is the sole source of nutrition, unless necessary for the treatment of phenylketonuria as provided for in section [3.5.35 Medical Foods](#).
22. Any services, supplies, or devices to improve comfort or appearance of toes, feet or ankles, including but not limited to:
- a. Treatment of calluses, bunions, toenails, hammertoes, subluxations, fallen arches, weak feet, chronic foot pain or conditions caused by routine activities such as walking, running, working or wearing shoes.
 - b. Shoes (including orthopedic shoes), foot orthotics, arch supports, shoe inserts, ankle braces, guards, protectors, creams, ointments and other equipment, devices and supplies, even if required following a covered treatment of an **illness** or **injury**.

23. Any treatment, device, drug, service or supply (including surgical procedures, devices to stimulate growth and growth hormones), solely to increase or decrease height or alter the rate of growth.
24. Any addition or alteration to a home, workplace or other environment, or vehicle and any related equipment or device, such as:
 - a. Purchase or rental of exercise equipment, air purifiers, central or unit air conditioners, water purifiers, waterbeds, and swimming pools.
 - b. Exercise and training devices, whirlpools, portable whirlpool pumps, sauna baths, or massage devices.
 - c. Equipment or supplies to aid sleeping or sitting, including non-**hospital** electric and air beds, water beds, pillows, sheets, blankets, warming or cooling devices, bed tables and reclining chairs.
 - d. Equipment installed in your home, workplace or other environment, including stair-glides, elevators, wheelchair ramps, or equipment to alter air quality, humidity or temperature.
 - e. Other additions or alterations to your home, workplace or other environment, including room additions, changes in cabinets, countertops, doorways, lighting, wiring, furniture, communication aids, wireless alert systems, or home monitoring.
 - f. Services and supplies furnished mainly to provide a surrounding free from exposure that can worsen your **illness** or **injury**.
 - g. Removal from your home, worksite or other environment of carpeting, hypo-allergenic pillows, mattresses, paint, mold, asbestos, fiberglass, dust, pet dander, pests or other potential sources of allergies or **illness**.
 - h. Transportation devices, including stair-climbing wheelchairs, personal transporters, bicycles, automobiles, vans or trucks, or alterations to any vehicle or transportation device.
25. Hearing services that do not meet professional standards; hearing exams given during a **stay** in a **hospital** or other **facility**; replacement parts or repairs for a hearing aid; and any tests, appliances and devices for the improvement of hearing (including hearing aids and amplifiers); or to enhance other forms of communication to compensate for hearing loss or devices that simulate speech.
26. Any services and supplies related to births occurring in the home or in a place not licensed to perform deliveries.
27. Any services, treatments, procedures, or supplies that are designed to enhance fertility or the likelihood of conception, including but not limited to:
 - a. Drugs related to the treatment of non-covered benefits.
 - b. Injectable **infertility** medications including but not limited to, menotropins, hCG, GnRH agonists, and IVIG.
 - c. Artificial insemination.

- d. Any advanced reproductive technology (ART) procedures or services related to such procedures including but not limited to, in vitro fertilization (IVF), gamete intra-fallopian transfer (GIFT), zygote intra-fallopian transfer (ZIFT), and intra-cytoplasmic sperm injection (ICSI).
 - e. Artificial insemination for covered females attempting to become pregnant who are not **infertile**.
 - f. **Infertility** services for couples in which one of the partners has had a previous sterilization procedure, with or without surgical reversal.
 - g. Procedures, services and supplies to reverse voluntary sterilization.
 - h. **Infertility** services for females with FSH levels 19 or greater mIU/ml on day three of the menstrual cycle.
 - i. The purchase of donor sperm and any charges for the storage of sperm; the purchase of donor eggs and any charges associated with care of the donor required for donor egg retrievals or transfers or gestational carriers or surrogacy; donor egg retrieval or fees associated with donor egg programs, including but not limited to, fees for laboratory tests.
 - j. Charges associated with cryopreservation or storage of cryopreserved eggs and embryos (*e.g.*, office, **hospital**, ultrasounds, laboratory tests, etc.); any charges associated with a frozen embryo or egg transfer, including but not limited to thawing charges.
 - k. Home ovulation prediction kits or home pregnancy tests.
 - l. Any charges associated with care required to obtain ART Services (*e.g.*, office, **hospital**, ultrasounds, laboratory tests), and any charges associated with obtaining sperm for any ART procedures.
 - m. Ovulation induction and intrauterine insemination services if you are not **infertile**.
28. **Maintenance care.**
29. Payment for that portion of the charge for which Medicare or another party is the primary payer.
30. Miscellaneous charges for services or supplies including:
- a. Annual or other charges to be in a **physician's** practice.
 - b. Charges to have preferred access to a **physician's** services such as boutique or concierge **physician** practices.
 - c. Cancelled or missed appointment charges or charges to complete claim forms.
 - d. Charges the recipient has no legal obligation to pay.
 - e. Charges that would not be made if the recipient did not have coverage (to the extent exclusion is permitted by law) including:
 - Care in charitable institutions
 - Care for conditions related to current or previous military service
 - Care while in the custody of a governmental authority
 - Any care a public **hospital** or other **facility** is required to provide

- Any care in a **hospital** or other **facility** owned or operated by any federal, state or other governmental entity, except to the extent coverage is required by applicable laws.
31. Nursing and home health aide services provided outside of the home (such as in conjunction with school, vacation, work, or recreational activities).
 32. Non-**medically necessary** services, including but not limited to, those treatments, services, **prescription drugs** and supplies which are not **medically necessary**, as determined by **Aetna**, for the diagnosis and treatment of **illness, injury**, restoration of physiological functions, or covered preventive services. This applies even if they are prescribed, recommended or approved by your **physician** or **dentist**.
 33. Any service or supply primarily for your convenience and personal comfort or that of a third party, including: telephone, television, internet, barber or beauty service or other guest services; housekeeping, cooking, cleaning, shopping, monitoring, security or other home services; and travel, transportation, or living expenses, rest cures, recreational or diversional therapy.
 34. Private duty nursing during your **stay** in a **hospital**, and outpatient private duty nursing services.
 35. Services provided by a **spouse**, parent, **child**, brother, sister, in-law, or any household member.
 36. Services of a resident **physician** or intern rendered in that capacity.
 37. Services provided where there is no evidence of pathology, dysfunction, or disease, except as specifically provided in connection with covered routine care and cancer screenings.
 38. Any treatment, drug, service or supply to treat sexual dysfunction (regardless of cause), enhance sexual performance or increase sexual desire, including:
 - a. Surgery, drugs, implants, devices or preparations to correct or enhance erectile function, enhance sensitivity, or alter the shape or appearance of a sex organ (except as specifically provided).
 - b. Sex therapy, sex counseling, marriage counseling or other counseling or advisory services. Although marriage counseling is generally not covered, a licensed marriage counselor may provide medically necessary individual therapy for a covered diagnosis.
 39. Services, including those related to pregnancy, rendered before the effective date or after the termination of coverage, unless coverage is continued under [section 9, Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act \(COBRA\) and Extended Health Coverage](#).
 40. Services that are not covered under the **medical plan**.
 41. Services and supplies provided in connection with treatment or care that is not covered under the **medical plan**.
 42. Speech therapy for treatment of delays in speech development. For example, the **medical plan** does not cover therapy when it is used to improve speech skills that have not fully

developed. This exclusion does not apply to Medically Necessary treatment of autism (or other mental health diagnosis).

43. Services, devices and supplies to enhance strength, physical condition, endurance or physical performance, including:
 - a. Exercise equipment, memberships in health or fitness clubs, training, advice, or coaching.
 - b. Drugs or preparations to enhance strength, performance, or endurance.
 - c. Treatments, services and supplies to treat **illnesses, injuries** or disabilities related to the use of performance-enhancing drugs or preparations.
44. Any of the following treatments or procedures:
 - a. Aromatherapy
 - b. Biofeedback and bioenergetic therapy
 - c. Carbon dioxide therapy
 - d. Chelation therapy (except for heavy metal poisoning)
 - e. Educational therapy
 - f. Gastric irrigation
 - g. Hair analysis
 - h. Hyperbaric therapy, except for the treatment of decompression or to promote healing of wounds
 - i. Hypnosis, and hypnotherapy, except when performed by a **physician** as a form of anesthesia in connection with covered surgery, or in connection with medically necessary treatment of mental illness or substance use disorder.
 - j. Massage therapy except as provided for in section [3.5.16 Massage Therapy](#)
 - k. Megavitamin therapy
 - l. Primal therapy
 - m. Psychodrama
 - n. Purging
 - o. Recreational therapy
 - p. Rolfing
 - q. Sensory or auditory integration therapy
 - r. Sleep therapy
 - s. Thermograms and thermography
45. The following charges related to transplant coverage:
 - a. Outpatient drugs including bio-medicals and immunosuppressants not expressly related to an outpatient transplant occurrence.
 - b. Services and supplies furnished to a donor when recipient is not a **covered person**.
 - c. Home infusion therapy after the transplant occurrence.
 - d. Harvesting and/or storage of organs, without the expectation of immediate transplantation for an existing **illness**.

- e. Harvesting and/or storage of bone marrow, tissue or stem cells without the expectation of transplantation within 12 months for an existing **illness**.
 - f. Cornea (corneal graft with amniotic membrane) or cartilage (autologous chondrocyte or autologous osteochondral mosaicplasty) transplants, unless otherwise **precertified** by **Aetna**.
46. Transportation costs, including **ambulance** services, for routine transportation to receive outpatient or inpatient services.
47. Vision services covered under the **vision plan**.
48. Aetna Institutes GCIT program **covered services** received from non GCIT-designated facilities and providers, including providers who are otherwise part of the network are not covered.
49. Any **illness** or **injury** related to employment or self-employment including any **illness** or **injury** that arises out of (or in the course of) any work for pay or profit unless no other source of coverage or reimbursement is available to you for the services or supplies. Sources of coverage or reimbursement may include your employer, workers' compensation, or an occupational **illness** or similar program under local, state or Federal law. A source of coverage or reimbursement will be considered available to you even if you waived your right to payment from that source. If you are also covered under a workers' compensation law or similar law and submit proof that you are not covered for a particular **illness** or **injury** under such law, that **illness** or **injury** will be considered "non-occupational" regardless of cause.
50. Spinal disorders, including care in connection with the detection and correction by manual or mechanical means of structural imbalance, distortion or dislocation in the human body or other physical treatment of any condition caused by or related to biomechanical or nerve conduction disorders of the spine, including manipulation of the spine treatment.
51. Any of the following obesity surgery and services:
- a. Liposuction, banding, gastric stapling, gastric by-pass and other forms of bariatric surgery; surgical procedures, medical treatments, weight control/loss programs and other services and supplies that are primarily intended to treat, or are related to the treatment of obesity, including morbid obesity.
 - b. Drugs, stimulants, preparations, foods or diet supplements, dietary regimens and supplements, food or food supplements, appetite suppressants and other medications.
 - c. Counseling (except as otherwise covered under the Affordable Care Act), coaching, training, hypnosis or other forms of therapy. **Exception:** Medically Necessary counseling for an eating disorder may be covered under the behavioral health benefits of the Plan.
 - d. Exercise programs, exercise equipment, membership to health or fitness clubs, recreational therapy or other forms of activity or activity enhancement.

- e. Weight management treatment (except as otherwise covered under the Affordable Care Act). In addition, Medically Necessary counseling for an eating disorder may be covered under the behavioral health benefits of the Plan.
 - f. Drugs intended to decrease or increase body weight, control weight or treat obesity except as described in the booklet.
52. Illegal acts, riot or rebellion, including services and supplies for treatment of an **injury** or condition caused by or arising out of active **covered person's** voluntary participation in a riot, armed invasion or aggression or rebellion or arising directly from an illegal act.

3.8. Individual Case Management

If you have an **injury** or **illness** for which care or treatment may be necessary for some time, the **medical plan** provides for alternate means of care through a voluntary individual case management (ICM). For example, if you are facing an extended period of care or treatment, this may be provided in a **skilled nursing facility** or in your home. These settings offer cost savings as well as other advantages to you and your family.

When reviewing claims for the ICM program, **Aetna** always works with you, your family, and your **physician** so that you receive close, personal attention. **Aetna** identifies and evaluates potential claims for ICM, always keeping in mind that alternative care must result in savings without detracting from the quality of care.

Through ICM, **Aetna** can consider recommendations involving expenses usually not covered for reimbursement. This includes suggestions to use alternative medical management techniques, procedures, or suggestions for cost-effective use of existing **medical plan** provisions such as home health care and **skilled nursing facilities**.

Examples of conditions that may qualify for ICM include:

- a) Spinal cord **injuries** with paralysis
- b) High-risk infants undergoing neonatal care
- c) Traumatic brain **injury** resulting from an **accident**
- d) Severe burns
- e) Multiple fractures
- f) Stroke
- g) Any confinement exceeding 30 days
- h) **Illness** or **injury** requiring substantial medical resources over a long period of time or those where another cost-effective alternative may be implemented (including a disability resulting from a mental health diagnosis or a substance use disorder diagnosis).

If you have questions regarding ICM and its possible application to you, call **Aetna**. All parties must approve alternate care before it is provided.

4. DENTAL PLAN

4.1. Introduction

There are two options available under the **dental plan**: preventive and standard. The **coinsurance** amount is different with each option. See [section 2.3, Dental Benefit Schedule](#), for details about how these items differ between the options. You elect which option under the **dental plan** you want for you and your **dependents**.

4.2. How Dental Benefits Are Paid

4.2.1. Deductible

Each **covered person** must meet the annual individual **deductible** before the **dental plan** begins to pay benefits for that **covered person**. The **deductible** is waived for Class I preventive services under the standard and economy plan. See [section 2.3, Dental Benefit Schedule](#).

4.2.2. Coinsurance

After you satisfy the annual individual **deductible**, the **dental plan** pays the **coinsurance** amount that applies to you for Class II restorative services and Class III prosthetic services depending on the dental option in which you are enrolled for most **covered expenses**. See [section 2.3, Dental Benefit Schedule](#).

4.2.3. Network and Out-of-Network Coverage

You can directly access any network or out-of-network **dentist** or **dental care provider** for covered services and supplies under the **dental plan**. The **dental plan** pays differently when services and supplies are obtained through **network providers** and **out-of-network providers**. **Network providers** have contracted with **Delta Dental** either directly or through a third party to provide services and supplies under the **dental plan**. **Network providers** are identified in **Delta Dental's** directory, which can be found online at deltadentalak.com.

The **dental plan** provides access to covered benefits through a broad network of health care **providers** and facilities. The **dental plan** is designed to lower your out-of-pocket costs when you use **network providers** for **covered expenses**. **Network providers** have agreed to accept a **negotiated charge** from the **dental plan**. Your **coinsurance** under the **dental plan** will be based on a **negotiated charge** between the **dentist** or **dental care provider** and **Delta Dental**, and you will not have to pay any amount above the **negotiated charge**.

You also have the choice to access licensed **dentists** and **dental care providers** outside the network for covered services and supplies. Your out-of-pocket costs will generally be higher when you use **out-of-network providers** because the **coinsurance** that you are required to pay is usually higher when you utilize **out-of-network providers**. **Out-of-network providers** have not agreed to a **negotiated charge** with **Delta Dental** and may balance bill you for charges over the **recognized charge** that the **dental plan** pays.

4.2.4. Availability of Providers

Delta Dental cannot guarantee the availability or continued network participation of a particular dentist or dental care provider. Either Delta Dental or any network provider may terminate the provider contract.

4.2.5. Recognized Charge

The covered expense is the part of a charge which is the recognized charge. If a charge exceeds the recognized charge, the amount above the recognized charge is not covered by the dental plan and is your responsibility to pay.

4.2.6. Annual Maximum

The dental plan pays covered expenses up to an annual individual maximum for each covered person. Class I Preventive Services, as defined in [section 4.3.1.2, Preventive Services and Limitations](#) are exempt from the annual benefit maximums. See [section 2.3, Dental Benefit Schedule](#).

4.3. Covered Dental Services

The preventive plan covers Class I preventive, Class II restorative, and Class III prosthetic services. The standard plan covers Class I preventive, Class II restorative, and Class III prosthetic services, as well as orthodontic services. This section describes the services covered in each class when performed by a dentist or dental care provider and when determined to be dentally necessary.

4.3.1. Class I Preventive Services

Covered expenses are paid at 100% of the recognized charge.

4.3.1.1. Diagnostic Services and Limitations

a) Services:

- Examination.
- Intra-oral x-rays to assist in determining required dental treatment.

b) Limitations:

- Periodic (routine) or comprehensive examinations or consultations are covered up to two times in any benefit year.
- Complete series x-rays or a panoramic film is covered once in any 5-year period.
- Supplementary bitewing x-rays are covered once in any benefit year.
- Separate charges for review of a proposed treatment plan or for diagnostic aids such as study models and certain lab tests are not covered.
- Only the following x-rays are covered by the dental plan: complete series or panoramic, periapical, occlusal, and bitewing.

4.3.1.2. Preventive Services and Limitations

a) Services:

- **Prophylaxis** (cleanings).
- **Periodontal maintenance**.
- Topical application of fluoride.
- Sealants.
- Space maintainers.
- Interim caries arresting medicament application.

b) Limitations:

- **Prophylaxis** (cleaning) or **periodontal maintenance** is covered up to two times in any **benefit year**. Additional cleaning benefits may be available if **medically necessary** or **dentally necessary** and when precertified by **Delta Dental**. Additional cleaning benefits are available for **covered persons** with diabetes and **covered persons** in their third trimester of pregnancy under the **dental plan's** Oral Health, Total Health program (see [section 4.4, Oral Health, Total Health Program and Benefits](#)).
- **Covered persons** diagnosed with periodontal disease are eligible for a total of up to four cleanings per **benefit year**.
- Topical application of fluoride is covered up to two times in any **benefit year** for **covered persons** age 18 and under. For **covered persons** age 19 and over, topical application of fluoride is covered up to two times in any **benefit year** if there is recent history of periodontal surgery or high risk of decay due to medical disease or chemotherapy or similar type of treatment (poor diet or oral hygiene does not constitute a medical disease).
- Sealant benefits are limited to the unrestored, occlusal surfaces of permanent molars. Benefits will be limited to one sealant per tooth, during any 5-year period.
- Space maintainers are limited to once per space. Space maintainers for primary **anterior** teeth, missing permanent teeth or for **covered persons** age 14 or over are not covered.
- Interim caries arresting medicament application is limited to twice per tooth per **benefit year**. Restorations and prosthodontics within 3 months of interim caries arresting medicaments are not covered.

4.3.2. Class II Restorative Services

Covered expenses are paid at 80% of the **recognized charge** for the standard plan and 10% of the **recognized charge** for the economy plan option.

4.3.2.1. Restorative Services and Limitations

a) Services:

- Fillings on teeth for the treatment of decay.
- **Stainless Steel Crowns**

b) Limitations:

- Inlays are considered an optional service; an alternate benefit of a composite filling will be provided.
- Crown buildups are considered to be included in the crown **restoration** cost. A buildup will be a benefit only if necessary for tooth retention.
- Additional limitations when teeth are restored with crowns or **cast restorations** are in [section 4.3.3, Class III Prosthetic Services](#).
- A separate charge for general anesthesia and/or IV sedation when in conjunction with non-surgical procedures is not covered.
- Stainless steel crown replacement allowed once every 2 years.
- Prefabricated and indirectly fabricated post and core in addition to a crown are only covered when less than half of the coronal (above the gum) tooth structure remains.
- Replacement of a stainless-steel crown by the same dentist within a 2-year period of placement is not covered. The replacement is included in the charge for the original crown.

4.3.2.2. Oral Surgery Services and Limitations

a) Services:

- Extractions (including surgical).
- Other minor surgical procedures.

b) Limitations:

- A separate, additional charge for **alveoloplasty** done in conjunction with surgical removal of teeth is not covered.
- Surgery on larger lesions or malignant lesions is not considered minor surgery.
- Brush biopsy is covered once every 6 months, and up to two times in any **benefit year**. Benefits are limited to the sample collection and do not include coverage for pathology (lab) services.
- A separate charge for post-operative care done within 30 days following oral surgery is not covered. Post-operative care within 30 days is included in the surgery charge.

4.3.2.3. Endodontic Services and Limitations

a) Services: Procedures for treatment of teeth with diseased or damaged nerves (for example, pulpal therapy and root canal filling).

b) Limitations:

- A separate charge for cultures is not covered.
- Pulp capping is covered only when there is exposure of the pulp.

- Cost of retreatment of the same tooth by the same **dentist** within 24 months of a root canal is not eligible for additional coverage. The retreatment is included in the charge for the original care.

4.3.2.4. Periodontic Services and Limitations

- a) Services: Treatment of diseases of the gums and supporting structures of the teeth and/or **implants**.
- b) Limitations:
 - Periodontal scaling and root planing are limited to once per quadrant in any 24-month period.
 - Coverage for **periodontal maintenance** procedure under Class I, Preventive.
 - A separate charge for post-operative care done within 3 months following periodontal surgery is not covered.
 - Full mouth **debridement** is limited to once in a 2-year period for members under age 19. For members age 19 and over, full mouth **debridement** is limited to once in a 2-year period only if there has been no cleaning (**prophylaxis, periodontal maintenance**) within 24 months.
 - Osseous surgery is covered for a maximum of 2 quadrants per visit.
 - Bone replacement grafts are covered once per quadrant in a 3-year period.
 - Additional periodontal surgical procedures by the same dentist to the same site within a 3-year period of an initial periodontal surgery are not covered.

4.3.2.5. Anesthesia Services

- a) General anesthesia or IV sedation in conjunction with a covered surgical procedure performed in a dental office.
- b) General anesthesia or IV sedation when necessary due to concurrent medical conditions.
- c) Nitrous oxide when in conjunction with a covered dental service.

4.3.3. Class III Prosthetic Services

Covered expenses are paid at 50% of the **recognized charge** for the standard plan and 10% of the **recognized charge** for the economy plan option.

4.3.3.1. Restorative Services and Limitations

- a) Services: **Cast restorations**, such as crowns, onlays or lab **veneers**, necessary to restore decayed or **broken** teeth to a state of functional acceptability.
- b) Limitations:
 - **Cast restorations** (including **pontics**) are covered once in a seven-year period on any tooth.
 - Porcelain **restorations** are considered **cosmetic** dentistry if placed on the upper second or third molars or the lower first, second or third molars. Coverage is

limited to gold without porcelain, and the **covered person** is responsible for paying the difference.

- A separate, additional charge for repair of a restoration done within 2 years of the original restoration is not covered.
- Re-cement or re-bond of a crown, inlay, or veneer, by the same dentist, is limited to once per lifetime.

4.3.3.2. Prosthodontic Services and Limitations

a) Services:

- **Bridges.**
- Partial and complete dentures.
- Denture **relines.**
- Repair of an existing prosthetic device.
- **Implants.**

b) Limitations:

- A **bridge** or denture (full or partial denture) will be covered once in a seven-year period and only if the tooth, tooth site, or teeth involved have not received a **cast restoration** benefit in the last seven years.
- Full, immediate and overdentures: If personalized or specialized techniques are used, the covered amount will be limited to the cost for a standard full denture. Temporary (interim or provisional) complete dentures are not covered.
- Partial dentures: A temporary (interim) partial denture is only a benefit when placed within two months of the extraction of an **anterior** tooth or for missing **anterior** permanent teeth of **covered persons** age 16 or under. If a specialized or precision device is used, **covered expense** will be limited to the cost of a standard cast partial denture. No payment is provided for **cast restorations** for partial denture **retainer** teeth unless the tooth requires a **cast restoration** due to decayed or **broken** teeth.
- Denture adjustments, repairs, and **relines**: A separate, additional charge for denture adjustments, repairs, and **relines** done within six months after the initial placement is not covered. Subsequent **relines** will be covered once per denture in a 12-month period. Subsequent adjustments are limited to two adjustments per denture in a 12-month period.
- Tissue conditioning is covered no more than twice per denture in a 36-month period.
- Surgical placement and removal of **implants** are covered. **Implant** placement and **implant** removal are limited to once per lifetime per tooth space. The **dental plan** will also cover:

- The final crown and **implant abutment** over a single **implant**. This benefit is limited to once per tooth or tooth space over the lifetime of the **implant**; or
- Provide an alternate benefit per arch of a full or partial denture for the final **implant supported prosthetic** when the **implant** is placed to support a prosthetic device. The frequency limitation for prosthetic devices will apply to this alternate benefit (once in any seven-year period); or
- The final **implant supported prosthetic bridge retainer** and **implant abutment**, or **pontic**. The benefit is limited to once per tooth or tooth space in any seven-year period.
- **Implant supported prosthetic bridges** are not covered if one or more of the **retainers** is supported by a natural tooth.
- These benefits or alternate benefits are not provided if the tooth, **implant**, or tooth space received a **cast restoration** or prosthodontic benefit, including a **pontic**, within the previous seven years.
- Fixed **bridges** or removable cast partial dentures are not covered for **covered persons** under age 16.
- Porcelain **restorations** are considered **cosmetic** if placed on the upper second or third molars or the lower first, second, or third molars. Coverage is limited to a corresponding metallic prosthetic. The **covered person** is responsible for paying the difference.

4.3.3.3. Other Services and Limitations

- a) Services: Athletic mouthguard.
Limitations: An athletic mouthguard is covered once in any 12-month period for **covered persons** age 15 and under and once in any 24-month period age 16 and over.
- b) Services: Occlusal mouthguard
Limitations: Occlusal guard is covered once per year for members age 13 through 18 at 100% of the allowable cost, and once every 5 years at 100% up to a maximum of \$150.00 for members 19 and over. Repair/Relines are covered once every 12 months.
- c) OTC nightguards are excluded.

4.3.4. General Limitation – Optional Services

If a more expensive treatment than is functionally adequate is performed, the **dental plan** will pay the applicable percentage of the **recognized charge** for the least costly treatment. The **covered person** will be responsible for the remainder of the **dentist's** fee.

4.4. Oral Health, Total Health Program and Benefits

The **dental plan** covers additional cleanings (**prophylaxis** or **periodontal maintenance**) for certain **covered persons**. This benefit is for the cleaning only. Coverage for a routine exam and other

services is subject to the frequency limitations outlined in [section 4.3, Covered Dental Services](#). Please contact **Delta Dental** for enrollment instructions.

The following **covered persons** should consider enrolling in this program:

a) Diabetics

For covered persons with diabetes, elevated blood sugar levels can have a negative effect on oral health. Diabetes increases the risk of cavities, gum disease, tooth loss, dry mouth and infection. Conversely, poor oral health can make diabetes more difficult to manage. Infections may cause blood sugar to rise and require more insulin to keep it under control. Research confirms that regular visits to the **dentist** may help in the diagnosis and management of diabetes. Diabetic covered persons are eligible for a total of four cleanings per **benefit year**.

b) Pregnant Persons

Keeping the mouth healthy during a pregnancy is important for a covered person and the baby. According to the American Dental Association, pregnant women who have periodontal (gum) disease are more likely to have a baby that is born too early and too small.

Research suggests that periodontal disease triggers increased levels of biological fluids that induce labor. Furthermore, data suggests that women whose periodontal condition worsens during pregnancy have an even higher risk of having a premature baby. Dental visits during a woman's third trimester of pregnancy may help prevent pre-term, low birth weight babies.

Covered persons should talk to their **dentist** about scheduling a routine cleaning or **periodontal maintenance** during the third trimester of pregnancy. Pregnant covered persons are eligible for a cleaning in the third trimester of pregnancy regardless of normal plan frequency limits.

4.5. Orthodontic Benefits and Limits

Orthodontic services are defined as the procedures of treatment for correcting malocclusion of the teeth.

The standard plan will pay 50% of the **recognized charge** for orthodontic services, up to the orthodontic lifetime maximum. See [section 2.3, Dental Benefit Schedule](#). This lifetime maximum is not included in the **dental plan's** annual individual maximum. The **deductible** does not apply to orthodontic services.

The **dental plan's** obligation to make payments for treatment will end when treatment stops for any reason prior to completion, or upon termination of eligibility or of the **dental plan**.

If treatment began before the **covered person** was eligible under the **dental plan**, payment will be based on the balance of the **dentist's** normal payment pattern. The orthodontic lifetime maximum will apply to this amount.

Repair or replacement of an appliance furnished under the **dental plan** is not covered.

4.6. Dental Plan Exclusions

In addition to the limitations and exclusions described elsewhere in the **dental plan**, the following services, procedures and conditions are not covered, even if: (1) otherwise **dentally necessary**; (2) they relate to a condition that is otherwise covered by the **dental plan**; or (3) recommended, referred, or provided by a **dentist** or **dental care provider**.

- a) Services covered under the **medical plan**.
- b) General anesthesia and/or IV sedation, except as stated in [section 4.3, Covered Dental Services](#).
- c) Anesthetics, analgesics, hypnosis, and medications, local anesthetics or any other prescribed drugs.
- d) Services or supplies not specifically described in the **dental plan** as covered dental services.
- e) Claims submitted more than 12 months after the date of service.
- f) Congenital or developmental malformations, including, but not limited to treatment of cleft palate, maxillary and/or mandibular (upper and lower jaw) malformations, enamel hypoplasia, and fluorosis (discoloration of teeth).
- g) **Cosmetic** services.
- h) **Experimental or investigational** procedures, including expenses incidental to or incurred as a direct consequence of such procedures.
- i) **Facility** fees, including additional fees charged by the **dentist** for **hospital**, extended care **facility** or home care treatment.
- j) Gnathologic recordings.
- k) Illegal acts, riot or rebellion, including services and supplies for treatment of an **injury** or condition caused by or arising out of a **covered person's** voluntary participation in a riot, armed invasion or aggression or rebellion or arising directly from an illegal act.
- l) Instructions or training, including plaque control and oral hygiene or dietary instruction.
- m) Localized delivery of antimicrobial agents.
- n) Missed appointment charges.
- o) Services and supplies related to never events, which are events that should never happen while receiving services in a dental office, including but not limited to removing a non-diseased tooth structure or performing a procedure on the wrong patient or wrong tooth.
- p) Periodontal charting.
- q) Precision attachments.
- r) Rebuilding or maintaining chewing surface and stabilizing teeth, including services only to prevent wear or protect worn or cracked teeth. Such services include increasing vertical dimension, equilibration, and periodontal splinting.
- s) Services on tongue, lip or cheek.
- t) Services otherwise available, including:
 - Those compensable under workers' compensation or employer's liability laws.

- Those provided by any city, county, state or Federal law, except for Medicaid coverage.
 - Those provided, without cost to the **covered person**, by any municipality, county or other political subdivision or community agency, except to the extent that such payments are insufficient to pay for the applicable covered dental services provided under the **dental plan**.
 - Any condition, disease, ailment, **injury** or diagnostic service to the extent that benefits are provided or would have been provided had the **covered person** enrolled, applied or maintained eligibility for such benefits under Title XVIII of the Social Security Act, as amended.
 - Those provided under separate contracts that are used to provide coordinated coverage for **covered persons** and are considered parts of the same plan.
- u) Services provided by a relative, which includes a **covered person**, a **spouse**, **child**, sibling, or parent of a **covered person** or their **spouse**.
- v) Services and supplies for treatment of **illness** or **injury** for which a third party is or may be responsible to the extent of any recovery received from or on behalf of the third party. Includes benefits payable under any automobile medical, personal injury protection (PIP), automobile no fault, underinsured or uninsured, homeowner, commercial premises coverage, or similar contract or insurance, when such contract or insurance is issued to, or makes benefits available to, a **covered person**, whether or not such benefits are requested. See [section 12, Subrogation and Reimbursement Rights](#).
- w) Treatment of any disturbance of the temporomandibular joint (TMJ).
- x) Treatment after coverage terminates, except for Class III services that were ordered and fitted while still eligible, and then only if such items are cemented within 31 days after a **covered person's** eligibility ends. This provision is not applicable if the **Division** transfers the **dental plan** to another **claims administrator**.
- y) Treatment before coverage begins under the **dental plan**.
- z) Treatment that is not **dentally necessary**, including services not established as necessary for the treatment or prevention of a dental **injury** or disease otherwise covered under the **dental plan**; that are inappropriate with regard to standards of good dental practice; with poor prognosis.

4.7. Advance Claim Review for Dental Claims

Before beginning expensive treatment, ask your **dentist** to file a description of the proposed course of treatment and expected charges with **Delta Dental**. **Delta Dental** will review the proposal and advise you and your **dentist** of the estimated benefits payable.

A course of treatment is a planned program of one or more services or supplies. It may be rendered by one or more **providers** for the treatment of a condition diagnosed by the attending **physician** or **dentist** as a result of an examination. It begins on the day the **provider** first renders

the service to correct or treat such a condition. **Emergency** treatments, oral examinations, **prophylaxis**, and dental x-rays are considered part of a course of treatment.

By receiving an advance review, you will eliminate the possibility of unexpected claim **denials**.

As part of advance claim review and for any claim, **Delta Dental**, at its expense, has the right to require you to obtain an oral examination. You must furnish to **Delta Dental** all diagnostic and evaluative material required to establish your right to benefits. Evaluative material includes dental X-rays, models, charts, and written reports.

5. VISION PLAN

5.1. Introduction

The **vision plan** will pay for **covered expenses** up to the limits and maximums shown in [section 2.4, Vision Benefit Schedule](#).

5.2. How Vision Benefits Are Paid

5.2.1. Deductible

You pay no **deductible** under the **vision plan**.

5.2.2. Copayment

Each **covered person** must pay any applicable **copayment** before the **vision plan** will pay any benefits for that covered service. See [section 2.4, Vision Benefit Schedule](#).

5.2.3. Coinsurance

The **vision plan** pays 100% of the **recognized charges** for covered vision and optical services, less any applicable **copayment**.

5.2.4. Annual Allowances

The **vision plan** pays **covered expenses** up to an annual allowance for certain services. See [section 2.4, Vision Benefit Schedule](#).

5.2.5. Network Providers

If you choose a **VSP doctor** or an **affiliated provider** under the **vision plan**, you will lower your out-of-pocket costs. See [section 2.4, Vision Benefit Schedule](#). **VSP doctors** are located in retail, neighborhood, medical and professional settings, and include Costco Optical, Visionworks, Cohen's Fashion Optical, Wisconsin Vision, Walmart, and RX Optical. You have the freedom to choose any **provider**, national retailer, or local retail chain in the VSP network.

For a list of **VSP doctors**, call **VSP** at the number listed in the front of this **plan** or visit vsp.com. Select a **VSP doctor** from the list and make an appointment. You must identify yourself as a **covered person** under the **vision plan** when you make the appointment. The **VSP doctor** will contact **VSP** to determine what benefits you are eligible for. If you do not identify yourself as a **covered person**, and the **VSP doctor** does not contact **VSP**, your benefits will be paid out-of-network.

5.3. Covered Vision Services

The following services and supplies are covered under the **vision plan**.

5.3.1. Vision Exam

Covered expenses include a complete initial vision analysis including an appropriate examination of visual functions and the **prescription** of corrective eyewear where indicated by a legally qualified ophthalmologist or optometrist. Subsequent regular eye examinations are covered once every **calendar year**.

5.3.2. Vision Supplies

Covered expenses include charges for lenses and frames, or prescription contact lenses, when prescribed by a legally qualified ophthalmologist or optometrist.

5.3.2.1. Prescription Lenses

Covered expenses include one pair of **prescription** single vision, lined bifocal, lined trifocal, or lenticular lenses per **calendar year**. The following lens options are covered in full from a **VSP doctor** at no additional cost to the **covered person**:

- a) Progressive lenses
- b) Anti-reflective coating
- c) Scratch resistant coating
- d) Polycarbonate lenses

5.3.2.2. Frames

Covered expenses include a frame every two **calendar years** up to \$130. There is a 20% discount for any out-of-pocket cost over the frame allowance. The frame allowance may be applied towards non-**prescription** sunglasses for post PRK, Lasik, or Custom LASIK patients. Some brands of spectacle frames may be unavailable for purchase under the **vision plan** or may be subject to additional limitations. **Covered persons** may obtain details regarding frame brand availability from their **VSP doctor** or by calling **VSP** at the number in the front of the **plan**.

5.3.2.3. Additional Services

The following professional services are included in lens and frame coverage:

- a) Prescribing and ordering proper lenses

- b) Assisting in the selection of frames
- c) Verifying the accuracy of the finished lenses
- d) Proper fitting and adjustment of frames
- e) Subsequent adjustments to frames to maintain comfort and efficiency
- f) Progress or follow-up work as necessary

5.3.2.4. Contact Lenses

Elective contact lenses are available once every **calendar year** up to \$130 in lieu of all other lens and frame benefits under the **vision plan**. Prior approval by **VSP** is not required for **covered persons** to be eligible for elective contact lenses.

5.3.2.5. Low Vision Benefit

The low vision benefit is available to **covered persons** who have severe visual problems that are not correctable with regular lenses. The **vision plan** covers complete low vision analysis and diagnosis, which includes a comprehensive examination of visual functions, and the **prescription** of corrective eyewear or vision aids where indicated. Supplemental care aids are also covered.

5.4. Vision Plan Exclusions

The **vision plan** is designed to cover visual needs rather than **cosmetic** materials. When the **covered person** selects any of the following extras, the **vision plan** will pay the basic cost of the allowed lenses or frames, and the **covered person** will pay the additional costs for the options:

- a) Optional **cosmetic** processes
- b) Color coating
- c) Mirror coating
- d) Blended lenses
- e) **Cosmetic** lenses
- f) Laminated lenses
- g) Oversized lenses
- h) UV (ultraviolet) protected lenses
- i) Certain limitations on low vision care
- j) A frame that costs more than the **vision plan** allowance
- k) Contact lenses, except as provided in [section 5.3, Covered Vision Services](#).

The following services, procedures and conditions are not covered under the **vision plan**, even if: (1) they relate to a condition that is otherwise covered by the **vision plan**; or (2) they are recommended, referred or provided by a **VSP doctor**.

- a) Orthoptics or vision training and any associated supplemental testing; plano lenses (less than a $\pm .50$ diopter power); or two pair of glasses in lieu of bifocals.
- b) Replacement of lenses and frames furnished under the **vision plan** which are lost or **broken**, except at the normal intervals when services are otherwise available.

- c) Medical or surgical treatment of the eyes or services covered under the **medical plan**.
- d) Corrective vision treatment that is **experimental or investigational**.
- e) Costs for services and/or materials above the **vision plan** allowance.
- f) Services and/or materials not listed as covered services in [section 5.3, Covered Vision Services](#).
- g) Charges submitted for services that are not rendered or rendered to a person not eligible for coverage under the **vision plan**.
- h) Charges submitted for services by an unlicensed **provider** or not within the scope of the **provider's** license.
- i) Services provided by a **spouse**, parent, **child**, brother, sister, in-law, or any household member.
- j) Services rendered before the effective date or after the termination of coverage, unless coverage is continued under [section 9, Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act \(COBRA\) and Extended Health Coverage](#).

VSP may, at its discretion, waive any of these limitations if, in the opinion of VSP's optometric consultants, it is necessary for the visual welfare of the **covered person**.

6. HEALTH FLEXIBLE SPENDING ACCOUNT (HFSA)

6.1. Introduction

The **health plan** is designed to cover most, but not all, of your health expenses. You can elect to reduce your salary on a pre-tax basis by a specified amount and contribute that money to a health flexible spending account (HFSA) to reimburse some of your unpaid medical expenses.

Since your contributions are not subject to federal or state taxes, you pay less in taxes each year.

How the HFSA Works

The health flexible spending account (HFSA) is similar to a personal checking account, except that accounts are maintained for bookkeeping purposes only, with no interest or earnings credited.

Coverage begins and ends as specified in [section 1.7, When Coverage Begins](#), and [section 1.9, When Coverage Ends](#). The maximum amount that you may elect to have contributed to your HFSA is determined annually by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). The amount of contribution you elect will be deducted from your paycheck in equal amounts throughout the **benefit year**. You decide how much you want to contribute to the HFSA, up to the maximum annual amount determined by the IRS. Your contribution must be:

- a) in whole dollars; and
- b) at least \$25 per month (\$300 per **benefit year**).

Federal income taxes are not withheld on the amount you contribute. If you are on leave without pay or do not have enough payroll in a month, a contribution will not be taken that month.

Your contributions are deposited into your individual reimbursement account under the HFSA. Throughout the **benefit year**, you may request reimbursement from the HFSA for eligible medical expenses you have incurred. You will be reimbursed up to the amount that you elected for your annual contribution or the amount of the claim, whichever is less.

For example, if you timely elect to make monthly contributions of \$100 to the HFSA, your annual contribution election is \$1,200. By March, you have contributed \$300 to your account. In April, you incur a \$500 expense that is not covered by the **medical plan**. If you are covered by the HFSA in April, you will be reimbursed \$500 for that expense, even though you have not yet contributed sufficient money to cover the request. During the rest of the **benefit year**, you can be reimbursed for additional expenses up to \$700 (\$1,200 - \$500).

Expenses are considered to have been incurred when you (or your **dependents**) are provided with the care—not when you are billed, charged or pay for it.

You have until the last day of the **benefit year** to incur expenses for reimbursement in your HFSA.

If you drop coverage under the HFSA during a **benefit year**, you will be entitled to reimbursements from your HFSA for eligible medical expenses that were incurred during the **benefit year** but before your coverage under the HFSA ended, subject to COBRA continuation coverage. In addition, you will not be entitled to reimbursement of eligible medical expenses for any **dependent** after the person is no longer a **dependent**.

6.2. Carryover of Unused Amounts In HFSA

If you have a balance remaining in your HFSA at the end of the **benefit year**, an amount will be carried over to the immediately following **benefit year** equal to the lesser of (1) \$550 or (2) the amount remaining in your HFSA after all of your eligible medical expenses submitted during the **benefit year** or within the run-out period have been reimbursed. The run-out period is the 90-day period following the end of the **benefit year** (March 31). This amount is called the “available carryover amount.” Any unused amount in excess of \$550 will be forfeited as provided in [section 6.4, Eligible Medical Expenses](#).

The available carryover amount does not reduce the maximum amount that you may elect to contribute to your HFSA for a **benefit year**.

EXAMPLE: You elect to have \$2,592 contributed to your HFSA for the 2018 **benefit year** and \$2,640 for the 2019 **benefit year**. On December 31, 2018, you have an unused HFSA balance of \$800. On February 1, 2019, you submit a claim of \$350 for eligible medical expenses incurred in 2018. On March 31, 2019 (the last day of the run-out period) you have an available carryover

amount of \$450 (\$800 - \$350). As a result, you have \$3,090 for which you may submit claims for the remainder of 2019 (\$450 carryover + \$2,640 for the 2019 election). For the remainder of 2019 you submit claims in the amount of \$2,700, leaving an unused balance of \$390 on December 31, 2019. This amount may be carried forward to pay 2020 expenses, to the extent not depleted during the run-out period.

EXAMPLE: Assume the same facts as above, except that you did not submit claims for eligible medical expenses incurred in 2018 during the run-out period. In that case, you would have an available carryover amount of \$500 for 2019, which is the lesser of \$500 and the amount remaining at the end of the run-out period (\$800). The excess amount above \$500 would be forfeited. You will then have \$3,140 for which you may submit claims for the remainder of 2019 (\$500 carryover + \$2,640 for the 2019 election.) For the remainder of 2019, you submit claims in the amount of \$2,700, leaving an unused balance of \$440 on December 31, 2019. This amount may be carried forward to pay 2020 expenses, to the extent not depleted during the run-out period.

Your available carryover amount, if any, will generally carry forward year to year.

6.3. Use It or Lose It

In exchange for the tax advantages of using the health flexible spending account (HFSA), the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) requires that you forfeit any money in excess of \$500 remaining in your reimbursement account after all eligible medical expenses for the **benefit year** have been reimbursed. You must request reimbursement for expenses incurred during the **benefit year** no later than 90 days following the end of the **benefit year** (by March 31). Because of this use it or lose it rule, it is important that you plan carefully when you participate in the HFSA.

6.4. Eligible Medical Expenses

Eligible medical expenses are health, dental and vision expenses as defined under Code Section 213(d) that are not otherwise reimbursable by the **plan** or any other health plan. In addition, expenses reimbursed out of your HFSA must be expenses incurred by you, your **spouse**, your **dependent children**, and any other **dependent** you claim on your income tax return each year. **PayFlex** will make the final determination as to whether an expense may be reimbursed from the HFSA.

A complete list of tax-deductible medical expenses is available in IRS Publication No. 502. You will find it online at [irs.gov/publications](https://www.irs.gov/publications).

Examples of eligible medical expenses include:

- a) **custodial care** expenses
- b) hearing aids
- c) **deductibles**
- d) **copayments**

- e) **coinsurance**
- f) amounts in excess of the maximums allowed by the medical plan, dental plan, or **vision plan**
- g) insulin (whether or not prescribed)
- h) **prescription drugs**
- i) over-the-counter drugs, but only if you have a prescription

Examples of expenses that cannot be reimbursed include, but are not limited to:

- a) certain **cosmetic** surgery and procedures
- b) premiums for the **health plan, dental plan, vision plan** or **other health care** coverage
- c) travel expenses
- d) fees for health club
- e) vitamins
- f) qualified long-term care services

6.5. HFSA vs. Tax Deductions

If you use the health flexible spending account (HFSA) to pay for eligible medical expenses, you cannot take a tax deduction on your income tax for the same medical expenses. You are allowed a deduction on your tax return for expenses that total more than 7.5% of your adjusted gross income. You must choose which is more advantageous for you. Since tax laws are complicated and subject to change, you should re-examine your tax situation every year, and discuss it with your tax specialist.

6.6. How Much to Contribute

The health flexible spending account (HFSA) can save you money if you budget your expenses carefully. Keep in mind that you must forfeit any money in excess of \$500 remaining in your reimbursement account at the end of the **benefit year** after all eligible medical expenses have been paid. Most **employees** find, however, that they can avoid the risk of forfeiture by planning ahead.

When considering how much to contribute, remember your annual contribution will be deducted from your paycheck over the entire **benefit year**, not just for a few months at a time. For example, if you expect to incur \$600 in eligible medical expenses, you could contribute \$50 per month (\$600 for the **benefit year** or 12 x \$50). Information that might be helpful for you to consider in determining how much to contribute to your HFSA includes:

- a) What expenses you may have that are not covered by the **plan** but are reimbursable from the HFSA;
- b) How much your **deductibles** are expected to be for the **benefit year**;
- c) An estimate of the total out-of-pocket costs you could pay under the plan;
- d) An estimate of what your **coinsurance** and **copayments** will total; and

- e) How much you paid for health care costs during the last **benefit year**. For example, if your out-of-pocket health care costs were \$500 during the last **benefit year**, they may run close to that this year.

Remember, any amount remaining in your HFSA at the end of the year that exceeds \$500 will be forfeited.

6.7. Submitting Claims for Reimbursement

You should submit a claim for medical expenses to the **plan** and any other health plan in which you participate first. You will receive an **EOB** showing your out-of-pocket costs.

To be reimbursed for unpaid eligible medical expenses, claims for reimbursement to the HFSA may be submitted in one of the following ways.

6.7.1. Streamlined claims submission

With this option, claims are sent to the **claims administrator** by you or your provider as normal. Any amounts that are unpaid by the plan, such as **deductibles**, **copayments**, or non-covered medical expenses, are electronically transferred to **PayFlex**. You cannot elect this option if you have any health coverage in addition to the plan. This includes a second State plan (such as coverage through your spouse) or any other health insurance plan. For example, a husband and wife who are covered by each other's health plans may not elect streamlined claims submission.

6.7.2. Direct claims submission

With this option, you submit your claims to **PayFlex** on the Request for Reimbursement form after receiving your **EOB** from the plan or any other health plan in which you participate. This form is available from your human resources office, the **Division, PayFlex**, or AlaskaCare.gov. If you have more than one health plan, you must submit the claim with copies of the **EOB** from all plans. This is the only option available if you have more than one health plan.

6.7.3. Over-the-counter (OTC) claims submission

With this option, you submit claims to **PayFlex** on the HFSA OTC Claims form regardless of whether you have elected streamlined or direct claims submission. You must submit each claim with itemized statements or receipts, an **EOB** from your health plan, and a prescription.

6.7.4. Reimbursements are issued daily.

Checks are payable to you, not to your **provider**. Claims for services incurred during the **benefit year** will be accepted any time during that year. You have 90 days after the end of the **benefit year** (generally until March 31) to file all unpaid claims for that **benefit year**.

7. HEALTH REIMBURSEMENT ARRANGEMENT (HRA)

7.1. Introduction

The Health Reimbursement Arrangement (HRA) is an employer-funded medical expense reimbursement account that **eligible employees** enrolled in the consumer choice plan may use to pay eligible medical expenses. High-**deductible** health plans like the consumer choice plan require employees to meet higher **deductibles** than traditional plans, so these plans have more out-of-pocket costs due at the time health care services are rendered. For **eligible employees** enrolled in the consumer choice plan, the third-party administrator will apply your available HRA balance towards your annual **deductible** for covered medical expenses.

7.2. How the HRA Works

You must be enrolled in the consumer choice plan in order to participate in your HRA.

When you, or your eligible **dependent**, receive medical services or supplies covered under the medical plan, the expense will be covered by your HRA in the amount of your balance in the HRA or the amount of the allowable claim, whichever is less. The expenses covered by the HRA will reduce your **deductible** by a corresponding amount for that **benefit year**. Once the HRA is exhausted, you will be responsible for any remaining **deductible** before any additional benefits are payable under the **medical plan**.

7.3. Carryover of Unused Amounts In HRA

If you have a balance remaining in your HRA at the end of the **benefit year**, that balance will be carried over to the immediately following **benefit year**. Unused amounts will not carry forward more than one year, and in no instance will the HRA balance be greater than the balance of current and preceding **benefit year** contribution.

EXAMPLE: You enroll in the consumer choice plan for yourself and your family effective January 1, 2019. Your employer contributes \$1,500 to your family HRA balance for the 2019 **benefit year**. You and your eligible dependents receive only preventive services in the 2019 **benefit year**, and as a result your HRA balance on December 31, 2019 is \$1,500. As of January 1, 2020, you have an unused HRA balance of \$3,000, including the 2019 rollover and a new employer contribution of \$1,500 for the 2020 **benefit year**. In the 2020 **benefit year**, you and your family receive \$500 in non-preventive covered medical expenses. Your HRA balance on December 31, 2020 is \$2,500. Only \$1,500 is eligible to be rolled over to the 2021 **benefit year**.

7.4. Use It or Lose It

Coverage begins as specified in [section 1.7, When Coverage Begins](#). The current year HRA and the allowable carryover HRA balance is yours to use until the balance is exhausted, or until your coverage ends as specified in [section 1.9, When Coverage Ends](#). In addition, should you change

plans to a plan other than the consumer choice plan during an annual open enrollment, or mid-year due to a qualified status change or other applicable event, your unused HRA balance is forfeit on the day your coverage under the new plan takes effect.

8. HOW TO FILE A CLAIM

8.1. Filing Health Claims

Under the Plan, you may file claims for Plan benefits and **appeal** adverse claim determinations. Any reference to “you” in this How to File a Claim section includes you and your Authorized Representative. An “Authorized Representative” is a person you authorize, in writing, to act on your behalf. The Plan will also recognize a court order giving a person authority to submit claims on your behalf. In the case of an **urgent care claim**, a **health care professional** with knowledge of your condition may always act as your Authorized Representative. You may obtain claims forms from the **claims administrator**, the **Division**, or [AlaskaCare.gov](https://www.alaskacare.gov).

8.2. Claim Filing Deadline

To receive benefits, you must submit a claim within 90 days after treatment began, or within 30 days after treatment ends, whichever is later. **Network providers** will submit claims on your behalf. If you are unable to meet the deadline for filing the claim, your claim will be accepted if you file as soon as possible, but not later than 12 months after the date you incurred the expenses.

8.3. Hospital Services

Your health care coverage is good worldwide. If you are hospitalized in a licensed, general **hospital** anywhere, even outside Alaska, you can use your **hospital** benefits.

When you are admitted to the **hospital**, give your health ID card to the admitting clerk. The **hospital** may bill **Aetna** directly. **Aetna** will send you an **EOB** form that shows the amount charged and the amount paid to the **hospital**. If you already paid the **hospital** charges and this fact is shown clearly on the claim form, **Aetna** will send the benefits check to you, along with the **EOB** form.

8.4. Physician and Other Provider Services

The fastest way to process your claim is to ask your **provider** to bill **Aetna** directly on a medical claim form. The claim forms are available from the **Division**, **Aetna**, or [AlaskaCare.gov](https://www.alaskacare.gov).

If your **provider** does not bill directly, complete *Part 1, Patient Information* and have your **provider** complete *Part 2, Medical Information* and/or attach an itemized bill.

- a) If you submit an incomplete claim, you will be notified of additional information required in writing no later than thirty calendar days after the receipt of the incomplete claim by the claim administrator.

8.5. Dental Services

You can get a Dental Benefits Claim form from your **provider**, the **Division**, **Delta Dental**, or [AlaskaCare.gov](https://www.alaskacare.gov). Follow the instructions under [section 8.4, Physician and Other Provider Services](#), for completing the form.

8.6. Vision Services

To submit for an out of network claim you can get a Vision Benefits Claim form from your **provider**, the **Division**, **VSP**, or [vsp.com](https://www.vsp.com). Follow the instructions under [section 8.4, Physician and Other Provider Services](#), for completing the form.

8.7. Prescription Drugs

No claim filing is necessary if you obtain your drugs from a **network pharmacy**.

If you do not use a **network pharmacy**, be sure to obtain a receipt from the pharmacist. Cash register receipts are not acceptable. Medicines that do not require a **prescription** are not covered. Send the receipt with a medical claim form to **OptumRx**. You can get these forms from the **Division**, **OptumRx**, or [AlaskaCare.gov](https://www.alaskacare.gov).

The receipt must include the:

- a) Patient's name
- b) Date of purchase
- c) Prescription number
- d) Itemized purchase price for each drug
- e) Quantity
- f) Day supply
- g) Name of drug
- h) Name of **pharmacy**

The **medical plan** will pay benefits for **prescription drugs** purchased elsewhere only if actual drug receipts accompany your claim submission. If receipts are not submitted to **OptumRx**, your claim will be held pending your submission of receipts.

If your **prescription drug** is denied for coverage at the **pharmacy** (point of sale), you may either:

- a) Pay for the **prescription drug** and **appeal** the **denial** of coverage at the point of sale by filing a *Medical Benefits Request* form with **OptumRx**. You can get this form from the **Division**, **OptumRx**, or [AlaskaCare.gov](https://www.alaskacare.gov).
- b) Delay filling the prescription and **appeal** the **denial** of coverage at the point of sale by filing a *Member Complaint and Appeal* form. You can get this form from the **Division**, **OptumRx**, or [AlaskaCare.gov](https://www.alaskacare.gov).

8.8. Medical Benefits

For covered medical services, the following are examples of the information needed to process your claim:

- a) Nursing care. If you need special nursing services at home or in the **hospital**, your claim must include the date, hours worked and the name of the referring **physician**.
- b) Blood and blood derivatives. You are encouraged to replace blood or blood derivatives that you use. If you do not, you must get a bill from the blood bank which includes the date of service, location where the blood was transported, and the total charge.
- c) Appliances (braces, crutches, wheelchairs, etc.). The bill must include a description of the item, indicate whether it was purchased or rented, list the name of the **physician** who prescribed the item, and show the total charge.
- d) **Ambulance**. The bill must include the date of the service, where you were transported to and from, and the total charge.

8.9. Other Claim Filing Tips

You must list your participant account number on all bills or correspondence. The number is listed on your health ID card. Send all bills to the **claims administrator's** address listed in the front of this **plan**. This address is also in your welcome kit and on your health ID card.

If you have other health coverage in addition to the health **plan**, you should submit your claims to the primary plan first. Then send a copy of the claim and the **EOB** form from the primary plan to the secondary plan so that benefits will be coordinated properly between plans. See [section 11, *Coordination of Benefits*](#), for information on how to determine which plan is primary.

If you have claim problems, call or write to the **claims administrator** and a customer service professional will help you. When you call, be sure to have your health ID card or **EOB** form available. Include your participant account number from your health ID card on any letter you write. The **claims administrator** needs this information to identify your particular coverage.

8.10. Benefit Payments

If you have not paid the **provider** and you include the **provider's** name, address and tax identification number, the **claims administrator** will pay the **provider** directly. If you have already paid the **provider** and this fact is clearly shown on the claim form, the **claims administrator** will send the benefit check to you along with the **EOB** form.

8.11. Before Filing a Claim

When you file a claim:

- a) Submit your bills with a claim form for each family member.
- b) Always check to make sure your **physician** or **dentist** has not already submitted your claim. If you give the **physician** or **dentist** permission to submit a claim, do not submit one yourself.

Complete the claim form fully and include information on any other group health care programs covering you and your **dependents**. If you have other coverage which should pay first before this **plan**, include a copy of that plan's explanation of benefits showing the amount it paid for the services.

8.12. Recordkeeping

Keep complete records of expenses for yourself and each of your **dependents**. Important records include:

- a) Names of **physicians** and others who furnish services
- b) Dates expenses are incurred
- c) Copies of all bills and receipts

You should also keep all **EOB** forms sent to you.

8.13. Physical Examinations

The **claims administrator** will have the right and opportunity to have a **physician** or **dentist** of its choice examine any person for whom **precertification** or benefits have been requested. This will be done at all reasonable times while **precertification** or a claim for benefits is pending or under review. This will be done at no cost to you.

8.14. If a Claim Is Denied

8.14.1. Initial Claim for Benefits

Any claim to receive benefits under the **plan** must be filed with the **claims administrator** on the designated form as soon as possible, but no later than 12 months after the date you incurred the expenses and will be deemed filed upon receipt.

If you fail to follow the claims procedures under the **plan** for filing an **urgent care claim** or a **pre-service claim**, you will be notified of the proper procedures to follow, not later than 24 hours for **urgent care claims** and five days for **pre-service claims**. This special timing rule applies only to **urgent care claims** and **pre-service claims** that:

- a) are received by the person or unit customarily responsible for handling benefit matters; and
- b) specify a claimant, a medical condition or symptom, and a specific treatment, service, or product for which approval is requested.

You must submit any required **physician** statements on the appropriate form. If the **claims administrator** disagrees with the **physician** statement, the terms of the **plan** will be followed in resolving any such dispute.

8.14.2. Initial Review of Claims

If you submit an incomplete claim, you will be notified of additional information required:

- a) in writing of the additional information needed to decide the initial claim, not later than 24 hours after the receipt of the incomplete claim by the **claims administrator** for **urgent care claims**;
- b) in writing no later than fifteen calendar days after the receipt of the incomplete claim by the **claims administrator** for **pre-service claims**; or
- c) in writing no later than thirty calendar days after the receipt of the incomplete claim by the **claims administrator** for **post-service claims**.

For **urgent care claims** you must submit the additional information not less than 48 hours after the receipt of the notice from the **claims administrator**. For pre-service or post-service incomplete claims, the **claims administrator** may or may not allow an extension to the claims filing deadline, of up to 45 calendar days from receipt of the written notice, for you to provide additional information.

You will be notified of the approval or **denial** of an **urgent care claim** no later than 48 hours after the additional information is received by the **claims administrator**, or the end of the 48-hour time limit to submit the additional information whichever is earlier. You will be notified of the approval or **denial** of a pre-service or **post-service claim** no later than 15 calendar days after receipt of additional information requested, or the end of the time period given to you to provide the additional information, whichever is earlier.

When a claim for health benefits has been properly filed, you will be notified of the approval or **denial**:

- a) within 72 hours after receipt of claim by the **claims administrator** for **urgent care claims**;
- b) no later than 15 calendar days after receipt of claim by the **claims administrator** for **pre-service claims**; or
- c) no later than 30 calendar days after the receipt of claim by the **claims administrator** for **post-service claims**.

For **urgent care claims**, the **claims administrator** will defer to the attending **provider** with respect to the decision as to whether a claim is an **urgent care claim** for purposes of determining the applicable time period.

For pre-service and **post-service claims**, the **claims administrator** will be granted a one-time 15-day extension if the circumstances are due to matters beyond the **claim administrator's** control, and the **claims administrator** notifies you before the end of the initial timeframe as outlined above, the circumstances requiring such extension and the date the **claims administrator** expects to render a decision.

8.14.3. Initial Denial of Claims

If your claim for benefits is denied in whole or in part, you will be given notice from the **claims administrator** that explains the following items:

- a) The specific reasons for the **denial**.
- b) References to **plan** provisions upon which the **denial** is based.
- c) A description of any additional material or information needed and an explanation of why such material or information is necessary.
- d) A description of the **plan's** review procedures and time limits, including information regarding how to initiate an **appeal**, information on the external review process (with respect to benefits under the **medical plan** and **dental plan**).
- e) The specific internal rule, guideline, protocol, or other similar criterion, if any, relied upon in making the **denial**, or a statement that such rule, guideline, protocol, or other similar criterion was relied upon, with a copy free of charge upon request.
- f) If the **denial** is based on a **medical necessity** or an **experimental or investigational** treatment or similar exclusion or limit, either an explanation of the scientific or clinical judgment for the determination or a statement that such explanation will be provided free of charge upon request.
- g) For **urgent care claims**, a description of the expedited review process applicable to such claims.
- h) For **denials** of benefits under the **medical plan** or **dental plan**:
 - information sufficient to identify the claim involved (including the date of service, the health care **provider**, the claim amount (if applicable), and a statement describing the availability, upon request, of the diagnosis code and its corresponding meaning, and the treatment code and its corresponding meaning);
 - the **denial** code and its corresponding meaning, as well as a description of the **claims administrator's** standard, if any, that was used in the **denial** of the claim; and
 - the availability of, and contact information for, any applicable office of health insurance consumer assistance or ombudsman established under Section 2793 of the Public Health Services Act to assist individuals with the internal claims and **appeals** and external review processes.

If you believe your claim should be covered under the terms of the **plan**, you should contact the **claims administrator** to discuss the reason for the **denial**. If you still feel the claim should be covered under the terms of the **plan**, you can take the following steps to file an **appeal**.

8.14.4. Ongoing Treatments

If the **claims administrator** has approved an ongoing course of treatment to be provided to you over a certain period of time or for a certain number of treatments, any reduction or termination by the **claims administrator** under such course of treatment before the approved period of time or number of treatments end will constitute a **denial**. You will be notified of the **denial**, in

accordance with the timelines outlined in [section 8.14.2, *Initial Review of Claims*](#), before the reduction or termination occurs, to allow you a reasonable time to file an **appeal** and obtain a determination on the **appeal**. Coverage for the ongoing course of treatment that is the subject of the **appeal** will continue pending the outcome of such **appeal**.

For an **urgent care claim**, any request by you to extend the ongoing treatment beyond the previously approved period of time or number of treatments will be decided no later than 24 hours after receipt of the **urgent care claim**, provided the claim is filed at least 24 hours before the treatment expires.

8.14.5. First Level Appeal of Initial Denial of Claim

You may initiate a first level of **appeal** of the **denial** of a claim by filing a written **appeal** with the **claims administrator** within 180 calendar days of the date the Explanation of Benefits or pre-service **denial** letter was issued, which will be deemed filed upon receipt. If the **appeal** is not timely filed, the initial decision of the **claims administrator** will be the final decision under the **plan**, and will be final, conclusive, and binding on all persons. For **urgent care claims**, you may make a request for an expedited **appeal** orally or in writing, and all necessary information will be transmitted by telephone, facsimile, or other similarly expeditious method.

8.14.6. Decision on First Level of Appeal of Initial Denial of Claim

If appealing a **pre-service claim denial** that is not eligible for external review as outlined in [section 8.14.9, *Application and Scope of External Review Process for Benefits Under the Medical Plan and Dental Plan*](#), you will receive notice of the **claims administrator's** decision on the first level of **appeal** within 15 calendar days of the **claims administrator's** receipt of your **appeal**. If appealing a **pre-service claim denial** that is eligible for external review, you will receive notice of the **claim administrator's** decision on the first level of **appeal** within 30 calendar days of the **claim administrator's** receipt of your **appeal**.

If appealing a **post-service claim denial** that is not eligible for external review as outlined in [section 8.14.9, *Application and Scope of External Review Process for Benefits Under the Medical Plan and Dental Plan*](#), you will receive notice of the **claim administrator's** decision on the first level of **appeal** within 30 calendar days after the **claims administrator's** receipt of your **appeal**. If appealing a **post-service claim denial** that is eligible for external review, you will receive notice of the **claim administrator's** decision on the first level of **appeal** within 60 calendar days after the **claims administrator's** receipt of your **appeal**.

If the claim is denied on **appeal**, with respect to claims for benefits under the **plan**, the **claims administrator** will provide you with the following information free of charge as soon as possible and sufficiently in advance of the date on which the notice of **denial** is required to be provided to you that you have a reasonable opportunity to respond prior to that date:

- a) any new or additional evidence considered, relied upon, or generated by the **claims administrator** (or at the direction of the **claims administrator**) in connection with the claim; and
- b) any new or additional rationale that forms the basis of the **claims administrator's denial**, if any.

Additionally, if the claim is **denied** on **appeal** (including a **final denial**), you will be given notice with a statement that you are entitled to receive, free of charge, reasonable access to and copies of all documents, records, and other information that apply to the claim. The notice will also contain:

- a) The specific reasons for the **denial**.
- b) References to applicable **plan** provisions upon which the **denial** is based.
- c) A description of the review procedures and time limits, including information regarding how to initiate a second level **appeal**, and information on the external review process (with respect to benefits under the **medical plan** and **dental plan**).
- d) The specific internal rule, guideline, protocol, or other similar criterion, if any, relied upon in making the **denial**, or a statement that such rule, guideline, protocol, or other similar criterion was relied upon, with a copy free of charge upon request.
- e) If the **denial** is based on a **medical necessity** or an **experimental or investigational** treatment or similar exclusion or limit, either an explanation of the scientific or clinical judgment for the determination or a statement that such explanation will be provided free of charge upon request.
- f) For **denials** of benefits under the **medical plan** and **dental plan**,
 - information sufficient to identify the claim involved (including the date of service, the health care provider, the claim amount (if applicable), and a statement describing the availability, upon request, of the diagnosis code and its corresponding meaning, and the treatment code and its corresponding meaning),
 - the **denial** code and its corresponding meaning, as well as a description of the **claims administrator's** standard, if any, that was used in the **denial** of the claim; and
 - the availability of, and contact information for, any applicable office of health insurance consumer assistance or ombudsman established under Section 2793 of the Public Health Services Act to assist individuals with the internal claims and **appeals** and external review process.
- g) If the **denial** is a **final denial** under the plan, a discussion of the decision.

If a second level **appeal** is not available under [section 8.14.7, Second Level Appeal of Denial of Claim](#), the decision on the first level of **appeal** will be a **final denial**, that is final, conclusive, and binding on all persons, subject to external review under [section 8.14.9, Application and Scope of External Review Process for Benefits Under the Medical Plan and Dental Plan](#).

8.14.7. Second Level Appeal of Denial of Claim

You may initiate a second level of **appeal** of the **denial** of a claim, but only if the claim is not eligible for external review under [section 8.14.9, Application and Scope of External Review Process for Benefits Under the Medical Plan and Dental Plan](#), because it does not involve medical judgment or a **rescission** of coverage under the **medical plan** or the **dental plan**.

You may initiate the second level of **appeal** by filing a written **appeal** with the **claims administrator** within 180 calendar days of the date the Level 1 decision letter was issued, which will be deemed filed upon receipt. If you do not file a timely second level of **appeal**, to the extent available under this section, the decision on the first level **appeal** will be the **final decision**, and will be final, conclusive and binding on all persons.

8.14.8. Decision on Second Level Appeal of Denial of Claim

The **claims administrator** will provide you with notice of its decision on the second level of **appeal** within 15 calendar days for **pre-service claim appeals** or within 30 calendar days for **post-service claim appeals**. If the claim is denied on the second level of **appeal**, the **claims administrator** will provide notice to you containing the information set forth in [section 8.14.6, Decision on First Level of Appeal of Claim Denial](#). The decision on the second level of **appeal** will be a **final denial**.

8.14.9. Application and Scope of External Review Process for Benefits Under the Medical Plan and Dental Plan

Upon receipt of a **final denial** (including a deemed **final denial**) with respect to benefits under the **medical plan** or **dental plan**, you may apply for external review. Upon receipt of a **denial** with respect to benefits under the **medical plan** or **dental plan** that is not a **final denial**, you may only apply for external review as provided in [section 8.14.11, Expedited External Review Process for Medical Plan and Dental Plan](#). The external review process will apply only to:

- a) a **final denial** with respect to benefits under the **medical plan** or **dental plan** that involves medical judgment, including but not limited to, those based on the **medical plan's** or **dental plan's** requirements for **medical necessity**, appropriateness, health care setting, level of care, or effectiveness of a covered benefit; or its determination that a treatment is **experimental or investigational**;
- b) a **final denial** with respect to involuntary out-of-network and continuity of care services;;
and
- c) a **rescission** of coverage under the **medical plan** or **dental plan** (whether or not the **rescission** has any effect on any particular benefit at that time).

8.14.10. Standard External Review Process for Claims for Benefits under the Medical Plan and Dental Plan

8.14.10.1. Timing of Request for External Review.

You must file a request for external review of a benefit claim under the **medical plan** and **dental plan** with the **claims administrator** no later than the date which is four months following the date of receipt of a notice of **final denial**. If there is no corresponding date four months after the date of receipt of such notice, then the request must be filed by the first day of the fifth month following receipt of the notice (*e.g.*, if a **final denial** is received on October 30, request must be made by the following March 1). If the last filing date would fall on a Saturday, Sunday, **State** holiday or Federal holiday, the last filing date is extended to the next day that is not a Saturday, Sunday, **State** holiday or Federal holiday.

8.14.10.2. Preliminary Review.

The **claims administrator** will complete a preliminary review of the request for external review within five business days to determine whether:

- a) you are or were covered under the applicable **medical plan** or **dental plan** at the time the covered service was requested or provided, as applicable;
- b) the type of claim is eligible for external review;
- c) you have exhausted (or are deemed to have exhausted) the **medical plan's** or **dental plan's** internal claims and **appeals** process; and
- d) you have provided all the information and forms required to process an external review.

The **claims administrator** will issue a notification to the claimant within one business day of completing the preliminary review. If the request is complete, but ineligible for external review, the notification will include the reasons for its ineligibility. If the request is not complete, the notification will describe the information or materials needed to make the request complete, and you will be allowed to perfect the request for external review by the later of the four month filing period described above, or within the 48 hour period following the receipt of the notification.

8.14.10.3. Referral to Independent Review Organization (IRO).

The **claims administrator** will assign an independent review organization (IRO) to your request for external review. Upon assignment, the IRO will undertake the following tasks with respect to the request for external review:

- a) Timely notify you in writing of the request's eligibility and acceptance for external review. This notice will include a statement that you may submit in writing to the IRO, within ten business days following the date of receipt of the notice, additional information that the IRO must consider when conducting the external review. The IRO is not required to, but may, accept and consider additional information submitted after ten business days.
- b) Review all documents and any information considered in making a **final denial** received by the **claims administrator**. The **claims administrator** will provide the IRO with such documents and information within five business days after the date of assignment of the IRO. Failure by the **claims administrator** to timely provide the documents and

information will not delay the conduct of the external review. If the **claims administrator** fails to timely provide the documents and information, the assigned IRO may terminate the external review and make a decision to reverse the **final denial**. In such case, the IRO will notify you and the **claims administrator** of its decision within one business day.

- c) Forward any information submitted by you to the **claims administrator** within one business day of receipt. Upon receipt of any such information, the **claims administrator** may reconsider its **final denial** that is the subject of the external review. Reconsideration by the **claims administrator** must not delay the external review. The external review may be terminated as a result of reconsideration only if the **claims administrator** decides to reverse its **final denial** and provide coverage or payment. In such case, the **claims administrator** must provide written notice of its decision to you and IRO within one business day, and the IRO will then terminate the external review.
- d) Review all information and documents timely received under a *de novo* standard. This means the IRO will not be bound by any decisions or conclusions reached during the **claims administrator's** internal claims and **appeals** process. In addition to the information and documents provided, the IRO, to the extent the information and documents are available and the IRO considers them appropriate, will further consider the following in reaching a decision:
- your medical records;
 - the attending **health care professional's** recommendation;
 - reports from appropriate **health care professionals** and other documents submitted by the **claims administrator**, you, or your **physician**;
 - the terms of the applicable **medical plan** or **dental plan** to ensure that the IRO's decision is not contrary to the terms of the **medical plan** or **dental plan**, unless the terms are inconsistent with applicable law;
 - appropriate practice guidelines, which must include applicable evidence-based standards and may include any other practice guidelines developed by the Federal government, national or professional medical societies, boards, and associations;
 - any applicable clinical review criteria developed and used by the **medical plan** or **dental plan**, unless the criteria are inconsistent with the terms of the **medical plan** or **dental plan** or with applicable law; and
 - the opinion of the IRO's clinical reviewer(s) after considering the information described in this paragraph to the extent the information or documents are available, and the clinical reviewer(s) consider appropriate.

8.14.10.4. Notice of Final External Review Decision.

The IRO will provide written notice of its decision within 45 days after the IRO receives the request for external review. Such notice will be delivered to you and the **claims administrator** and will contain the following:

- a) a general description of the reason for the request for external review, including information sufficient to identify the claim (including the date or dates of service, the health care **provider**, the claim amount (if applicable), the diagnosis code and its corresponding meaning, the treatment code and its corresponding meaning, and the reason for the previous **denial**);
- b) the date the IRO received the assignment to conduct external review and the date of the decision;
- c) references to the evidence or documentation, including specific coverage provisions and evidence-based standards, considered in reaching the decision;
- d) a discussion of the principal reason or reasons for its decision, including the rationale for its decision and any evidence-based standards that were relied upon in making its decision;
- e) a statement that the determination is binding except to the extent that other remedies may be available under state or Federal law to the **medical plan, dental plan** or you;
- f) a statement that you may file an administrative **appeal** with the **Division**; and
- g) current contact information, including phone number, for any applicable office of health insurance consumer assistance or ombudsman established under Section 2793 of the Public Health Service Act.

8.14.10.5. Reversal of Plan’s Decision.

If the **final denial** of the **claims administrator** is reversed by the decision, the **medical plan** or **dental plan** will immediately provide coverage or payment (including immediately authorizing or immediately paying benefits) for a claim, upon receipt of notice of such reversal.

8.14.10.6. Maintenance of Records.

An IRO will maintain records of all claims and notices associated with an external review for six years. An IRO must make such records available for examination by you, the **claims administrator**, or a state or Federal oversight agency upon request, except where such disclosure would violate state or Federal privacy laws.

8.14.11. Expedited External Review Process for Medical Plan or Dental Plan

8.14.11.1. Application of Expedited External Review.

You may make a request for expedited external review under the **medical plan** and **dental plan** at the time you receive either:

- a) a **denial** with respect to benefits under the **medical plan**, if the **denial** involves a medical condition for which the timeframe for completion of an internal **appeal** of an **urgent care claim** would seriously jeopardize your life or health or would jeopardize your ability to regain maximum function and you have filed a request for an **appeal** of an **urgent care claim**; or

- b) a **final denial** with respect to benefits under the **medical plan** or **dental plan**, if you have a medical condition where the timeframe for completion of a standard external review would seriously jeopardize your life or health or would jeopardize your ability to regain maximum function, or if the **final denial** concerns admission, availability of care, continued **stay**, or a health care item or service for which you received **emergency** services, but have not been discharged from a **facility**.

8.14.11.2. Preliminary Review.

Immediately upon receipt of a request for expedited external review, the **claims administrator** must determine whether the request meets the reviewability requirements set forth above. The **claims administrator** will immediately send a notice that meets the requirements set forth for standard external review of claims, as well as its eligibility determination.

8.14.11.3. Referral to Independent Review Organization (IRO).

Upon a determination that a request is eligible for expedited external review following the preliminary review, the **claims administrator** will assign an IRO pursuant to the requirements set forth above for standard external review. The **claims administrator** must provide or transmit all necessary documents and information considered in making the **denial** or **final denial** determination to the assigned IRO electronically or by telephone or facsimile or any other available expeditious method. The assigned IRO, to the extent the information or documents are available and the IRO considers them appropriate, will consider the information or documents described above under the procedures for standard external review. In reaching a decision, the assigned IRO will review the claim *de novo*, meaning it is not bound by any decisions or conclusions reached during the **claims administrator's** internal claims and **appeals** process.

8.14.11.4. Notice of Final External Review Decision.

The IRO will provide notice of its decision, in accordance with the requirements set forth above, as expeditiously as your medical condition or circumstances require, but in no event more than 72 hours after the IRO receives the request for an expedited external review. If the notice is not in writing, within 48 hours after the date of providing such notice, the assigned IRO will provide written confirmation of the decision to you and the **claims administrator**.

8.14.12. Third Level – Division of Retirement and Benefits Appeal

If the claim is denied on external review or, if not eligible for external review, on the second level of **appeal**, you may send a written **appeal** to the **Division**. If you submit an **appeal** to the **Division**, your **appeal** must be postmarked or received within 60 calendar days of the date the final external review or second level **claims administrator** decision letter was issued. If you do not file a plan administrator **appeal** timely, to the extent available under this section, the decision on external review or, if not eligible for external review, the second level of **appeal** will be the final decision, and will be final, conclusive and binding on all persons.

Upon receipt of your request, the **Division** will request a copy of your **claims administrator appeal** file, including any documentation needed from your **provider**. You must submit any additional information not provided with the second level **appeal** or external review that you wish considered with your written notice to the **Division**. The **Division** will review all information and documents to determine if it should be covered under the terms of the **medical plan** or **dental plan**. If the **appeal** involves medical judgment, including but not limited to, those based on the health plan's requirements for **medical necessity**, appropriateness, health care setting, level of care, or effectiveness of a covered benefit; or its determination that a treatment is **experimental or investigational**; the **Division** may refer your **appeal** to a second IRO in cases where the initial IRO is deemed inadequate, or if substantial new clinical evidence is provided that was not available during the initial IRO review. Otherwise, the **Division** will make a decision solely based on the whether the initial IRO decision was compliant with the provisions of the plan.

The **Division** will issue a written decision at the third level **appeal** within 60 calendar days after receipt of your request of your third level **appeal**.

8.14.13. Fourth Level – Superior Court Appeal

If the claim is denied on the third level **appeal**, you will have the right to file an administrative **appeal** with the **State** of Alaska superior court. If you wish to **appeal** a decision under this section, you must file a notice of **appeal** with the superior court within 30 days after the date that you receive notice of the **denial** on the third level **appeal**.

8.15. Claims Procedures Applicable to All Claims

8.15.1. Authorized Representative

Your authorized representative may act on your behalf in pursuing a benefit claim or **appeal**, pursuant to reasonable procedures. In the case of an **urgent care claim**, a **health care professional** with knowledge of your medical condition will be permitted to act as your authorized representative.

8.15.2. Calculating Time Periods

The period of time within which an initial benefit determination or a determination on an **appeal** is required to be made will begin when a claim or **appeal** is filed regardless of whether the information necessary to make a determination accompanies the filing.

Solely for purposes of initial **pre-service claims** and **post-service claims**, if the time period for making the initial benefit determination is extended (in the **claims administrator's** discretion) because you failed to submit information necessary to decide the claim, the time period for making the determination will be suspended from the date notification of the extension is sent to you until the earlier of (1) the date on which response from you is received, or (2) the end of

the time period given to you to provide the additional information, as set forth in the applicable section under [8.14, *If a Claim is Denied*](#).

8.15.3. Full and Fair Review

Upon request, and free of charge, you or your duly authorized representative will be given reasonable access to, and copies of, all documents, records, and other information relevant to your claim, or may submit to the appropriate person or entity written comments, documents, records, and other information relating to the claim. If timely requested, review of a denied claim will take into account all comments, documents, records, and other information submitted by you or your authorized representative relating to your claim without regard to whether such information was submitted or considered in the initial benefit determination.

Appeals for health claims will be reviewed by an appropriate named fiduciary of the **plan** who is neither the individual nor subordinate of the individual who made the initial determination. The **claims administrator** will not give any weight to the initial determination, and, if the **appeal** is based, in whole or in part, on a medical judgment, the **claims administrator** will consult with an appropriate **health care professional** who is neither the individual nor subordinate of the individual who was consulted in connection with the initial determination. The **claims administrator** will identify any medical or vocational experts whose advice was obtained without regard to whether the advice was relied upon in making the benefit determination. In the case of two levels of **appeal**, the second level reviewer will not afford deference to the first level reviewer, nor will the second level reviewer be the same individual or the subordinate of the first level reviewer.

8.15.4. Exhaustion of Remedies

If you fail to file a request for review of a **denial**, in whole or in part, of benefits in accordance with the procedures herein outlined, you will have no right to review and no right to bring an action, at law or in equity, in any court and the **denial** of the claim will become final and binding on all persons for all purposes.

With respect to claims under the **medical plan** and **dental plan**, except as provided below, if the **claims administrator** fails to strictly adhere to all the requirements with respect to a claim under [section 8.14, *If a Claim Is Denied*](#), and [section 8.15, *Claims Procedures Applicable to All Claims*](#), you are deemed to have exhausted the internal claims and **appeals** process with respect to such claims. Accordingly, you may initiate an external review with respect to such claims as outlined in [section 8.14, *If a Claim Is Denied*](#). You are also entitled to pursue any available remedies under State law, as applicable, with respect to such claims.

Notwithstanding the above, the internal claims and **appeals** process with respect to claims under the **medical plan** or **dental plan** will not be deemed exhausted based on *de minimis* violations

that do not cause, and are not likely to cause, prejudice or harm to you, so long as the **claims administrator** demonstrates that the violation was for good cause or due to matters beyond the control of the **claims administrator** and that the violation occurred in the context of an ongoing, good faith exchange of information between the **claims administrator** and you. This exception is not available if the violation is part of a pattern of violations by the **claims administrator**. You may request a written explanation of the violation from the **claims administrator**, and the **claims administrator** will provide such explanation within 10 days, including a specific description of its basis, if any, for asserting that the violation should not cause the process outlined in [sections 8.14, *If a Claim Is Denied*](#), and [section 8.15, *Claims Procedures Applicable to All Claims*](#), to be deemed exhausted. If the IRO or a court rejects your request for immediate review due to deemed exhaustion on the basis that the **claims administrator** met the standards for the exception described in this subsection, you will have the right to resubmit and pursue the internal **appeal** of the **medical plan** or **dental plan** claim. In such case, within a reasonable time after the IRO or court rejects the claim for immediate review (not to exceed 10 days), the **claims administrator** will provide you with notice of the opportunity to resubmit and pursue the internal **appeal** of the **medical plan** or **dental plan** claim. Time periods for re-filing the **medical plan** or **dental plan** claim will begin to run upon your receipt of such notice.

9. CONSOLIDATED OMNIBUS BUDGET RECONCILIATION ACT (COBRA) AND EXTENDED HEALTH COVERAGE

9.1. Introduction

If you and/or your **dependents** lose coverage due to a qualifying event, you and/or your **dependents** may continue coverage under the **plan** by electing COBRA coverage and paying the required premium as described in this section.

You may elect coverage under the **plan** that is the same or less than the level of coverage that you or your **dependents** had at the time your coverage terminates under the **plan**. For example, if you are covered under the **medical plan** and have elected the economy plan, you may elect COBRA continuation coverage under either the economy plan or the consumer choice plan, but not the standard plan. Additionally, you may elect COBRA continuation coverage:

- a) under the **medical plan** only; or
- b) under the **medical plan** and under the **dental plan** and/or the **vision plan**.

You may not elect COBRA continuation coverage under the **dental plan** or the **vision plan** without also electing COBRA continuation coverage under the **medical plan**.

9.2. Right to Continuation Coverage

If you are a qualified beneficiary, you may elect to continue coverage under the **plan** after a qualifying event. Only those persons who are covered under the **plan** on the day before the

event which triggered termination of coverage are eligible to elect COBRA continuation coverage, except that **dependent children** born to or placed for adoption with you while you are on continuation coverage may be added to your coverage if the **child** is otherwise eligible under the **plan**.

A qualified beneficiary is a person who is covered under the **plan** on the day before a qualifying event (but also including **dependent children** born to or placed for adoption with you during the continuation coverage) who is:

- a) an **eligible employee**;
- b) surviving dependents of peace officer and firefighters of the **State** whose bargaining unit or employee group participates in the **plan**, or the surviving **dependents** of a peace officer or a firefighter who were enrolled in the former Public Safety Employee Association Health and Welfare Trust on later of the date of the peace officer or firefighter's death or June 30, 2019, provided that any such surviving **dependents** meet the criteria to receive medical insurance premium payments pursuant to Alaska Statute 39.60.040, Peace Officer and Firefighter Survivors' Fund;
- c) a spouse; or
- d) a dependent **child**.

The right to continued coverage is triggered by a qualifying event, which, but for the continued coverage, would result in a loss of coverage under the **plan**. A "loss of coverage" includes ceasing to be covered under the same terms and conditions as in effect immediately before the qualifying event or an increase in the premium or contribution that must be paid by a **covered person**. Qualifying events include:

- a) Your death.
- b) The termination (other than by reason of gross misconduct) of your employment or reduction of your hours that would result in a termination of coverage under the **plan**.
- c) Your divorce or legal separation from your **spouse**.
- d) The surviving dependents of peace officer and firefighters who no longer qualify for premium payments as outlined under Alaska Statute 39.60.040, *Peace Officer and Firefighter Survivors' Fund*;
- e) Your becoming entitled to Medicare benefits under Title XVIII of the Social Security Act (42 USC § 1395-1395ggg).
- f) Your **child** ceasing to be a **dependent child** under the eligibility requirements of the **plan**.

If a qualifying event occurs to a qualified beneficiary, then that qualified beneficiary may elect to continue coverage under the **medical plan**, **dental plan** and/or **vision plan**.

9.3. Election of Continuation Coverage

Continuation coverage does not begin unless it is elected by a qualified beneficiary. Each qualified beneficiary who loses coverage as a result of a qualifying event has an independent

right to elect continuation coverage, regardless of whether any other qualified beneficiary with respect to the same qualifying event elects continuation coverage.

The election period begins on or before the date the qualified beneficiary would lose coverage under the **plan** due to the qualifying event, and ends on or before the date that is 60 days after the later of:

- a) the date the qualified beneficiary would lose coverage due to the qualifying event; or
- b) the date on which notice of the right to continued coverage is sent by **PayFlex**.

The election of continuation coverage must be made on a form provided by **PayFlex** and payment for coverage, as described in the notice, must be made when due. An election is considered to be made on the date it is sent to **PayFlex**.

9.4. Period of Continuation Coverage

9.4.1. Termination of Employment or Reduction in Hours

In the case of a qualifying event caused by termination of employment or reduction in hours, the qualified beneficiary may elect to extend coverage for a period of up to 18 months from the date of the qualifying event.

9.4.2. Second Qualifying Event

If a second or additional qualifying event occurs during the initial 18 month continuation coverage period (or during a 29 month maximum coverage period in the case of a disability), the qualified beneficiary may elect to extend the continuation coverage period for a period of up to 36 months from the date of the earlier qualifying event.

If you became entitled to Medicare within 18 months prior to a qualifying event caused by termination of employment or reduction in hours, qualified beneficiaries (other than you) may elect to extend coverage for a period of 36 months from the date of your entitlement to Medicare benefits.

9.4.3. Disability

If a qualified beneficiary is determined under Title II or XVI of the Social Security Act to be disabled within 60 days of the initial continuation coverage period due to termination of employment or reduction of hours (even if the disability commenced or was determined to be a disability before the first 60 days of the initial 18 month continuation coverage period), coverage may be continued for all qualified beneficiaries for a period of up to 29 months from the date of the qualifying event.

You must provide notice of a disability determination to **PayFlex** within 18 months of the qualifying event and within 60 days after the latest of:

- a) the date of the disability determination by the Social Security Administration;

- b) the date the qualifying event occurs;
- c) the date you lose or would lose coverage due to the qualifying event; or
- d) the date on which you are informed, via the **plan** or the general COBRA notice, of your obligation to provide such notice and procedures for providing such notice.

You are also responsible for notifying the **Division** within 30 days of the later of:

- a) the date of the final determination by the Social Security Administration that you are no longer disabled; or
- b) on the date which you are informed, via the **plan** or the general COBRA notice, of your obligation to provide such notice and procedures for providing such notice.

9.4.4. Other Qualifying Events

In the case of any qualifying event not otherwise described above, the qualified beneficiary may elect to extend coverage for a period of up to 36 months from the date of the qualifying event.

9.4.5. Health Flexible Spending Account (HFSA)

Notwithstanding the above, continuation coverage under the health flexible spending account (HFSA) will extend only until the end of the **benefit year** in which the qualifying event occurs.

9.4.6. Health Reimbursement Arrangement (HRA)

You have a right to choose to continue you HRA benefit on COBRA when coverage is lost due to a qualifying event. Coverage is extended only to those individuals covered at the time of termination and may only continue the same coverage that was in effect prior to termination. Your HRA plan is considered a bundled or integrated HRA plan, meaning it must be offered in conjunction with the consumer choice plan and can't be offered as a standalone plan. This means that a former covered employee or dependent of the consumer choice plan can only enroll in HRA COBRA if they elect consumer choice COBRA coverage. Premiums for HRA COBRA coverage are incorporated in the COBRA cost for the consumer choice plan.

9.5. End of Continuation Coverage

Continuation coverage will end upon the dates of the following occurrences, even if earlier than the periods specified under [section 9.4, *Period of Continuation Coverage*](#).

- a) Timely payment of premiums for the continuation coverage is not made (including any grace periods).
- b) You first become covered under any other group health plan, after the date on which continuation coverage is elected, as an employee or otherwise, unless such other plan contains a limitation (other than a limitation which does not apply by virtue of HIPAA with respect to any pre-existing condition).
- c) You first become entitled to benefits under Medicare, after the date on which continuation coverage is elected.

- d) The **State** ceases to provide any group health plan to any **employee**.
- e) You cease to be disabled, if continuation coverage is due to the disability.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, the **plan** may also terminate the continuation coverage of a qualified beneficiary for cause on the same basis that it could terminate the coverage of a similarly situated non-COBRA beneficiary for cause (*e.g.*, in the case of submitting fraudulent claims to the **Division**).

9.6. Cost of Continuation Coverage

You are responsible for paying the cost of continuation coverage. The premiums are payable on a monthly basis. By law, premiums cannot exceed 102% of the full premium cost for such coverage (or 150% for any extended period of coverage due to disability). After a qualifying event, **PayFlex** will provide a notice with the amount of the premium, to whom the premium is to be paid, and the date of each month that payment is due. Failure to pay premiums on a timely basis will result in termination of coverage as of the date the premium is due. Payment of any premium will only be considered to be timely if made within 30 days after the date due.

A premium must be paid for the cost of continuation coverage for the time period between the date of the event which triggered continuation coverage and the date continued coverage is elected. This payment must be made within 45 days after the date of election. **PayFlex** will provide you notice specifying the amount of the premium, to whom the premium is to be paid, and the date payment is due. Failure to pay this premium on the date due will result in cancellation of coverage back to the initial date coverage would have terminated.

9.7. Notification Requirements

9.7.1. General Notice to Covered Eligible Employee and Spouse

The plan will provide, at the time of commencement of coverage, written notice to you and your spouse of your rights to continuation coverage. This general notice will be provided no later than the earlier of:

- a) 90 days after your coverage commencement date under the **plan**; or
- b) the date on which the **Division** is required to furnish a COBRA election notice.

9.7.2. Employer Notice to Division

Your employer will notify the **Division** in the event of your death, termination of employment (other than gross misconduct), reduction in hours, layoff, or entitlement to Medicare benefits within 30 days after the date of the qualifying event.

9.7.3. Covered Eligible Employee/Qualified Beneficiary Notice to Administrator

You must notify the **Division** of:

- a) your divorce or legal separation from your **spouse**;
- b) a **child** ceasing to be a **dependent child** under the eligibility requirements of the **plan**;

- c) a second qualifying event; or
- d) notice of disability entitlement or cessation of disability.

You must give notice as soon as possible, but no later than 60 days after the later of:

- a) the date of such qualifying event;
- b) the date that you lose or would lose coverage due to such qualifying event; or
- c) the date on which you are informed, via the **plan** or the general COBRA notice, of your obligation to provide such notice and the plan procedures for providing such notice.

See [section 9.3, *Election of Continuation Coverage*](#), for timing of notices applicable to disability determinations.

You or another qualified beneficiary, or a representative acting on behalf of you or another qualified beneficiary, may provide this notice. The provisions of notice by one individual satisfies any responsibility to provide notice on behalf of all related qualified beneficiaries with respect to the qualifying event. Failure to provide timely notice will result in your loss of any right to elect continuation coverage.

9.7.4. Division's Notice to Qualified Beneficiary

Upon receipt of a notice of qualifying event, **PayFlex** will provide to each qualified beneficiary notice of their right to elect continuation coverage, no later than 14 days after the date on which **PayFlex** received notice of the qualifying event. Any notification to a qualified beneficiary who is your **spouse** will be treated as a notification to all other qualified beneficiaries residing with such **spouse** at the time such notification is made.

9.7.5. Unavailability of Coverage

If **PayFlex** receives a notice of a qualifying event or disability determination and determines that the person is not entitled to continuation coverage, **PayFlex** will notify the person with an explanation as to why such coverage is not available.

9.7.6. Notice of Termination of Coverage

PayFlex will provide notice to each qualified beneficiary of any termination of continuation coverage which is effective earlier than the end of the maximum period of continuation coverage applicable to such qualifying event, as soon as practicable following **PayFlex's** determination that continuation coverage should terminate.

9.7.7. Use of a Single Notice

Required notices must be provided to each qualified beneficiary or individual; however:

- a) a single notice can be provided to you and your **spouse** if you both reside at your address; and
- b) a single notice can be provided to you or your **spouse** for a **dependent child**, if the **dependent child** resides with you or your **spouse**.

9.8. Continuation Health Benefits Provided

The continuation coverage provided to a qualified beneficiary who elects continued coverage will be identical to the coverage provided to similarly situated persons covered under the **plan** with respect to whom a qualifying event has not occurred. If coverage is modified under the **plan** for any group of similarly situated beneficiaries, the coverage will also be modified in the same manner for all individuals who are qualified beneficiaries under the **plan**. Continuation coverage will not be conditioned on evidence of good health.

You may change your elections during open enrollment for the **plan**.

9.9. Bankruptcy Proceedings

Special continuation coverage provisions apply in the event of bankruptcy of the **State**.

Notwithstanding any of the preceding sections, in the event of a bankruptcy proceeding under Title XI of the United States Code, where a loss of coverage or substantial elimination of your coverage occurs on or before the date of the loss or substantial elimination of coverage and any other individual who, on the day before the bankruptcy proceeding, is a beneficiary (under the **plan** as a **spouse**, or **dependent child**) within one year before or after the date of the commencement of the bankruptcy proceeding, continuation coverage will be provided under the **plan** to the extent required under Code Section 4980(B).

9.10. Extended Coverage for Disabled Employees or Dependents

Eligible employees or **dependents** who are **totally disabled**, lose coverage under the **medical plan**, and waive their right to COBRA continuation coverage, are eligible for a limited extension of their coverage under the **medical plan**. This extended coverage is not available to an **employee** who is **totally disabled** and entitled to the protections under [section 14.9, *Family and Medical Leave Act \(FMLA\)*](#).

Extended coverage under the **medical plan** is at no cost to the **totally disabled eligible employee** or **totally disabled dependent**.

You must be **totally disabled** due to **injury, illness**, or pregnancy when coverage under the **medical plan** terminates to be eligible for this benefit. Extended health benefits for **total disability** are provided for the number of months you have been covered under the **medical plan**, up to a maximum of 12 months. However, only the condition which caused the **total disability** is covered and coverage is provided only while you or your **dependent**, as applicable, is **totally disabled**.

To be eligible for extended health benefits, you or your **dependent**, as applicable, must be under a **physician's** care and submit evidence of disability to the **claims administrator** within 90 days after you lose coverage under the **medical plan**. The **physician** must complete a *Statement of Disability* form available from the **Division** or the **claims administrator**. You must satisfy any unpaid portion of the **deductible** within three months of the date you lose coverage.

This extended coverage terminates when you or your **dependent**, as applicable, become covered under a group health plan with similar benefits.

10. COORDINATION WITH MEDICARE

10.1. Primary Coverage to Medicare

If coverage under the **medical plan** is primary to Medicare and you and/or your **dependents** who are eligible to be covered by Medicare incur a claim, the **medical plan** will pay for **covered expenses** subject to any applicable **deductible, copayment, coinsurance**, and any applicable **out-of-pocket limit**, exclusions or any other limits.

10.2. Secondary Coverage to Medicare

To the extent allowable under applicable law, coverage under the **medical plan** for you and your **dependents** who are eligible to be covered under Medicare will be secondary to coverage of you and your **dependents** under Medicare. The benefit payable under the **medical plan** will be reduced by the greater of:

- a) the amount actually paid by Medicare Part A, Part B, Part C or Part D; or
- b) the amount Medicare would pay if you or your **dependents** were enrolled in Medicare Part A and Part B.

10.3. Medicare Coverage Election

If you and your **dependents** choose not to be covered by the **medical plan** and elect to be covered by Medicare, Medicare will provide the coverage and coverage under the **medical plan** will terminate.

10.4. Eligibility for Medicare

You and your **dependents** are considered eligible for all parts of Medicare for the purposes of the **medical plan** during any period you or your **dependents** have coverage under Medicare or, while otherwise qualifying for coverage under Medicare, do not have such coverage solely because you or your **dependents** have refused, discontinued, or failed to make any necessary application for Medicare Part A or Part B coverage.

11. COORDINATION OF BENEFITS

11.1. When Coordination of Benefits Applies

This coordination of benefits (COB) provision applies to the **medical plan** and **dental plan** when you or your covered **dependent** has health coverage under more than one plan. The order of benefit determination rules below determines which plan will pay as the primary plan. The primary plan pays first without regard to the possibility that another plan may cover some

expenses. A secondary plan pays after the primary plan and may reduce the benefits it pays so that payments from all group plans do not exceed 100% of the total allowable expense.

11.2. Defined Terms

When used in this provision, the following words and phrases have the meaning explained herein.

11.2.1. Allowable Expense.

Allowable expense means a health care service or expense, including **coinsurance** and **copayments**, without reduction of any applicable **deductible**, that is covered at least in part by any of the plans covering the person. When a plan provides benefits in the form of services (for example, an HMO), the reasonable cash value of each service will be considered an allowable expense and a benefit paid. An expense or service that is not covered by any of the plans is not an allowable expense. Any expense that a health care provider by law or in accordance with a contractual agreement is prohibited from charging a **covered person** is not an allowable expense. The following are examples of expenses and services that are not allowable expenses:

- a) If a **covered person** is confined in a private **hospital** room, the difference between the cost of a semi-private room in the **hospital** and the private room is not an allowable expense. This does not apply if one of the plans provides coverage for a private room.
- b) If a person is covered by two or more plans that compute their benefit payments on the basis of reasonable or **recognized charges**, any amount in excess of the highest of the reasonable or **recognized charges** for a specific benefit is not an allowable expense.
- c) If a person is covered by two or more plans that provide benefits or services on the basis of **negotiated charges**, an amount in excess of the highest of the **negotiated charges** is not an allowable expense.
- d) The amount a benefit is reduced or not reimbursed by the primary plan because a **covered person** does not comply with the plan provisions is not an allowable expense. Examples of these provisions are second surgical opinions, **precertification** of admissions, and preferred provider arrangements.
- e) If all plans covering a person are high **deductible** plans and the person intends to contribute to a health savings account established in accordance with Code Section 223, the primary high **deductible** plan's **deductible** is not an allowable expense, except as to any health expense that may not be subject to the **deductible** as described in Code Section 223(c)(2)(C).

If a person is covered by one plan that computes its benefit payments on the basis of reasonable or **recognized charges**, and another plan that provides its benefits or services on the basis of **negotiated charges**, the primary plan's payment arrangements will be the allowable expense for all the plans. However, if the secondary plan has a negotiated fee or payment amount different from the primary plan and if the provider contract permits, that negotiated fee will be the allowable expense used by the secondary plan to determine benefits.

11.2.2. Closed Panel Plan(s)

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

11.2.3. Custodial Parent

A parent awarded custody by a court decree. In the absence of a court decree, it is the parent with whom the **child** resides more than one half of the **calendar year** without regard to any temporary visitation.

11.2.4. Plan

Any plan providing benefits or services by reason of health care or treatment, which benefits or services are provided by one of the following:

- a) Group or nongroup, blanket, or franchise health insurance policies issued by insurers, including health care service contractors.
- b) Other prepaid coverage under service plan contracts, or under group or individual practice.
- c) Uninsured arrangements of group or group-type coverage.
- d) Labor-management trustee plans, labor organization plans, employer organization plans, or employee benefit organization plans.
- e) Medicare or other governmental benefits.
- f) Other group-type contracts. Group type contracts are those which are not available to the general public and can be obtained and maintained only because membership in or connection with a particular organization or group.

If the plan includes medical, **prescription drug**, dental, and vision coverage, those coverages will be considered separate plans. For example, medical coverage will be coordinated with other medical plans and dental coverage will be coordinated with other **dental plans**.

The health plan is any part of the plan that provides benefits for health care expenses.

11.2.5. Primary Plan/Secondary Plan

The order of benefit determination rules state whether the health plan is a primary plan or secondary plan as to another plan covering the person.

- a) When the health plan is a primary plan, its benefits are determined before those of the other plan and without considering the other plan's benefits.
- b) When the health plan is a secondary plan, its benefits are determined after those of the other plan and may be reduced because of the other plan's benefits.

- c) When there are more than two plans covering the person, the health plan may be a primary plan as to one or more other plans and may be a secondary plan as to a different plan or plans.

11.3. Which Plan Pays First

When two or more plans pay benefits, the rules for determining the order of payment are as follows:

- a) The primary plan pays or provides its benefits as if the secondary plan or plans did not exist.
- b) A plan that does not contain a coordination of benefits provision that is consistent with this provision is always primary. There is one exception: coverage that is obtained by virtue of membership in a group that is designed to supplement a part of a basic package of benefits may provide that the supplementary coverage will be excess to any other parts of the plan provided by the contract holder. Examples of these types of situations are major medical coverages that are superimposed over base plan **hospital** and surgical benefits, and insurance type coverages that are written in connection with a **closed panel** plan to provide out-of-network benefits.
- c) A plan may consider the benefits paid or provided by another plan in determining its benefits only when it is secondary to that other plan.
- d) The first of the following rules that describes which plan pays its benefits before another plan is the rule to use:
 - 1. **Non-Dependent or Dependent.** The plan that covers the person other than as a **dependent**, for example as an employee, member, subscriber or retiree is primary and the plan that covers the person as a **dependent** is secondary. However, if the person is a Medicare beneficiary and, as a result of Federal law, Medicare is secondary to the plan covering the person as a **dependent**; and primary to the plan covering the person as other than a **dependent** (e.g. a retired employee); then the order of benefits between the two plans is reversed so that the plan covering the person as an employee, member, subscriber or retiree is secondary and the other plan is primary.
 - 2. **Child Covered Under More than One Plan.** The order of benefits when a **child** is covered by more than one plan is:
 - A. The primary plan is the plan of the parent whose birthday is earlier in the year if:
 - i. The parents are married or living together whether or not married.
 - ii. A court decree awards joint custody without specifying that one party has the responsibility to provide health care coverage or if the decree states that both parents are responsible for health coverage. If both parents have the same birthday, the plan that covered either of the parents longer is primary.

- B. If the specific terms of a court decree state that one of the parents is responsible for the **child's** health care expenses or health care coverage and the plan of that parent has actual knowledge of those terms, that plan is primary. If the parent with responsibility has no health coverage for the **dependent child's** health care expenses, but that parent's spouse does, the plan of the parent's spouse is the primary plan.
- C. If the parents are separated or divorced or are not living together whether or not they have ever been married and there is no court decree allocating responsibility for health coverage, the order of benefits is:
- The plan of the custodial parent;
 - The plan of the spouse of the custodial parent;
 - The plan of the noncustodial parent; and then
 - The plan of the spouse of the noncustodial parent.

For a **dependent child** covered under more than one plan of individuals who are not the parents of the **child**, the order of benefits should be determined as outlined above as if the individuals were the parents.

3. Active Employee or Retired or Laid off Employee. The plan that covers a person as an employee who is neither laid off nor retired from the employer who sponsors the plan or as a **dependent** of an active employee, is the primary plan. The plan covering that same person as a retired or laid off employee or as a **dependent** of a retired or laid off employee is the secondary plan. If the other plan does not have this rule, and if, as a result, the plans do not agree on the order of benefits, this rule is ignored. This rule will not apply if the non-**dependent** or **dependent** rules above determine the order of benefits.
4. Continuation Coverage. If a person whose coverage is provided under a right of continuation provided by federal or state law also is covered under another plan, the plan covering the person as an employee, member, subscriber or retiree (or as that person's **dependent**) is primary, and the continuation coverage is secondary. If the other plan does not have this rule, and if, as a result, the plans do not agree on the order of benefits, this rule is ignored. This rule will not apply if the non-**dependent** or **dependent** rules above determine the order of benefits.
5. Longer or Shorter Length of Coverage. The plan that covered the person as an employee, member, subscriber longer is primary.

If the preceding rules do not determine the primary plan, the allowable expenses will be shared equally between the plans meeting the definition of plan under this provision. In addition, the **plan** will not pay more than it would have paid had it been primary.

11.4. How Coordination of Benefits Works

In determining the amount to be paid when the **medical plan** and **dental plan** is secondary on a claim, the secondary plan will calculate the benefits that it would have paid on the claim in the absence of other health insurance coverage and apply that amount to any allowable expense under the **medical plan** and **dental plan** that was unpaid by the primary plan. The amount will be reduced so that when combined with the amount paid by the primary plan, the total benefits paid or provided by all plans for the claim do not exceed 100 percent of the total allowable expense.

In addition, a secondary plan will credit to its plan **deductible** any amounts that would have been credited in the absence of other coverage.

Under the COB provision of the **medical plan** and **dental plan**, the amount normally reimbursed for covered benefits or expenses under the **medical plan** and **dental plan** is reduced to take into account payments made by other plans. The general rule is that the benefits otherwise payable under the **medical plan** and **dental plan** for all covered benefits or expenses will be reduced by all other plan benefits payable for those expenses. When the COB rules of the **medical plan** and **dental plan** and another plan both agree that the **medical plan** and **dental plan** determines its benefits before such other plan, the benefits of the other plan will be ignored in applying the general rule above to the claim involved. Such reduced amount will be charged against any applicable benefit limit of this coverage.

If a **covered person** is enrolled in two or more **closed panel** plans, COB generally does not occur with respect to the use of panel providers. However, COB may occur if a person receives **emergency** services that would have been covered by both plans.

11.5. Right to Receive and Release Necessary Information

Certain facts about health care coverage and services are needed to apply these COB rules and to determine benefits under the **medical plan** and **dental plan** and other plans. The **claims administrator** has the right to release or obtain any information and make or recover any payments it considers necessary in order to administer this provision.

11.6. Facility of Payment

Any payment made under another plan may include an amount which should have been paid under the **medical plan** and **dental plan**. If so, the **claims administrator** may pay that amount to the organization which made that payment. That amount will then be treated as though it were a benefit paid under the **medical plan** and **dental plan**. The **claims administrator** will not have to pay that amount again. The term “payment made” means reasonable cash value of the benefits provided in the form of services.

11.7. Right of Recovery

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

12. SUBROGATION AND REIMBURSEMENT RIGHTS

12.1. Right of Subrogation and Reimbursement

The **plan** has the right to full subrogation and reimbursement of any and all amounts paid by the **plan** to, or on behalf of, a **covered person**, for which a third party is allegedly responsible. The **plan** will have a lien against such funds, and the right to impose a constructive trust upon such funds and will be reimbursed therefrom.

12.2. Funds to Which Subrogation and Reimbursement Rights Apply

The **plan's** subrogation and reimbursement rights apply if the **covered person** receives, or has the right to receive, any sum of money, regardless of whether it is characterized as amounts paid for medical expenses or otherwise, paid or payable from any person, plan, or legal entity that is legally obligated to make payments as a result of a judgment, settlement, or otherwise, arising out of any act or omission of any third party (whether a third party or another **covered person** under the **plan**):

who is allegedly wholly or partially liable for costs or expenses incurred by the **covered person**, in connection for which the **plan** provided benefits to, or on behalf of, such **covered person**; or

whose act or omission allegedly caused **injury** or **illness** to the **covered person**, in connection for which the **plan** provided benefits to, or on behalf of, such **covered person**.

12.3. Agreement to Hold Recovery in Trust

If a payment is made under the **plan**, and the person to or for whom it is made recovers monies from a third party as a result of settlement, judgment, or otherwise, that person will hold in trust for the **plan** the proceeds of such recovery and reimburse the **plan** to the extent of its payments.

12.4. Disclaimer of Make Whole Doctrine

The **plan** has the right to be paid first and in full from any settlement or judgment, regardless of whether the **covered person** has been "made whole." The **plan's** right is a first priority lien. The **plan's** rights will continue until the **covered person's** obligations hereunder to the **plan** are fully discharged, even though the **covered person** does not receive full compensation or recovery for his or her injuries, damages, loss or debt. This right to subrogation *pro tanto* will exist in all cases.

12.5. Disclaimer of Common Fund Doctrine

The **covered person** will be responsible for all expenses of recovery from such third parties or other persons, including but not limited to, all attorneys' fees incurred in collection of such third-party payments, or payments by other persons. Any attorneys' fees and/or expenses owed by the **covered person** will not reduce the amount of reimbursement due to the **plan**.

12.6. Obligations of the Covered Person

The **covered person** will furnish any and all information and assistance requested by the **claims administrator**. If requested, the **covered person** will execute and deliver to the **claims administrator** a subrogation and reimbursement agreement before or after any payment of benefits by the **plan**. The **covered person** will not discharge or release any party from any alleged obligation to the **covered person** or take any other action that could impair the **plan's** rights to subrogation and reimbursement without the written authorization of the **claims administrator**.

12.7. Plan's Right to Subrogation

If the **covered person** or anyone acting on their behalf has not taken action to pursue their rights against a third party described in [section 12.2, *Funds to Which Subrogation and Reimbursement Rights Apply*](#), or any other persons to obtain a judgment, settlement or other recovery, the **claims administrator** or its designee, upon giving 30 days' written notice to the **covered person**, will have the right to take such action in the name of the **covered person** to recover that amount of benefits paid under the **plan**; provided, however, that any such action taken without the consent of the **covered person** will be without prejudice to such **covered person**.

12.8. Enforcement of Plan's Right to Reimbursement

If a **covered person** fails or refuses to comply with these provisions by reimbursing the **plan** as required herein, the **plan** has the right to impose a constructive trust over any and all funds received by the **covered person**, or as to which the **covered person** has the right to receive. The **plan** has the authority to pursue any and all legal and equitable relief available to enforce the rights contained in this section, against any and all appropriate parties who may be in possession of the funds described herein. The **plan** also has the right to terminate coverage for the **covered person** under the **plan**.

12.9. Failure to Comply

If a **covered person** fails to comply with the requirements under this section, the **covered person** will not be eligible to receive any benefits, services or payments under the **plan** for any **illness** or **injury** until there is compliance, regardless of whether such benefits are related to the act or omission of such third party or other persons.

12.10. Discretionary Authority of Administrator

The **State** will have full discretionary authority to interpret the provisions of this [section 12, Subrogation and Reimbursement Rights](#), and to administer and pursue the **health plan's** subrogation and reimbursement rights. It will be within the discretionary authority of the **State** to resolve, settle, or otherwise compromise its subrogation and reimbursement rights when appropriate. The **State** is under no legal obligation to reduce its lien or reimbursement rights unless, in its sole discretion, it determines that doing so is appropriate.

13. PROTECTED HEALTH INFORMATION UNDER THE HEALTH INSURANCE PORTABILITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY ACT (HIPAA)

13.1. Use and Disclosure of Protected Health Information

The **plan** will use and disclose **protected health information** to the extent of and in accordance with the uses and disclosures permitted by HIPAA, as set forth in the **Privacy Regulations**. Specifically, the **plan** will use and disclose **protected health information** for purposes related to health care treatment, **payment** for health care and **health care operations**.

13.2. Plan Documents

In order for the **plan** to disclose **protected health information** to the **State** or to provide for or permit the disclosure of **protected health information** to the **State** by a health insurance issuer or HMO with respect to the **plan**, the **plan** must ensure that the **plan** documents restrict uses and disclosures of such information by the **State** consistent with the requirements of HIPAA.

13.3. Disclosures by the Plan to the State

The **plan** may:

- a) Disclose **summary health information** to the **State**, if the **State** requests the **summary health information** for the purpose of:
 - obtaining premium bids from health plans for providing health insurance coverage under the **plan**; or
 - modifying, amending, or terminating the **plan**.
- b) Disclose to the **State** information on whether an **individual** is participating in the **plan** or is enrolled in or has disenrolled from a health insurance issuer offered by the **plan**.
- c) Disclose **protected health information** to the **State** to carry out plan administration functions that the **State** performs, consistent with the provisions of this section.
- d) With an authorization from the **covered person**, disclose **protected health information** to the **State** for purposes related to the administration of other employee benefit plans and fringe benefits sponsored by the **State**.

- e) Not permit a health insurance issuer with respect to the **plan** to disclose **protected health information** to the **State** except as permitted by this section.
- f) Not disclose (and may not permit a health insurance issuer to disclose) **protected health information** to the **State** as otherwise permitted by this section unless a statement is included in the **plan's** notice of privacy practices that the **plan** (or a health insurance issuer with respect to the **plan**) may disclose **protected health information** to the **State**.
- g) Not disclose **protected health information** to the **State** for the purpose of employment-related actions or decisions or in connection with any other benefit or employee benefit plan of the **State**.
- h) Not disclose (and may not permit a health insurance issuer to disclose) **protected health information** that is genetic information about an individual for underwriting purposes as defined in Section 1180(b)(4) of the Social Security Act and underlying regulations.

13.4. Uses and Disclosures by State

The **State** may only use and disclose **protected health information** as permitted and required by the **plan**, as set forth within this section. Such permitted and required uses and disclosures may not be inconsistent with the provisions of HIPAA. The **State** may use and disclose **protected health information** without an authorization from a **covered person** for plan administrative functions including **payment** activities and **health care operations**. In addition, the **State** may also use and disclose **protected health information** to accomplish the purpose for which any disclosure is properly made pursuant to [section 13.3, *Disclosures by the Plan to the State*](#).

13.5. Certification

The **plan** may disclose **protected health information** to the **State** only upon receipt of a certification from the **State** that the **plan** documents have been amended to incorporate the provisions provided for in this section and that the **State** so agrees to the provisions set forth therein.

13.6. Conditions Agreed to by the State

- a) The **State** agrees to:
- b) Not use or further disclose **protected health information** other than as permitted or required by the **plan** document or as required by law.
- c) Ensure that any agents, including a subcontractor, to whom the **State** provides **protected health information** received from the **plan** agree to the same restrictions and conditions that apply to the **State** with respect to such **protected health information**, and that any such agents or subcontractors agree to implement reasonable and appropriate security measures to protect any **electronic protected health information** belonging to the **plan** that is provided by the **State**.
- d) Not use or disclose **protected health information** for employment-related actions and decisions unless authorized by an **individual**.

- e) Not use or disclose **protected health information** in connection with any other benefit or employee benefit plan of the **State** unless authorized by an **individual**.
- f) Report to the **plan** any **protected health information** use or disclosure that is inconsistent with the uses or disclosures provided for by this section, or any **security incident** of which it becomes aware.
- g) Make **protected health information** available to an **individual** in accordance with HIPAA's access requirements pursuant to 45 CFR § 164.524.
- h) Make **protected health information** available for amendment and incorporate any amendments to **protected health information** in accordance with 45 CFR § 164.526.
- i) Make available the information required to provide an accounting of disclosures in accordance with 45 CFR § 164.528.
- j) Make internal practices, books and records relating to the use and disclosure of **protected health information** received from the **plan** available to the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services for the purposes of determining the **plan's** compliance with HIPAA.
- k) If feasible, return or destroy all **protected health information** received from the **plan** that the **State** still maintains in any form, and retain no copies of such **protected health information** when no longer needed for the purpose for which disclosure was made (or if return or destruction is not feasible, limit further uses and disclosures to those purposes that make the return or destruction infeasible).
- l) Implement administrative, physical, and technical safeguards that reasonably and appropriately protect the confidentiality, integrity, and availability of the **electronic protected health information** that it creates receives, maintains, or transmits on behalf of the **plan**.
- m) Ensure that the separation and requirements of [section 13.3, *Disclosures by the Plan to the State*](#), [section 13.4, *Uses and Disclosures by State*](#), and [section 13.5, *Certification of the plan*](#) are supported by reasonable and appropriate security measures.

13.7. Adequate Separation Between the Plan and the State

In accordance with HIPAA, only the persons identified in the **State's** HIPAA policies and procedures may be given access to **protected health information**.

13.8. Limitations of Access and Disclosure

The persons described in [section 13.3, *Disclosures by the Plan to the State*](#), may only have access to and use and disclose **protected health information** for **plan** administration functions that the **State** performs for the **plan**.

13.9. Noncompliance

If the persons or classes of persons described in [section 13.3, *Disclosures by the Plan to the State*](#), do not comply with this **plan** document, the **plan** and the **State** will provide a mechanism for resolving issues of noncompliance, including disciplinary sanctions.

14. OTHER MANDATED COVERAGES

14.1. Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act of 2008 (GINA)

The **plan** will comply with GINA, as amended, and any regulations issued thereunder, to the extent required there under, and to the extent not otherwise inconsistent with any Federal law or regulations governing the **plan**. As part of such compliance, the **plan** will not:

- a) Adjust plan contribution amounts or premiums on the basis of genetic information.
- b) Request or require a **covered person** or any of the **covered person's** family members to undergo a genetic test.
- c) Request, require, or purchase genetic information for underwriting purposes during coverage or with respect to any **covered person**, prior to such individual's enrollment in the **plan**.

Under this section, "genetic information" includes your genetic tests, the genetic tests of your family members, and your family medical history.

14.2. Statement of Rights Under the Newborns' and Mothers' Health Protection Act

Group health plans and health insurance issuers generally may not, under Federal law, restrict benefits for any **hospital** length of **stay** in connection with childbirth for the mother or newborn **child** to less than 48 hours following a vaginal delivery, or less than 96 hours following a cesarean section. However, Federal law generally does not prohibit the mother's or newborn's attending **provider** (*e.g.*, your **physician**, nurse midwife, or **physician** assistant), after consulting with the mother, from discharging the mother or her newborn earlier than 48 hours (or 96 hours as applicable). In any case, plans and issuers may not, under Federal law, require that a **provider** obtain authorization from the **plan** for prescribing a length of **stay** that is 48 hours (or 96 hours) or less. However, to use certain **providers** or facilities, or to reduce your out-of-pocket costs, you may be required to obtain **precertification**. For information on **precertification**, contact **Aetna**.

Under Federal law, the **plan** may not set the level of benefits or out-of-pocket costs so that any later portion of the 48-hour (or 96 hour) **stay** is treated in a manner less favorable to the mother or newborn than any earlier portion of the **stay**.

14.3. Eligibility for Medicaid Benefits

Benefits will be paid in accordance with any assignment of rights made by or on behalf of any **eligible employee** or **dependent** as required by a state plan for medical assistance approved under Title XIX, Section 1912(a)(1)(A) of the Social Security Act. For purposes of enrollment and entitlement to benefits, an **eligible employee's** or **dependent's** eligibility for or receipt of medical benefits under a state plan for medical assistance approved under Title XIX of the Social Security Act will not be taken into account. The **State** will have a right to any payment made under a

state plan for medical assistance approved under Title XIX of the Social Security Act when the **plan** has a legal liability to make such payment.

14.4. Prohibition on Rescissions

The **plan** will comply with Section 2712 of the Public Health Service Act, as added by Section 1001 of the PPACA and incorporated into Section 9815 of the Internal Revenue Code, and any regulations issued thereunder, to the extent required thereunder, and to the extent not otherwise inconsistent with any federal law or regulations governing the **plan**. As part of such compliance, the **plan** will not **rescind** your coverage or your **dependents'** coverage, except in the case where you or your **dependent** has performed an act or practice that constitutes fraud or makes an intentional misrepresentation of material fact, as prohibited by the terms of the **plan**. Failure to notify the **plan** of any change in status or other applicable events as required under the **plan** will be deemed by the plan to be an act that constitutes fraud and an intentional misrepresentation of material fact prohibited by the plan that may result in a retroactive termination of coverage. The **plan** will provide 30 days advance written notice to you or your **dependent**, as applicable, before rescinding your coverage. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the **plan** may still cancel or discontinue coverage effective retroactively to the extent it is attributable to a failure to timely pay required premiums or contributions towards the cost of coverage. Nothing in this section will prohibit the **plan** from cancelling or discontinuing such coverage prospectively for any reason provided under the **plan**.

14.5. Dependent Students on Medically Necessary Leave of Absence

The **plan** will comply with Michelle's Law of 2008, as amended from time to time, and any regulations issued thereunder, to the extent required thereunder and not otherwise inconsistent with any federal law or regulations governing the **plan**. As part of such compliance, the health **plan** will extend coverage for up to one year when a full-time student otherwise would lose eligibility if the full-time student takes a medically necessary leave of absence from a postsecondary educational institution. Coverage will continue for up to one year of leave, unless **dependent child** coverage ends earlier under another **plan** provision, such as the parent's termination of employment or the **dependent child's** age exceeding the **plan's** limit. A medically necessary leave of absence for purposes of full-time student medical leave occurs when a **child** who is a **dependent** and a full-time student (but who would not be a **dependent** if he or she were not a full-time student) takes a leave of absence from their educational institution or otherwise changes their enrollment status from full-time to part-time due to a serious **illness** or **injury**. The **plan** must receive written certification from the full-time student's **physician** confirming the serious **illness** or **injury** and the medical necessity of the leave or change in status. **Dependent** coverage will continue during the leave as if the **dependent child** had maintained full-time student status. This requirement applies even if the **plan** changes during the extended period of coverage.

14.6. Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010 (PPACA)

The **State** surrendered grandfather status of the **plan** effective January 1, 2017. The **plan** will comply with the 2010 federal health care reform law, called the PPACA. If Congress, federal or state regulators, or the courts make further changes or clarifications regarding the Affordable Care Act and its implementing regulations, the **plan** will comply with them even if they are not stated in this booklet or if they conflict with statements made in this booklet.

14.7. Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA)

The **plan** will comply with HIPAA, as amended from time to time, and any regulations issued thereunder to the extent required thereunder and to the extent not otherwise inconsistent with any federal law or regulations governing the health plan. Such compliance will include (i) providing **eligible employees** certification of their coverage under the **plan** to the extent required by HIPAA and (ii) permitting eligible individuals to enroll in the **plan** during special enrollment periods upon the loss of other coverage or upon the acquisition of a new **dependent** to the extent required under HIPAA, or (iii) discrimination against any person in terms of eligibility, continued eligibility or level of required employee contribution based upon health status, medical condition (including both physical and mental **illnesses**, claims experience, receipt of health care, medical history, genetic information, evidence of insurability (including conditions arising out of acts of domestic violence), or disability.

14.8. Continuation of Coverage Under the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act of 1994 (USERRA)

14.8.1. Generally

An **eligible employee** may be entitled to reemployment and other rights during and after a period of **service in the uniformed services** under USERRA. The **plan** will be administered in compliance with the requirements of USERRA to the extent applicable.

To be eligible for such USERRA benefits, before leaving for military service, the **eligible employee** is generally required to give the employer advance notice that such **eligible employee** is leaving the job for **service in the uniformed services**. When such **eligible employee** returns from military service, he or she must timely submit an application for reemployment with the employer and request information regarding such **eligible employee's** reemployment rights. Time limits for returning to work will depend on the length of time of such military service.

14.8.2. Continuation of Coverage

If an **eligible employee** is absent from a position of employment with the employer by reason of **service in the uniformed services** (whether voluntary or involuntary) and was covered under the **plan** immediately prior to their absence due to **service in the uniformed services**, such **eligible employee** will then be entitled to elect to continue health care coverage under the **plan** for the

eligible employee and their covered **dependents** for the time period allowed under the **plan**. Thereafter, coverage will continue for a period equal to the lesser of (i) the 24 month period beginning on the date on which such **eligible employee** is absent from employment with the employer by reason of **service in the uniformed services** or (ii) the day following the date on which the **eligible employee** fails to apply for or return to a position of employment with the employer as determined pursuant to USERRA Section 4312(e). **Eligible employees** may elect to discontinue coverage under the **plan** during **service in the uniformed services** by submitting the applicable forms to the **Division**.

14.8.3. Election of USERRA Continuation Coverage

Continuation coverage does not begin unless it is elected by the **eligible employee**.

The **eligible employee** may elect to continue coverage described in [section 1.3.1, Eligible Employees](#) by reason of **service in the uniformed services** for themselves and their covered **dependents**. **Dependents** do not have an independent right to elect USERRA continuation coverage. The election period for continued coverage will begin on the date the **eligible employee** gives the employer advance notice that he or she is required to report for **uniformed service** (whether such service is voluntary or involuntary) and will end 60 days after the date the **eligible employee** would otherwise lose coverage under the applicable **plan**.

If the **eligible employee** is unable to give advance notice of **uniformed service**, the **eligible employee** may still be able to elect continuation coverage under this section if the failure to give advance notice was because giving such notice was impossible, unreasonable, or precluded by military necessity. In such a case, the election period will begin on the date the **eligible employee** leaves for **uniformed service** and will end on the earlier of: (i) the 24 month period beginning on the date on which the **eligible employee's** absence for the **uniformed service** begins; or (ii) the date on which the **eligible employee** fails to return from **uniformed service** or apply for a position of employment. For these purposes, "military necessity" occurs only when deemed to be so by a designated military authority as described in 20 CFR § 1002.86 and may include situations where a mission, operation, exercise or requirement is classified, or could be compromised or otherwise adversely affected by public knowledge. It may be impossible or unreasonable to give advance notice under certain circumstances such as when the employer is unavailable, or the **eligible employee** is required to report for **uniformed service** in an extremely short period of time.

The election of USERRA continuation coverage must be made on a form provided by the **claims administrator** and made within the sixty (60) day period described herein. An election is considered to be made on the date it is sent to the **claims administrator**. If timely elected pursuant to this section, coverage will be reinstated as of the date the **eligible employee** lost coverage due to absence for **service in the uniformed service** and will last for the period set forth in paragraph b; provided that the **eligible employee** pays all unpaid costs for the coverage pursuant to paragraph d.

14.8.4. Cost of USERRA Continuation Coverage

If an **eligible employee** elects USERRA continuation coverage for himself or herself and, if applicable, their eligible covered **dependent(s)**, such **eligible employee** will be required to pay 102% of the full premium cost for such coverage; provided, however, with respect to such **eligible employee's** initial 31 days of **service in the uniformed services**, he or she will not be required to pay more for such coverage than is otherwise required for eligible persons.

Premiums are due on the first day of each month for which continuation coverage is desired. Failure to pay premiums on a timely basis will result in termination of coverage as of the date the premium is due. Payment of any premium, other than that referred to below, will only be considered to be timely if made within 30 days after the date due. A premium must also be paid for the cost of continuation coverage for the time period between the date that continuation coverage commences, and the date continuation coverage is elected. This payment must be made within 45 days after the date of election. Failure to pay this premium on the date due will result in cancellation of coverage back to the initial date coverage would have terminated.

14.8.5. Coordination with COBRA

An **eligible employee** who is absent from work by reason of **service in the uniformed services** may be eligible for continuation coverage under [section 9, Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act \(COBRA\) and Extended Health Coverage](#). The continuation coverage provided in this section will not limit or otherwise interfere with those continuation coverage rights; provided, however, any continuation coverage provided under this section will run concurrently with any continuation coverage available under [section 9, Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act \(COBRA\) and Extended Health Coverage](#).

14.8.6. USERRA Continuation Health Benefits Provided

The continuation coverage provided to an **eligible employee** serving in the **uniformed services** who elects continued coverage (and their covered **dependents**) will be identical to the coverage provided under the group health coverage to similarly situated persons covered by the group health coverage who are active. If coverage is modified under the group health coverage for any group of similarly situated beneficiaries, such coverage will also be modified in the same manner for all individuals who are covered under USERRA continuation coverage. Continuation coverage may not be conditioned on evidence of good health. If the group health plan coverage under the **health plan** provides an open enrollment period during which similarly situated active employees may choose to be covered under another group health plan or under another benefit package within the group health plan coverage under the **health plan**, or to add or eliminate coverage of family members, the group health plan coverage under the **health plan** will provide the same opportunity to individuals who have elected USERRA continuation coverage.

14.8.7. Waiting Period and Exclusions Upon Reemployment

Notwithstanding any other provision herein, an **eligible employee** and their eligible covered **dependents** whose benefit coverage is terminated by reason of **service in the uniformed services** will not be subject to any exclusion or waiting period upon reinstatement of such coverage under the group health coverage under the **health plan** following **service in the uniformed services**; provided, however, the above will not apply to any condition determined by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to have been incurred in or aggravated during the performance of **service in the uniformed services**.

14.8.8. Reinstatement of Coverage Upon Reemployment

The **Division** will promptly reinstate the coverage under the **plan** at reemployment upon request.

14.8.9. Rights, Benefits, and Obligations of Employees Absent from Employment by Reason of Service in the Uniformed Services

An **eligible employee** who is absent from employment with the **State** by reason of **service in the uniformed services** will be considered on furlough or leave of absence while performing such service and will be entitled to such other rights and benefits as are generally provided by the **State** to **eligible employees** having similar status and pay who are on furlough or leave of absence; provided, however, an **eligible employee** who knowingly provides written notice of intent not to return to employment with the **State** will cease to be entitled to such rights and benefits. Furthermore, an **eligible employee** who is absent from employment with the **State** by reason of **service in the uniformed services** will be permitted to apply any accrued paid vacation, annual or similar leave while on such leave by reason of **service in the uniformed services**.

14.9. Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA)

14.9.1. Generally

The FMLA generally allows certain employees who worked at least 1,250 hours during the preceding 12 months the right to take an unpaid leave (or a paid leave if it has been earned) for a period of up to 12 work weeks during a 12-month period because of:

- a) The birth of a **child** and to care for such **child**.
- b) The placement of a **child** for adoption or foster care, and to care for such **child**.
- c) The need to care for a family member (**child**, spouse, or parent) with a “serious health condition” as defined under the FMLA.
- d) An employee’s own “serious health condition” that makes the employee unable to do their job.
- e) Any “qualifying exigency” (as defined under the FMLA) arising out of the fact that the employee’s spouse, son, daughter, or parent is a covered military member on active duty (or has been notified of an impending call or order to active duty) in support of a contingency operation.

In addition, any spouse, son, daughter, parent, or nearest blood relative (“next of kin”) of a “covered servicemember” will be granted leave not to exceed a total of 26 work weeks during a single 12 month period to care for the “covered servicemember.” During the single 12-month period described above; an employee may be granted a combined total of 26 work weeks of leave for any combination of leaves under the FMLA. For purposes of this policy, the phrase “covered servicemember” means a member of the Armed Forces, including a member of the National Guard or Reserves, who:

- a) is undergoing medical treatment, recuperation, or therapy;
- b) is otherwise in an “outpatient status” (as defined by regulations); or
- c) is otherwise on the temporary disability retired list, for a “serious injury or illness” (as defined by regulations).

14.9.2. Continuation Coverage

Notwithstanding any other provisions in the **plan**, under the FMLA, an **eligible employee** who is covered under the **plan** is entitled to continue health benefit coverage under the **plan** during the period the **eligible employee** is on a FMLA leave. If paid leave runs concurrently with FMLA leave, employee contributions must be made by payroll deduction under the HFSA or by whatever alternative method is normally utilized for making such contributions when the **eligible employee** is on paid leave.

If the FMLA leave is unpaid leave, employee contributions must be paid at the same time as the contribution would be made if by payroll deduction, or as otherwise agreed to in writing between the **State** and the **eligible employee**. Failure of an **eligible employee** to pay their share of contributions within 30 days after the due date will result in termination of coverage, subject to this section. The **plan** coverage provided pursuant to the FMLA is the same as would be provided if the **eligible employee** had been employed during the leave period. The **eligible employee** may choose not to continue **plan** coverage during the FMLA leave. If the **eligible employee** chooses to discontinue coverage during the FMLA leave (or if coverage ends due to the failure to make timely contributions), the **eligible employee** will be immediately reinstated to **plan** coverage when the **eligible employee** returns from the FMLA leave without regard to any waiting period. The **eligible employee’s** right to continue coverage for non-health benefits will be governed by the right to continue such coverages during non-FMLA type leaves. The **eligible employee** will be notified of such right, if any, to continue other benefit coverage during a FMLA leave.

14.9.3. Termination of FMLA Continuation Coverage

Except as provided under this section, FMLA benefit coverage will terminate when:

- a) The **eligible employee** informs the **State** of their intent not to return from FMLA leave.
- b) The **eligible employee** fails to return from the FMLA leave.
- c) The **eligible employee** exhausts their FMLA leave.

- d) The employment relationship would have been terminated if the **eligible employee** had not taken FMLA leave.

After the last day of FMLA leave, an **eligible employee** may be eligible for continuation of health coverage at the **eligible employee's** own expense under Federal law as described in [section 9, Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act \(COBRA\) and Extended Health Coverage](#).

14.9.4. Employee Contributions

Eligible employees will pay any applicable employee contributions under the **health plan**.

The **State** may recover from the **eligible employee**: (i) contributions made by the **State** during a period of unpaid FMLA leave for maintaining the **eligible employee's** health benefit coverage if the **eligible employee** fails to return to work after the FMLA leave has been exhausted, unless the failure to return to work is due to a serious health condition of the **eligible employee** or a family member, or a serious **injury** or **illness** of a covered servicemen which would otherwise entitle the **eligible employee** to FMLA leave, or other circumstances beyond the **eligible employee's** control; or (ii) the **eligible employee's** share of contributions the **eligible employee** was obligated to make but which the **State** elected to make on the **eligible employee's** behalf in order to maintain the **eligible employee's** health benefit coverage (or non-health benefit coverage, as appropriate), regardless of whether the **eligible employee** returns from such leave.

14.10. Statement of Rights Under the Women's Health and Cancer Rights Act of 1998 (WHCRA)

If you have had or are going to have a mastectomy, you may be entitled to certain benefits under the WHCRA. For individuals receiving mastectomy-related benefits, coverage will be provided in a manner determined in consultation with the attending **physician** and the patient, for:

- a) all stages of reconstruction of the breast on which the mastectomy was performed;
- b) surgery and reconstruction of the other breast to produce a symmetrical appearance;
- c) prostheses; and
- d) treatment of physical complications of the mastectomy, including lymphedema.

These benefits will be provided subject to the same **deductibles** and **coinsurance** applicable to other medical and surgical benefits provided under the **plan**. See [section 2.1, Medical Benefit Schedule](#).

15. OTHER PLAN PROVISIONS

15.1. Access to Records

All **covered persons** under the **plan** consent to and authorize all **providers** to examine and copy any portions of the **hospital** or medical records requested by the **plan** when processing a claim, **precertification**, or claim **appeal**.

15.2. Plan Liability

The full extent of liability under the **plan** and benefits conferred, including recovery under any claim of breach, will be limited to the actual cost of **hospital** and health services as described herein and will specifically exclude any claim for general or special damages that includes alleged “pain, suffering, or mental anguish.”

15.3. Free Choice of Hospital and Provider

You may select any **hospital** that meets the criteria in [section 3.5.7, Hospital Expenses](#). You may select any **provider** who meets the definition of **provider** in [section 16, Definitions](#).

The payments made under the **plan** for services that a **provider** renders are not construed as regulating in any way the fees that the **provider** charges.

Under the **plan**, payments may be made, at the discretion of the **claims administrator**, to the **provider** furnishing the service or making the payment, or to the **eligible employee**, or to such **provider** and the **eligible employee** jointly.

The **hospitals** and **providers** that furnish **hospital** care and services or other benefits to **covered persons** do so as independent contractors. The **plan** is not liable for any claim or demand from damages arising from or in any way connected with any **injuries** that **covered persons** suffer while receiving care in any **hospital** or services from any **provider**.

15.4. Plan Must Be Effective

Health coverage is expense-incurred coverage only and not coverage for the **illness** or **injury** itself. This means that the **plan** will pay benefits only for expenses incurred while this coverage is in force. Except as described in [section 9, Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act \(COBRA\) and Extended Health Coverage](#), no benefits are payable for health expenses incurred before coverage has commenced or after coverage has terminated, even if the expenses were incurred as a result of an **accident, injury, or illness** which occurred, commenced or existed while coverage was in force. An expense for a service or supply is incurred on the date the service or supply is furnished.

15.5. Medical Outcomes

Neither the **State** nor the **claims administrator** makes any express or implied warranties nor assumes any responsibility for the outcome of any covered services or supplies.

15.6. Epidemics and Public Disasters

The services this **plan** provides are subject to the availability of **hospital** facilities and the ability of **hospitals**, **hospital** employees, **physicians** and surgeons, and other **providers** to furnish services. The **plan** does not assume liability for epidemics, public disasters, or other conditions beyond its control which make it impossible to obtain the services that the **plan** provides.

15.7. Vested Rights

Except as cited in [section 9, Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act \(COBRA\) and Extended Health Coverage](#), the **plan** does not confer rights beyond the date that coverage is terminated or the effective date of any change to the plan provisions, including benefits and eligibility provisions. For this reason, no rights from the **plan** can be considered vested rights. You are not eligible for benefits or payments from the **plan** for any services, treatment, medical attention, or care rendered after the date your coverage terminates.

15.8. Amendment or Termination Procedure

The following provisions will apply to the amendment and termination of the **plan**. To the extent that a benefit does not address amendment or termination of the benefit, the following provisions will also apply to such benefit. The **State**, through appropriate action of the **Commissioner** to take such action, will have the right in its sole discretion to amend the **plan**, the schedule of benefits or any underlying benefit, as applicable, at any time and from time to time and to any extent that it may deem advisable. Such modification or amendment will be duly incorporated in writing. The **State**, through appropriate action of the **Commissioner** to take such action, will have the right in its sole discretion to terminate the **plan** or any underlying benefit at any time and to the extent that it may deem advisable. Any amendment or termination of the **plan**, the schedule of benefits or underlying benefit will be effective as of the date the **State**, through the **Commissioner**, may determine in connection therewith. To the extent allowed by Internal Revenue Code and applicable **State** law, any such amendment may be effective retroactively.

15.9. Cancellation

The **State** may cancel any portion of the contract with the **claims administrator** without the consent of the **covered persons**.

15.10. Right to Receive and Release Necessary Information

The **plan** may release or obtain information from any other plan it considers relevant to a claim made under this **plan**. This information may be released or obtained without the consent of or notice to you or any other person or organization. You must furnish the **plan** with information necessary to implement the **plan** provisions.

15.11. Nonalienation

Except as otherwise required pursuant to a qualified medical **child** support, no benefit under the **plan** and underlying benefit prior to actual receipt thereof by any **eligible employee, spouse**, or their beneficiary will be subject to any debt, liability, contract, engagement, or tort of any **eligible employee, spouse**, or their beneficiary, nor subject to anticipation, sale, assignment, transfer, encumbrance, pledge, charge, attachment, garnishment, execution, alienation, or any other voluntary or involuntary alienation or other legal or equitable process, nor transferable by operation of law except as may be provided in the benefit.

Notwithstanding the above, an **eligible employee, spouse** or their beneficiary may request the third-party **claims administrator** pay the health benefit payment directly to the physician or medical provider. A physician or medical provider shall not have a direct cause of action against the Plan for any nonpayment of health benefits. Any direct or indirect arrangement (whether revocable or irrevocable) that purports to acquire a right or interest enforceable against the plan in all or any part of a plan benefit payment which is, or may become, payable to an **eligible employee, spouse** or their beneficiary is void and unenforceable. The Plan Administrator may, in its sole discretion, terminate any such right or benefit and hold or pay it to, or for the benefit of an **eligible employee, spouse** or their beneficiary, or any of them as the Plan Administrator may determine.

15.12. Additional Taxes or Penalties

If there are any taxes or penalties payable by the **State** on behalf of any **covered person**, such taxes or penalties will be payable by the **covered person** to the employer to the extent such taxes would have been originally payable by the **covered person** had this **plan** not been in existence.

15.13. No Guarantee of Tax Consequences

Neither the **claims administrators** nor the **State** makes any commitment or guarantee that any amounts paid to or for the benefit of a **covered person** under the **plan** will be excludable from the **covered person's** gross income for federal, state, or local income tax purposes or for Social Security tax purposes, or that any other federal or state tax treatment will apply to or be available to any **covered person**. It will be the obligation of each **covered person** to determine whether payment under the **plan** is excludable from the **covered person** gross income for federal, state, and local income tax purposes, and Social Security tax purposes, and to notify the **State** if the **covered person** has reason to believe that any such payment is not excludable.

15.14. Employment of Consultants

The **State**, or a fiduciary named by the **State** pursuant to the **plan**, may employ one or more persons to render advice with regard to their respective responsibilities under the **plan**.

15.15. Designation of Fiduciaries

The **State** may designate another person or persons to carry out any fiduciary responsibility of the **State** under the **plan**. The administrator will not be liable for any act or omission of such person in carrying out such responsibility, except as may be otherwise provided under applicable law.

15.16. Fiduciary Responsibilities

To the extent permitted under applicable law, no fiduciary of the **plan** will be liable for any act or omission in carrying out the fiduciary's responsibilities under the **plan**.

15.17. Allocation of Fiduciary Responsibilities

To the extent permitted under applicable law, each fiduciary under the **plan** will be responsible only for the specific duties assigned under the **plan** and will not be directly or indirectly responsible for the duties assigned to another fiduciary.

15.18. Limitation of Rights and Obligations

Neither the establishment nor maintenance of the **plan** nor any amendment thereof, nor the purchase of any benefit, including any benefit **plan** or insurance policy, nor any act or omission under the **plan** or resulting from the operation of the **plan** will be construed:

- a) as conferring upon any **covered person**, beneficiary, or any other person any right or claim against the **State**, or **claims administrator**, except to the extent that such right or claim will be specifically expressed and provided in the **plan** or provided under applicable law;
- b) as creating any responsibility or liability of the **State** or the **claims administrator** for the validity or effect of the **plan**; or
- c) as a contract or agreement between the **State** and any **covered person** or other person.

15.19. Notice

Any notice given under the **plan** will be sufficient if given to the **State** as administrator, when addressed to its office; if given to the **claims administrator**, when addressed to its office; or if given to a **covered person**, when addressed to the **covered person**, at their address as it appears in the records of the administrator or the **claims administrator**.

15.20. Disclaimer of Liability

Nothing contained herein will confer upon a **covered person** any claim, right, or cause of action, either at law or at equity, against the **plan**, the **State** or the **claims administrator** for the acts or omissions of any **provider** of services or supplies for any benefits provided under the **plan**.

15.21. Right of Recovery

If the **State** or the **claims administrator** makes any payment that according to the terms of the **plan** and the benefits provided hereunder should not have been made, the **State** or the

administrator may recover that incorrect payment, whether or not it was made due to the **State's** or the **claims administrator's** own error, from the person to whom it was made, or from any other appropriate party. If any such incorrect payment is made directly to a **covered person**, then the **State** or the **claims administrator** may deduct it when making future payments directly to that **covered person**.

15.22. Legal Counsel

The **State** may from time to time consult with counsel, who may be counsel for the **State**, and will be fully protected in acting upon the advice of such counsel.

15.23. Evidence of Action

All orders, requests, and instructions to the **State** or the **claims administrator** by the **State** or by any duly authorized representative, will be in writing and the administrator will act and will be fully protected in acting in accordance with such orders, requests, and instructions.

15.24. Protective Clause

Neither the **State** nor the **claims administrator** will be responsible for the validity of any contract of insurance or other benefit contract or policy by any benefit **provider** issued to the **State** or for the failure on the part of any insurance company or other benefit **provider** to make payments thereunder.

15.25. Receipt and Release

Any payments to any **covered person** will, to the extent thereof, be in full satisfaction of the claim of such **covered person** being paid thereby, and the **State** may condition payment thereof on the delivery by the **covered person** of the duly executed receipt and release in such form as may be determined by the **State**.

15.26. Legal Actions

If the **State** is made a party to any legal action regarding the **plan**, except for a breach of fiduciary responsibility of such person or persons, any and all costs and expenses, including reasonable attorneys' fees, incurred by the **State** in connection with such proceeding will be paid from the assets of the **plan** unless paid by the **State**.

No legal action can be brought to recover under any benefits after three years from the deadline for filing claims.

15.27. Reliance

The **State** will not incur any liability in acting upon any notice, request, signed letter, telegram, or other paper or document believed by the **State** to be genuine or to be executed or sent by an authorized person.

15.28. Misrepresentation

Any material misrepresentation on the part of the **covered person** making application for coverage or receipt of benefits, will render the coverage null and void. Each **covered person** is required to notify the **State** or **claims administrator** of any change in status or other applicable events as required under this **plan** or the applicable benefit. Any failure to notify the **State** or **claims administrator** of any change in status or other applicable events will be deemed by the **State** to be an act that constitutes fraud and an intentional misrepresentation of material fact prohibited by the **plan** that may result in a retroactive termination of coverage.

15.29. Entire Plan

The **plan** document and the documents, if any, incorporated by reference herein will constitute the only legally governing documents for the **plan**. No oral statement or other communication will amend or modify any provision of the **plan** as set forth herein.

15.30. Applicable Law and Venue

This **plan** is established and administered in the **State** and is governed by the laws of the **State**. Any and all suits or legal proceedings of any kind that are brought against the **State** must be filed in one of the Judicial Districts, in the State of Alaska.

15.31. Changes to the Plan

Neither the **claims administrator** nor any agent of the **claims administrator** is authorized to change the form or content of this **plan** in any way except by an amendment that becomes part of the **plan** over the signature of the **Commissioner**.

15.32. Facility of Payment

Whenever payments which should have been made under this **plan** are made under other programs, this **plan** has the right, at its discretion, to pay over to any organizations making other payments, any amounts it determines are warranted. These amounts are considered benefits paid under this **plan**, and, to the extent of such payments, this **plan** is fully discharged from liability.

15.33. Premiums

The amount of the monthly premium may change. If you fail to pay any required premiums, your rights under this **plan** will be terminated, except as provided under disability extended benefits. Benefits will not be available until you have been reinstated under the provisions of the **plan** as defined in this **plan**.

16. DEFINITIONS

The following words have the defined meanings when used in the **plan**:

Word	Definition
Accident	Accident means a sudden, unexpected, and unforeseen, identifiable occurrence or event producing, at the time, objective symptoms of a bodily injury . The accident must occur while the person is covered under the plan . The occurrence or event must be definite as to time and place. It must not be due to, or contributed by, an illness or disease of any kind.
Aetna	Aetna means Aetna Life Insurance Company, an affiliate of Aetna , or a third-party vendor under contract with Aetna . Aetna is the third-party administrator of the medical plan .
Affiliated provider	Affiliated provider means providers of covered services and materials who are not contracted as VSP doctors but who have agreed to bill VSP directly for vision services under the vision plan . Some affiliated providers may be unable to provide all vision services under the vision plan . Covered persons should discuss requested services with their provider or contact VSP for more information.
Alveoloplasty	Alveoloplasty is the surgical shaping of the bone of the upper or the lower jaw. It is performed most commonly in conjunction with the removal of a tooth or multiple teeth to have the gums heal smoothly for the placement of partial denture or denture.
Ambulance	Ambulance means a professional land, water or air vehicle staffed with medical personnel and specially equipped to transport injured or sick people to a destination capable of caring for them upon arrival. Specially equipped means that the vehicle contains the appropriate stretcher, oxygen, and other medical equipment necessary for patient care en route.
Anterior	Anterior means teeth located at the front of the mouth.
Applied behavioral analysis	Applied behavioral analysis means an educational service that is in the process of applying interventions: that systematically change behavior, and that is responsible for observable improvements in behavior.
Appeal	Appeal means review by the claims administrator , or Division of Retirement and Benefits of a denial .
Average wholesale price (AWP)	Average wholesale price (AWP) means the current average wholesale price of a prescription drug listed in the Facts and Comparisons weekly price updates (or any other similar publication designated by the claims administrator) on the day that a pharmacy claim is submitted for adjudication.
Behavioral health provider	Behavioral health provider means a licensed organization or professional providing diagnostic, therapeutic, or psychological services for behavioral health conditions.
Benefit option	Benefit option means the medical plan , dental plan , vision plan , and health flexible spending account (HFSA).
Benefit year	Benefit year means January 1 through December 31.

Word	Definition
Birthing center	<p>Birthing center means a freestanding facility that meets <u>all</u> of the following requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meets licensing standards. • Is set up, equipped and run to provide prenatal care, delivery and immediate postpartum care. • Charges for its services. • Is directed by at least one physician who is a specialist in obstetrics and gynecology. • Has a physician or certified nurse midwife present at all births and during the immediate postpartum period. • Extends staff privileges to physicians who practice obstetrics and gynecology in an area hospital. • Has at least two beds or two birthing rooms for use by patients while in labor and during delivery. • Provides, during labor, delivery and the immediate postpartum period, full-time skilled nursing care directed by a registered nurse or certified nurse midwife. • Provides, or arranges with a facility in the area for, diagnostic X-ray and lab services for the mother and child. • Has the capacity to administer a local anesthetic and to perform minor surgery. This includes episiotomy and repair of perineal tear. • Is equipped and has trained staff to handle emergency medical conditions and provide immediate support measures to sustain life if complications arise during labor or a child is born with an abnormality which impairs function or threatens life. • Accepts only patients with low-risk pregnancies. • Has a written agreement with a hospital in the area for emergency transfer of a patient or a child. Written procedures for such a transfer must be displayed and the staff must be aware of them. • Provides an ongoing quality assurance program. This includes reviews by physicians who do not own or direct the facility. • Keeps a medical record on each patient and child.
Brand name prescription drug	<p>Brand name prescription drug is a prescription drug with a proprietary name assigned to it by the manufacturer or distributor and so indicated by Medi-Span or any other similar publication designated by Aetna.</p>
Bridge	<p>Bridge means a fixed partial denture. A bridge replaces one or more missing teeth using a pontic (false tooth or teeth) permanently attached to the adjacent teeth. Retainer crowns (crowns placed on adjacent teeth) are considered part of the bridge.</p>
Broken	<p>Broken is the description of a tooth that has a piece or pieces that have been completely separated from the rest of the tooth. Note that cracks are not the same as broken.</p>
Calendar year	<p>Each successive period of twelve (12) months commencing on January 1 and ending on December 31.</p>

Word	Definition
Cast restoration	Cast restoration means crowns, inlays, onlays, and any other restoration to fit a specific covered person's tooth that is made at a laboratory and cemented into the tooth.
Child	Child or children means the eligible employee's, spouse's (i) natural child , (ii) stepchild, (iii) legally adopted child , (iv) child who is in the physical custody of the eligible employee, spouse and for whom bona fide adoption proceedings are underway, or (v) child who is placed with the eligible employee, spouse by an authorized placement agency or by judgment, decree, or other order of any court of competent jurisdiction.
Claims administrator	Claims administrator means a person, firm, or company which has agreed to provide technical or administrative services and advice in connection with the operation of all or a part of a benefit provided for under the plan , and perform such other functions, including processing and payment of claims, as may be delegated to it under such contract. The claims administrator may review claims appeals and, if applicable, coordinate external reviews, as provided by the plan .
Coinsurance	Coinsurance means the percentage of covered expenses which the plan pays after application of any applicable deductible .
Commissioner	Commissioner means the Commissioner of the State of Alaska Department of Administration.
Copay (ment)	Copayment or copay means the specific dollar amount required to be paid by you or on your behalf under the plan .
Cosmetic	Cosmetic means services or supplies that alter, improve or enhance appearance.
Covered expense	Covered expense means the medical, prescription drug, dental, or vision services and supplies shown as covered under the plan , including any applicable sales, excise, or other taxes.
Covered person	Covered person means each eligible employee and dependent who is covered under the plan .
Custodial care	<p>Custodial care means services and supplies, including room and board and other institutional services, that are primarily intended to help you meet personal needs. Custodial care can be prescribed by a physician or given by trained medical personnel. It may involve artificial methods such as feeding tubes, ventilators or catheters. Examples of custodial care include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Routine patient care such as changing dressings, periodic turning and positioning in bed, administering medications. • Care of a stable tracheostomy (including intermittent suctioning). • Care of a stable colostomy/ileostomy. • Care of stable gastrostomy/jejunostomy/nasogastric tube (intermittent or continuous) feedings. • Care of a stable indwelling bladder catheter (including emptying/changing containers and clamping tubing). • Watching or protecting you. • Respite care, adult (or child) day care, or convalescent care. • Institutional care, including room and board for rest cures, adult day care and convalescent care. • Help with the daily living activities, such as walking, grooming, bathing, dressing, getting in or out of bed, toileting, eating or preparing foods.

Word	Definition
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any service that can be performed by a person without any medical or paramedical training.
Day care treatment	Day care treatment means a partial confinement treatment program to provide treatment for you during the day. The hospital, psychiatric hospital or residential treatment facility does not make a room charge for day care treatment . Such treatment must be available for at least four hours, but not more than 12 hours in any 24-hour period.
Debridement	Debridement means the removal of excess plaque. A periodontal pre-cleaning procedure done when there is too much plaque for the dentist to perform an exam.
Deductible	Deductible means the amount of covered expenses for which you are responsible each benefit year before any benefits are payable under the plan .
Delta Dental	Delta Dental means Delta Dental of Alaska. Delta Dental of Alaska is a business name used by Oregon Dental Service, which is a not-for-profit health insurer licensed in Alaska. Delta Dental is the claims administrator of the dental plan .
Denial	Denial means any of the following: a denial, reduction, termination, or failure to provide or make payment (in whole or in part) for a benefit, including determinations based on eligibility, and, with respect to benefits under the plan , a denial, reduction, termination or failure to provide or make payment for a benefit based on utilization review or a failure to cover a benefit because it is determined to be experimental or investigational or not medically necessary . With respect to the medical plan and dental plan , it also means a rescission of coverage whether or not, in connection with the rescission , there is an adverse effect on any particular health benefit at the time.
Dental care provider	Dental care provider means a dentist , registered hygienist or certified dental therapist who is operating within the scope of their license, certification or registration.
Dental plan	Dental plan means dental benefits under the plan , as set forth in section 4, <i>Dental Plan</i> .
Dentally necessary	<p>Dentally necessary means services that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> are established as necessary for the treatment or prevention of a dental injury or disease otherwise covered under the dental plan; are appropriate with regard to standards of good dental practice in the service area; have a good prognosis; and/or are the least costly of the alternative supplies or levels of service that can be safely provided. For example, coverage would not be allowed for a crown when a filling would be adequate to restore the tooth appropriately. <p>The fact that a dentist may recommend or approve a service or supply does not make the charge dentally necessary.</p>
Dentist	Dentist means a licensed dentist , or a physician licensed to do the dental work he or she performs, who is operating within the scope of their license as required under law within the state of practice.
Dependent	Dependent means an eligible employee's spouse , or child .

Word	Definition
Detoxification	<p>Detoxification means the process by which an alcohol-intoxicated or drug-intoxicated, or an alcohol-dependent or drug-dependent person is medically managed through the period of time necessary to eliminate, by metabolic or other means, the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • intoxicating alcohol or drug; • alcohol or drug-dependent factors; or • alcohol in combination with drugs; <p>as determined by a physician. The process must keep the physiological risk to the patient at a minimum and take place in a facility that meets any applicable licensing standards established by the jurisdiction in which it is located.</p>
Division	<p>Division means the State of Alaska, Division of Retirement and Benefits.</p>
Durable medical equipment	<p>Durable medical equipment means equipment and the accessories needed to operate it that is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • made for and mainly used in the treatment of an illness or injury; • suited for use in the home; • not normally of use to persons who do not have an illness or injury; • not for use in altering air quality or temperature; and • not for exercise or training. <p>Durable medical equipment does <u>not</u> include equipment such as whirlpools, portable whirlpool pumps, sauna baths, massage devices, over bed tables, elevators, communication aids, vision aids, and telephone alert systems.</p>
Electronic protected health information	<p>Electronic protected health information means electronic protected health information as defined at 45 CFR § 160.103, which generally means protected health information that is transmitted by, or maintained in, electronic media. For these purposes, electronic media means: (i) electronic storage media including memory devices in computers (hard drives) and any removable/transportable digital memory medium, such as magnetic tape or disk, optical disk, or digital memory card; or (ii) transmission media used to exchange information already in electronic storage media (<i>e.g.</i>, the internet, extranet, leased lines, dial up lines, private networks, and the physical movement of removable/transportable electronic storage media).</p>
Eligible employee	<p>Eligible employee means a permanent or long-term nonpermanent employee of the State whose bargaining unit or employee group participates in the plan and who meets the criteria set forth in section 1.3.1, Eligible Employees. An eligible employee does not include temporary employees, leased employees, or employees who are scheduled to work less than 15 hours per week, except if the employee otherwise meets the criteria outlined under the employer shared responsibility provisions in section 26 U.S. Code § 4980H.</p>
Emergency	<p>Emergency means a sudden and unexpected change in a person’s condition, including severe pain, such that a prudent layperson, who possesses average knowledge of health and medicine, could reasonably expect the absence of immediate medical attention to result in loss of life or limb, significant impairment to bodily function or permanent dysfunction of a body part, or with respect to a pregnant woman, the health of the woman and her unborn child.</p>
Emergency care	<p>Emergency care means the treatment given in a hospital or an independent freestanding emergency department to evaluate and treat an emergency medical</p>

Word	Definition
	<p>condition. Your coverage for emergency care will continue until your condition is stabilized and all of the following criteria are met:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Your attending physician determines that you are medically able to travel or to be transported by non-medical or non-emergency medical transportation to another provider if you need more care, • You are in a condition to be able to receive notice and consent criteria from an out-of-network provider delivering post-stabilization services with respect to the services, • An out-of-network provider delivering post-stabilization services meets the notice and consent criteria with respect to the services, and
Employee	Employee means a common law employee of the State who is actively at work and receiving earnings.
Episode of Care	Episode of Care means (i) all services rendered by Lantern provider and provider’s professional and medical staff, as applicable and (ii) all hospital or facility related expenses under the Diagnosis Case Code. The Episode of Care begins on the day the patient first receives services from the provider related to the Diagnosis Case Code covered and coordinated by Lantern and ends when the patient is discharged from the hospital or facility. Services and expenses under the Diagnosis Case code commonly included in the Episode of Care are: equipment used while in hospital or facility, in- hospital or in-facility medications or biologics and supplies, implants, labs, in hospital meals, hospital confinement days, pre and post in- hospital or in-facility nursing care and in- hospital physical therapy and follow-up consultations, and any other medically necessary care related to the Diagnosis Case Code rendered prior to discharge.
EOB	EOB means an <i>Explanation of Benefits</i> form.
Experimental or investigational	<p>Experimental or investigational means, except as provided for under any clinical trials benefit provision, a drug, a device, a procedure, or treatment where:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • there is not enough outcomes data available from controlled clinical trials published in the peer-reviewed literature to substantiate its safety and effectiveness for the illness or injury involved; • approval required by the FDA has not been granted for marketing; • a recognized national medical or dental society or regulatory agency has determined, in writing, that it is experimental or investigational or for research purposes; • it is a type of drug, device or treatment that is the subject of a Phase I or Phase II clinical trial or the experimental or research arm of a Phase III clinical trial, using the definition of phases indicated in regulations and other official actions and publications of the FDA and Department of Health and Human Services; or • the written protocols or informed consent used by the treating facility or any other facility studying substantially the same drug, device, procedure or treatment, states that it is experimental or investigational, or for research purposes.
Facility	Facility means a freestanding birthing center , dialysis clinic, free standing imaging center, hospital , hospice facility , psychiatric hospital , rehabilitation facility , surgery center , residential treatment facility , skilled nursing facility or urgent care provider .

Word	Definition
Final denial	Final denial means a denial of benefits under the medical plan or dental plan that has been upheld by the claims administrator at the completion of the internal appeals process or a denial of benefits under the medical plan or dental plan with respect to which the internal appeals process has been deemed exhausted (a deemed final denial).
Formulary	Formulary means a listing of prescription drugs (both generic prescription drugs and brand-name prescription drugs) established by the plan administrator. The formulary will tell you if a drug is covered and tell you what plan payment tier it is in. You can also see if there are alternatives that cost less. The Formulary also includes an Exclusion List of drugs that are identified as excluded under the plan, subject to periodic review and modification. A copy of the Formulary will be made available upon request or may be accessed at AlaskaCare.gov .
Generic alternative prescription drug	Generic alternative prescription drug means a prescription drug used for the same purpose as the brand-name prescription drug but can have different ingredients or different amounts of ingredients as the brand-name prescription drug .
Generic prescription drug	Generic prescription drug means a prescription drug , whether identified by its chemical, proprietary, or nonproprietary name, that is accepted by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration as therapeutically equivalent and interchangeable with drugs having an identical amount of the same active ingredient and so indicated by Medispan or any other publication designated by Aetna .
Geographic area	Geographic area means an expense area grouping defined by the first three digits of the U.S. Postal Service zip codes. If the volume of charges in a single three-digit zip code is sufficient to produce a statistically valid sample, an expense area is made up of a single three-digit zip code. If the volume of charges is not sufficient to produce a statistically valid sample, two or more three-digit zip codes are grouped to produce a statistically valid sample. When it is necessary to group three-digit zip codes, the grouping never crosses state lines.
Health care operations	Health care operations means health care operations as defined by 45 CFR § 164.501, as amended. Generally, health care operations include, but are not limited to, the following activities taken by or on behalf of the plan : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quality assessment. • Population-based activities relating to improving health or reducing health care costs, protocol development, case management and care coordination, disease management, contacting health care providers and patients with information about treatment alternatives and related functions. • Rating provider and plan performance, including accreditation, certification, licensing or credentialing activities. • Underwriting, premium rating and other activities relating to the creation, renewal or replacement of a contract of health insurance or health benefits, and ceding, securing or placing a contract for reinsurance of risk relating to health care claims (including stop-loss insurance and excess of loss insurance). • Conducting or arranging for medical review, legal services and auditing functions, including fraud and abuse detection and compliance programs.

Word	Definition
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Business planning and development, such as conducting cost-management and planning-related analyses related to managing and operating the plan, including formulary development and administration, development or improvement of payment methods or coverage policies. • Business management and general administrative activities of the plan, including, but not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Management activities relating to the implementation of and compliance with HIPAA’s administrative simplification requirements. ○ Customer service, including the provision of data analyses for policyholders, plan sponsors or other customers. ○ Resolution of internal grievances. ○ Due diligence in connection with the sale or transfer of assets to a potential successor in interest, if the potential successor in interest is a covered entity under HIPAA or, following completion of the sale or transfer, will become a covered entity. ○ Any other activity considered to be a health care operation activity pursuant to 45 CFR § 164.501.
Health care professional	Health care professional means a physician or other health care professional licensed, accredited, or certified to perform health services consistent with state law.
Home delivery pharmacy	Home delivery pharmacy means an establishment where prescription drugs are legally given out by mail or other carrier.
Home health care agency	<p>Home health care agency means an organization that meets all of the following requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • provides skilled nursing services and other therapeutic services in the patient’s home; • is associated with a professional policy-making group (of at least one physician and one full-time supervising registered nurse) which makes policy; • has full time supervision by a physician or registered nurse; • keeps complete medical records on each patient; • is staffed by an administrator; and • meets licensing standards.
Home health care plan	Home health care plan means a plan that provides for continued care and treatment of an illness or injury in a place of confinement other than a hospital or skilled nursing facility . The attending physician must prescribe care treatment in writing.
Homebound	<p>Homebound means that you are confined to your place of residence:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • due to an illness or injury which makes leaving the home medically contraindicated; or • because the act of transport would be a serious risk to your life or health. <p>Situations where you would not be considered homebound include, but are not limited to, the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • you do not often travel from home because of feebleness or insecurity brought on by advanced age (or otherwise); or

Word	Definition
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • you are wheelchair bound but could safely be transported via wheelchair accessible transport.
Hospice care	<p>Hospice care means care given to a terminally ill person by or under arrangements with a hospice care agency. The care must be part of a hospice care program.</p>
Hospice care agency	<p>Hospice care agency means an agency or organization that meets all of the following requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has hospice care available 24 hours a day. • Meets any licensing or certification standards established by the jurisdiction where it is located. • Provides: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Skilled nursing services; ○ Medical social services; and ○ Psychological and dietary counseling. • Provides, or arranges for, other services which include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Physician services; ○ Physical and occupational therapy; ○ Part time home health aide services which mainly consist of caring for terminally ill people; and ○ Inpatient care in a facility when needed for pain control and acute and chronic symptom management. • Has at least the following personnel: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ One physician; ○ One registered nurse; and ○ One licensed or certified social worker employed by the agency. • Establishes policies about how hospice care is provided. • Assesses the patient’s medical and social needs. • Develops a hospice care program to meet those needs. • Provides an ongoing quality assurance program. This includes reviews by physicians, other than those who own or direct the agency. • Permits all area medical personnel to utilize its services for their patients. • Keeps a medical record on each patient. • Uses volunteers trained in providing services for non-medical needs. • Has a full-time administrator.
Hospice care program	<p>Hospice care program is a written plan of hospice care which meets all of the following requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Is established by and reviewed from time to time by a physician attending the person, and appropriate personnel of a hospice care agency. ○ Is designed to provide palliative and supportive care to terminally ill persons, and supportive care to their families. ○ Includes an assessment of the person’s medical and social needs; and a description of the care to be given to meet those needs.
Hospice facility	<p>Hospice facility means a facility, or distinct part of one, that meets all of the following requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mainly provides inpatient hospice care to terminally ill persons. • Charges patients for its services.

Word	Definition
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meets any licensing or certification standards established by the jurisdiction where it is located. • Keeps a medical record on each patient. • Provides an ongoing quality assurance program including reviews by physicians other than those who own or direct the facility. • Is run by a staff of physicians. At least one staff physician must be on call at all times. • Provides 24-hour-a-day nursing services under the direction of a registered nurse. • Has a full-time administrator.
Hospital	<p>Hospital means an institution providing inpatient medical care and treatment of sick and injured people. It must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • be accredited by the Joint Commission on the Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations; be a medical care, psychiatric, or tuberculosis hospital as defined by Medicare; or have a staff of qualified physicians treating or supervising treatment of the sick and injured; and • have diagnostic and therapeutic facilities for surgical and medical diagnosis on the premises; 24-hour-a-day nursing care provided or supervised by registered graduate nurses; and continuously maintain facilities for operative surgery on the premises. <p>In no event does hospital include a convalescent nursing home or any institution or part of one which is used principally as a convalescent facility, rest facility, nursing facility, facility for the aged, extended care facility, intermediate care facility, skilled nursing facility, hospice, rehabilitative hospital, or facility primarily for rehabilitative or custodial services.</p>
Illness	<p>Illness means a pathological condition of the body that presents a group of clinical signs and symptoms and laboratory findings peculiar to the findings set the condition apart as an abnormal entity differing from other normal or pathological body states.</p>
Implant	<p>Implant is an artificial, permanent tooth root replacement used to replace a missing tooth or teeth. It is surgically placed into the upper or lower jaw bone and supports a single crown, fixed bridge, or partial or full denture.</p>
Implant abutment	<p>Implant abutment is an attachment used to connect an implant and an implant supported prosthetic device.</p>
Implant supported prosthetic	<p>Implant supported prosthetic means a crown, bridge, or removable partial or full denture that is supported by or attached to an implant.</p>
Individual	<p>Individual means any person who is the subject of protected health information.</p>
Infertility	<p>Infertility or infertile means the condition of a presumably healthy covered person who is unable to conceive or produce conception after:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>for a woman who is under 35 years of age</i>: one year or more of timed, unprotected coitus, or 12 cycles of artificial insemination; or • <i>for a woman who is 35 years of age or older</i>: six months or more of timed, unprotected coitus, or 6 cycles of artificial insemination.

Word	Definition
Injury	Injury means an accidental bodily injury that is the sole and direct result of an unexpected or reasonably unforeseen occurrence or event, or the reasonable unforeseeable consequences of a voluntary act by the person.
Involuntary out-of-network services	Involuntary out-of-network services means emergency services and non- emergency services delivered by an out-of-network provider at a network facility for which you did not receive notice and did not provide written consent.
Maintenance care	Maintenance care means care made up of services and supplies that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • are given mainly to maintain, rather than to improve, a level of physical, or mental function; and • give a surrounding free from exposures that can worsen the person’s physical or mental condition.
Median contracted rate	Median contracted rate means the median of contracted rates for a given service in the same geographic region within the same insurance market as of 2019, inflated forward by the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U). It is also known as the qualifying payment amount.
Medical plan	Medical plan means medical, prescription drug, and employee assistance benefits under the plan , as set forth in Section 3. Medical Plan
Medically necessary	Medically necessary or medical necessity has the meaning set forth in section 3.5.1, <i>Medically Necessary Services and Supplies</i> .
Mental disorder	Mental disorder means an illness commonly understood to be a mental disorder , whether or not it has a physiological or organic basis, and for which treatment is generally provided by or under the direction of a behavioral health provider such as a psychiatric physician , a psychologist or a psychiatric social worker. A mental disorder includes but is not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schizophrenia • Bipolar disorder (manic/depressive) • Pervasive Mental Development Disorder (Autism) • Panic disorder • Major depressive disorder • Psychotic depression • Obsessive compulsive disorder • Anorexia/bulimia nervosa • Psychotic disorders/delusional disorder • Schizoaffective disorder
Morbid Obesity	Morbid obesity means a person is: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 100 lbs. or more over ideal body weight • Has a Body Mass Index (BMI) of 40 or higher, or • Has a BMI of 35 or higher which results in a significant increase in the risk of one or more obesity related conditions (also known as co-morbidities) such as hypertension, a cardiopulmonary condition, sleep apnea, or diabetes.
Musculoskeletal	Musculoskeletal refers to the muscles, nerves, tendons, joints, cartilage, or spinal discs.

Word	Definition
Negotiated charge	Negotiated charge means the maximum charge that a network provider has agreed to make as to any service or supply for the purpose of benefits under the plan .
Network pharmacy	Network pharmacy means a pharmacy that has contracted with Aetna to furnish services or supplies for the plan .
Network provider	Network provider means a health care provider or pharmacy that has contracted with a claims administrator to furnish services or supplies for the plan , but only if the provider is a network provider for the service or supply involved
Network service or supply	Network service(s) or supply(ies) means health care service(s) or supply(ies) that is/are furnished by a network provider .
Night care treatment	Night care treatment means a partial confinement treatment program provided when you need to be confined during the night. A room charge is made by the hospital, psychiatric hospital, or residential treatment facility . Such treatment must be available at least eight hours in a row at a night and five nights per week.
Non-preferred brand-name drug (non-formulary)	Non-preferred brand-name drug (non-formulary) means a brand-name prescription drug that does not appear on the Formulary .
OptumRx	OptumRx is the pharmacy benefit manager (claims administrator) of the prescription drug benefits.
Other health care	Other health care means a health care service or supply that is neither network service(s) or supply(ies) nor out-of-network service(s) and supply(ies) . Other health care can include care given by a provider who does not fall into any of the categories in your provider directory or in DocFind® at aetna.com/docfind/custom/alaskacare .
Out-of-pocket limit	Out-of-pocket limit means the maximum amount you are responsible to pay for benefits under the plan each benefit year , including deductible and coinsurance not paid by the plan . Premiums, charges over the recognized charge , precertification benefit reductions, and non-covered expenses do not accrue toward the out-of-pocket limit . A separate out-of-pocket limit applies with respect to the medical benefit portion and prescription benefit portion of the medical plan .
Partial confinement treatment	Partial confinement treatment means a plan of medical, psychiatric, nursing, counseling or therapeutic services to treat substance abuse or mental disorders which meets all of the following requirements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is carried out in a hospital, psychiatric hospital, or residential treatment facility on less than a full-time inpatient basis. • It is in accord with accepted medical practice for the condition of the person. • It does not require full-time confinement. • It is supervised by a psychiatric physician who weekly reviews and evaluates its effect. Day care treatment and night care treatment are considered partial confinement treatment .
PayFlex	PayFlex means PayFlex Systems USA, Inc., the flexible spending account and COBRA claims administrator under the plan .

Word	Definition
Payment	<p>Payment means payment as defined by 45 § CFR 164.501, as amended. Generally, payment activities include, but are not limited to, activities undertaken by the plan to obtain premiums or determine or fulfill its responsibility for coverage and provision of plan benefits that relate to an individual to whom health care is provided. These activities include, but are not limited to, the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Determination of eligibility, coverage and cost sharing amounts (for example, cost of a benefit, plan maximums and copayments as determined for an individual's claim). • Coordination of benefits. • Adjudication of health benefit claims (including appeals and other payment disputes). • Subrogation of health benefit claims. • Establishing eligible employee contributions. • Risk adjusting amounts due based on an eligible employee's health status and demographic characteristics. • Billing, collection activities and related health care data processing. • Claims management and related health care data processing, including auditing payments, investigating and resolving payment disputes and responding to an eligible employee's inquiries about payments. • Obtaining payment under a contract for reinsurance (including stop-loss and excess of loss insurance). • Medical necessity reviews or reviews of appropriateness of care or justification of charges. • Utilization review, including precertification, preauthorization, concurrent review and retrospective review. • Disclosure to consumer reporting agencies related to the collection of premiums or reimbursement (the following protected health information may be disclosed for payment purposes: name and address, date of birth, Social Security number, payment history, account number and name and address of the provider and/or plan). • Reimbursement to the plan. • Any other activity considered to be a payment activity pursuant to 45 CFR § 164.501.
Periodontal maintenance	<p>Periodontal maintenance is a periodontal procedure for covered persons who have previously been treated for periodontal disease. In addition to cleaning the visible surfaces of the teeth (as in prophylaxis), surfaces below the gum line are also cleaned. This is a more comprehensive service than a regular cleaning (prophylaxis).</p>
Pharmacy	<p>Pharmacy means an establishment where prescription drugs are legally dispensed. Pharmacy includes a retail pharmacy, mail order pharmacy and specialty pharmacy network pharmacy.</p>
Physician	<p>Physician means a duly licensed member of a medical profession who:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • has an M.D. or D.O. degree; • is properly licensed or certified to provide medical care under the laws of the jurisdiction where the individual practices; and

Word	Definition
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> provides medical services which are within the scope of their license or certificate. <p>A physician also includes a health professional who:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> is properly licensed or certified to provide medical care under the laws of the jurisdiction where he or she practices; provides medical services which are within the scope of their license or certificate; under applicable insurance law is considered a physician for purposes of this coverage; has the medical training and clinical expertise suitable to treat your condition; specializes in psychiatry, if your illness or injury is caused, to any extent, by alcohol abuse, substance abuse or a mental disorder; and is not you or related to you.
Plan	Plan means the AlaskaCare Employee Health Plan, the terms of which are set forth in this document, as may be amended from time to time.
Pontic	Pontic is an artificial tooth that replaces a missing tooth and is part of a bridge .
Post-service claim	Post-service claim means any claim for a medical benefit that is not an urgent care claim or a pre-service claim .
Pre-service claim	Pre-service claim means any claim for a medical benefit the health plan conditions receipt of such benefit, in whole or in part, on approval of the benefit prior to obtaining medical care.
Precertification	Precertification or precertify means a process where the claims administrator is contacted before certain services are provided. It is not a guarantee that benefits will be payable.
Preferred brand-name drug	Preferred brand-name drug means a brand-name prescription drug that appears on the Formulary .
Prescription	Prescription means an order for the dispensing of a prescription drug by a physician or dentist , acting within the scope of their license, who has the legal authority to write an order for a prescription drug . If it is an oral order, it must be promptly put in writing by the pharmacy .
Prescription drug	Prescription drug means a drug, biological, or compounded prescription which, by state and Federal law, may be dispensed only by prescription and which is required to be labeled Caution: Federal law prohibits dispensing without prescription. This includes a self-injectable drug prescribed to be self-administered or administered by any other person except one who is acting within their capacity as a paid health care professional . Covered self-injectable drugs include injectable insulin.
Prevailing charge rate	Prevailing charge rate means rates reported by FAIR Health, a nonprofit company, in their database. FAIR Health reviews and, if necessary, changes these rates periodically. Aetna updates its systems with these changes within 180 days after receiving them from FAIR Health.
Primary Care Provider	Primary care provider means a health care practitioner who sees people that have common medical problems. This person is most often a doctor. However, a primary care provider may be a physician assistant or a nurse practitioner.

Word	Definition
Privacy Regulations	Privacy Regulations mean the regulations under the Standards for Privacy of Individually Identifiable Health Information (45 CFR Parts 160 and 164, as amended).
Prophylaxis	Prophylaxis is cleaning and polishing of all teeth.
Protected health information	Protected health information means protected health information as defined at 45 CFR § 164.501 which, generally, means information (including demographic information) that (i) identifies an individual (or with respect to which there is a reasonable basis to believe the information can be used to identify an individual), (ii) is created or received by a health care provider , a health plan, or a health care clearinghouse, and (iii) relates to the past, present, or future physical or mental health or condition of an individual ; the provision of health care to an individual ; or the past, present, or future payment for the provision of health care to an individual .
Provider	Provider means any recognized health care professional, pharmacy or facility providing services within the scope of its license.
Psychiatric hospital	Psychiatric hospital means an institution that meets all of the following requirements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mainly provides a program for the diagnosis, evaluation, and treatment of alcoholism, substance abuse or mental disorders. • Is not mainly a school or a custodial, recreational or training institution. • Provides infirmary-level medical services. • Provides, or arranges with a hospital in the area for, any other medical service that may be required. • Is supervised full-time by a psychiatric physician who is responsible for patient care and is there regularly. • Is staffed by psychiatric physicians involved in care and treatment. • Has a psychiatric physician present during the whole treatment day. • Provides, at all times, psychiatric social work and nursing services. • Provides, at all times, skilled nursing care by licensed nurses who are supervised by a full-time registered nurse. • Prepares and maintains a written plan of treatment for each patient based on medical, psychological and social needs. The plan must be supervised by a psychiatric physician. • Makes charges. • Meets licensing standards.
Psychiatric physician	Psychiatric physician means a physician who: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specializes in psychiatry; or • Has the training or experience to do the required evaluation and treatment of alcoholism, substance abuse or mental disorders.
Recognized charge	Recognized charge means the negotiated charge contained in an agreement the claims administrator has with the provider either directly or through a third party. If there is no such agreement, the recognized charge is determined in accordance with the provisions of this section. Except for charges related to involuntary out-of-network services , an out-of-network provider has the right to bill the difference between the recognized charge and the actual charge. This difference will be the covered person's responsibility.

Word	Definition
	<p>1. <u>Medical Expenses</u> As to medical services or supplies, the recognized charge for each service or supply is the <u>lesser of</u>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • what the provider bills or submits for that service or supply; or • 185% of the Medicare allowed rate for those services <p>2. <u>Facility Expenses</u> As to non-emergency out-of-network facility services or supplies, the recognized charge for each service or supply is the lesser of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • what the facility bills or submits for that service or supply; or • 185% of the Medicare allowed rate for those services. <p>3. <u>Free standing imaging centers</u> As to out-of-network facility expenses at a free-standing imaging center, the recognized charge for a service or supply is 50% of the amount billed by the provider.</p> <p>4. <u>Involuntary Out-of-Network Services</u> As to involuntary out-of-network services the out-of-network recognized charge is the lesser of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • what the provider bills or submits for that service or supply; or • Aetna’s median in-network rate for the same or similar item or service. <p>Involuntary out-of-network services are typically professional charges, rather than facility charges, incurred by a member at a network facility without their consent or in an emergency setting. They may include anesthesiology and radiology services.</p> <p>5. <u>Prescription Drug Expenses</u> As to prescription drug expenses, the recognized charge for each service or supply is the <u>lesser of</u>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • what the provider bills or submits for that service or supply; or • 110% of the average wholesale price or other similar resource. <p>6. <u>Dental Expenses</u> As to dental expenses, the recognized charge for each service or supply provided by a network dentist, is the <u>lesser of</u>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 100% of the covered expense; • 100% of the dentist’s accepted filed fee with Delta Dental; or • 100% of the dentist’s billed charge. <p>For out-of-network dentists or dental care providers in the State, the recognized charge is the <u>lesser of</u>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • what the dentist bills or submits for that service or supply; or • 75% of the 80th percentile of FAIR Health as determined by Delta Dental in accordance with its reimbursement policies; except in the case of services rendered by an endodontist, 100% of the 80th percentile of the prevailing charge rate as determined by Delta Dental in accordance with its reimbursement policies. <p>For out-of-network dentists or dental care providers outside the State, the recognized charge is the <u>lesser of</u>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • what the dentist bills or submits for that service or supply; or

Word	Definition
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 75% of the 80th percentile of FAIR Health as determined by Delta Dental in accordance with its reimbursement policies. <p>7. <u>Vision Expenses</u> As to vision expenses, the recognized charge for a service or supply is the amount billed by the provider.</p> <p>8. <u>Medical/ Vision Expenses</u> A service or supply (except as otherwise provided in this section) will be treated as a covered expense under the other health care benefits category when Aetna determines that a network provider is not available to provide the service or supply. This includes situations in which you are admitted to a network hospital and non-network physicians, who provide services to you during your stay, bill you separately from the network hospital. In those instances, the recognized charge for that service or supply is the <u>lesser of</u>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • what the provider bills or submits for that service or supply; and • for professional services: 185% of the Medicare allowed rate for those services. <p>If Aetna has an agreement with a provider (directly, or indirectly through a third party) which sets the rate that Aetna will pay for a service or supply, then the recognized charge is the rate established in such agreement.</p> <p>Aetna may also reduce the recognized charge by applying Aetna reimbursement policies. Aetna reimbursement policies address the appropriate billing of services, taking into account factors that are relevant to the cost of the service such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the duration and complexity of a service; • whether multiple procedures are billed at the same time, but no additional overhead is required (excluding physical therapy); • whether an assistant surgeon is involved and necessary for the service; • if follow up care is included; • whether there are any other characteristics that may modify or make a particular service unique; and • when a charge includes more than one claim line, whether any services described by a claim line are part of or incidental to the primary service provided. <p>Aetna reimbursement policies are based on Aetna’s review of: the policies developed for Medicare; the generally accepted standards of medical and dental practice, which are based on credible scientific evidence published in peer-reviewed literature generally recognized by the relevant medical or dental community or which is otherwise consistent with physician or dental specialty society recommendations; and the views of physicians and dentists practicing in the relevant clinical areas. Aetna uses a commercial software package to administer some of these policies.</p> <p>Aetna periodically updates its systems with changes made to the prevailing charge rates. What this means to you is that the recognized charge is based on the version of the rates that is in use by Aetna on the date that the service or supply was provided.</p> <p><u>Additional Information</u></p>

Word	Definition
	<p>Aetna’s website aetna.com may contain additional information which may help you determine the cost of a service or supply. Log on to Aetna Navigator to access the Estimate the Cost of Care feature. Within this feature, view our Cost of Care and Member Payment Estimator tools, or contact our Customer Service Department for assistance.</p>
<p>Rehabilitation facility</p>	<p>Rehabilitation facility means a facility, or a distinct part of a facility which provides rehabilitative care, meets any licensing or certification standards established by the jurisdiction where it is located, and makes charges for its services.</p>
<p>Rehabilitative care</p>	<p>Rehabilitative care means the combined and coordinated use of medical, social, educational and vocational measures for training or retraining if you are disabled by illness or injury.</p>
<p>Reline</p>	<p>Reline means the process of resurfacing the tissue side of a denture with new base material.</p>
<p>Rescission</p>	<p>Rescission or rescind means a cancellation or discontinuance of coverage under the medical plan or dental plan that has retroactive effect. A rescission does not include the cancellation or discontinuance of coverage that has only a prospective effect or is effective retroactively to the extent it is attributable to a failure to timely pay required premiums or contributions toward the rest of coverage.</p>
<p>Residential treatment facility (mental disorders)</p>	<p>Residential treatment facility (mental disorders) means an institution that meets all of the following requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On-site licensed behavioral health provider 24 hours per day/7 days a week. • Provides a comprehensive patient assessment (preferably before admission, but at least upon admission). • Patient is admitted by a physician. • Patient has access to necessary medical services 24 hours per day/7 days a week. • Provides living arrangements that foster community living and peer interaction that are consistent with developmental needs. • Offers group therapy sessions with at least a registered nurse or Masters-Level Health Professional. • Has the ability to involve family/support systems in therapy (required for children and adolescents; encouraged for adults). • Provides access to at least weekly sessions with a psychiatrist or psychologist for individual psychotherapy. • Has peer-oriented activities. • Services are managed by a licensed behavioral health provider who, while not needing to be individually contracted, needs to (1) meet Aetna’s credentialing criteria as an individual practitioner, and (2) function under the direction/supervision of a licensed psychiatrist (Medical Director). • Has individualized active treatment plan directed toward the alleviation of the impairment that caused the admission. • Provides a level of skilled intervention consistent with patient risk. • Meets any and all applicable licensing standards established by the jurisdiction in which it is located.

Word	Definition
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is not a Wilderness Treatment Program or any such related or similar program, school and/or education service.
Residential treatment facility (substance abuse)	<p>Residential treatment facility (substance abuse) means an institution that meets all of the following requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> On-site licensed behavioral health provider 24 hours per day/7 days a week. Provides a comprehensive patient assessment (preferably before admission, but at least upon admission). Patient is admitted by a physician. Patient has access to necessary medical services 24 hours per day/7 days a week. If the covered person requires detoxification services, must have the availability of on-site medical treatment 24 hours per day/7 days a week, which must be actively supervised by an attending physician. Provides living arrangements that foster community living and peer interaction that are consistent with developmental needs. Offers group therapy sessions with at least a registered nurse or Masters-Level Health Professional. Has the ability to involve family/support systems in therapy (required for children and adolescents; encouraged for adults). Provides access to at least weekly sessions with a psychiatrist or psychologist for individual psychotherapy. Has peer-oriented activities. Services are managed by a licensed behavioral health provider who, while not needing to be individually contracted, needs to (1) meet Aetna’s credentialing criteria as an individual practitioner, and (2) function under the direction/supervision of a licensed psychiatrist (Medical Director). Has individualized active treatment plan directed toward the alleviation of the impairment that caused the admission. Provides a level of skilled intervention consistent with patient risk. Meets any and all applicable licensing standards established by the jurisdiction in which it is located. Is not a Wilderness Treatment Program or any such related or similar program, school and/or education service. Has the ability to assess and recognize withdrawal complications that threaten life or bodily functions and to obtain needed services either on site or externally. 24-hours per day/7 days a week supervision by a physician with evidence of close and frequent observation. On-site, licensed behavioral health provider, medical or substance abuse professionals 24 hours per day/7 days a week.
Restoration	<p>Restoration means the treatment that repairs a broken or decayed tooth. Restorations include, but are not limited to, fillings and crowns.</p>
Retainer	<p>Retainer means a tooth used to support a prosthetic device (bridges, partial dentures or overdentures).</p>

Word	Definition
Room and board	Room and board means charges made by an institution for room and board and other medically necessary services and supplies. The charges must be regularly made at a daily or weekly rate.
Security incident	Security incident means security incident as defined at 45 CFR § 164.304, which, generally, means the attempted or successful unauthorized access, use, disclosure, modification, or destruction of information or interference with system operations in an information system.
Security Regulations	Security Regulations mean the regulations under the Security Standards for the Protection of Electronic Protected Health Information (45 CFR Parts 160 and 164, as amended).
Self-injectable drugs	Self-injectable drugs mean prescription drugs that are intended to be self-administered by injection to a specific part of the body to treat certain chronic medical conditions.
Service area	Service area means the geographic area , as determined by Delta Dental , in which network providers for the dental coverage portion under the dental plan are located.
Service in the uniformed services	Service in the uniformed services means (i) the performance of a duty on a voluntary or involuntary basis in a uniformed service under competent authority and includes active duty, active duty for training, initial active duty for training, inactive duty training, and National Guard duty under Federal law, (ii) a period for which an eligible employee is absent from a position of employment for the purpose of an examination to determine the fitness of the eligible employee to perform any such duty, (iii) a period for which the eligible employee is absent from employment to perform funeral honors duty as authorized by law, and (iv) service as an intermittent disaster-response appointee upon activation of the National Disaster Medical System (NDMS) or as a participant in an authorized training program.
Skilled nursing care	Skilled nursing care means: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Those services provided by a visiting registered nurse or licensed practical nurse for the purpose of performing specific skilled nursing tasks; and • Private duty nursing services provided by a registered nurse or licensed practical nurse if the patient’s condition requires skilled nursing care and visiting nursing care is not adequate.
Skilled nursing facility	Skilled nursing facility means an institution that meets all of the following requirements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Licensed to provide, and does provide, the following on an inpatient basis for persons convalescing from illness or injury: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ professional nursing care by a registered nurse or a licensed practical nurse directed by a full-time registered nurse; and ○ physical restoration services to help patients to meet a goal of self-care in daily living activities. • Provides 24 hour a day nursing care by licensed nurses directed by a full-time registered nurse. • Is supervised full-time by a physician or a registered nurse. • Keeps a complete medical record on each patient. • Has a utilization review plan.

Word	Definition
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is not an institution for rest or care of the aged, drug addicts, alcoholics, people who are mentally incapacitated, or people with mental disorders. • Charges patients for its services. • An institution or a distinct part of an institution that meets all of the following requirements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ It is licensed or approved under state or local law. ○ Is primarily engaged in providing skilled nursing care and related services for residents who require medical or nursing care, or rehabilitation services for the rehabilitation of injured, disabled, or sick persons. • Qualifies as a skilled nursing facility under Medicare or as an institution accredited by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Joint Commission on Accreditation of Health Care Organizations; ○ The Bureau of Hospitals of the American Osteopathic Association; or ○ The Commission on the Accreditation of Rehabilitative Facilities. <p>Skilled nursing facilities also include rehabilitation hospitals (all levels of care, <i>e.g.</i> acute) and portions of a hospital designated for skilled or rehabilitation services. Skilled nursing facilities do not include institutions which provide only (i) minimal care, (ii) custodial care or educational care, (iii) ambulatory services, or (iv) part-time care services, or institutions which primarily provide for the care and treatment of alcoholism, substance abuse or mental disorders.</p>
Skilled nursing services	<p>Skilled nursing services means services that meet all of the following requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The services require medical or paramedical training. • The services are rendered by a registered nurse or licensed practical nurse within the scope of their license. • The services are not custodial.
Specialty care drugs	<p>Specialty care drugs means prescription drugs that include injectable, infusion, and oral drugs prescribed to address complex, chronic disease with associated co-morbidities such as cancer, rheumatoid arthritis, hemophilia, and multiple sclerosis, which are listed in the specialty care drug list.</p>
Specialty pharmacy network	<p>Specialty pharmacy network means a network of pharmacies designated to fill specialty care drugs.</p>
Spouse	<p>Spouse means the person to whom the eligible employee is legally married under state law. A spouse includes a person to whom the eligible employee is legally separated, but not divorced.</p>
State	<p>State means the State of Alaska.</p>
Stay	<p>Stay means a full-time inpatient confinement for which a room and board charge is made.</p>
Substance abuse	<p>Substance abuse means a physical or psychological dependency, or both, on a controlled substance or alcohol agent (These are defined on Axis I in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM) published by the American Psychiatric Association which is current as of the date services are rendered to you</p>

Word	Definition
	<p>or your covered dependents.) This term does not include conditions not attributable to a mental disorder that are a focus of attention or treatment (the V codes on Axis I of DSM); an addiction to nicotine products, food or caffeine intoxication.</p>
<p>Summary health information</p>	<p>Summary health information means summary health information as defined by 45 CFR § 164.504(a), as amended, which generally is information that may be individually identifiable health information, and:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • that summarizes the claims history, claims expenses, or type of claims experienced by individuals for whom the State has provided health benefits under the health plan; and • from which the information described at § 164.514(b)(2)(i) of the Privacy Regulations has been deleted, except that the geographic information described in § 164.514(b)(2)(i)(B) of the Privacy Regulations need only be aggregated to the level of a five digit zip code.
<p>Summary plan description</p>	<p>Summary Plan Description (SPD) is an important document that tells participants what the plan provides and how it operates. The SPD for the AlaskaCare plan is also referred to as the Insurance Information Booklet.</p>
<p>Surgery center</p>	<p>Surgery center means a freestanding ambulatory surgical facility that meets all of the following requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meets licensing standards. • Is set up, equipped and run to provide general surgery. • Charges for its services. • Is directed by a staff of physicians. At least one of them must be on the premises when surgery is performed and during the recovery period. • Has at least one certified anesthesiologist at the site when surgery requiring general or spinal anesthesia is performed and during the recovery period. • Extends surgical staff privileges to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Physicians who practice surgery in an area hospital; and ○ Dentists who perform oral surgery. • Has at least two operating rooms and one recovery room. • Provides, or arranges with a medical facility in the area for, diagnostic x-ray and lab services needed in connection with surgery. • Does not have a place for patients to stay overnight. • Provides, in the operating and recovery rooms, full-time skilled nursing services directed by a registered nurse. • Is equipped and has trained staff to handle emergency medical conditions. • Must have all of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ a physician trained in cardiopulmonary resuscitation; ○ a defibrillator; ○ a tracheotomy set; and ○ a blood volume expander. • Has a written agreement with a hospital in the area for immediate emergency transfer of patients. • Written procedures for such a transfer must be displayed and the staff must be aware of them.

Word	Definition
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides an ongoing quality assurance program. The program must include reviews by physicians who do not own or direct the facility. • Keeps a medical record on each patient.
Terminally ill	Terminally ill means a medical prognosis of 12 months or less to live.
Totally disabled	Totally disabled or total disability means, for purposes of extended coverage under the medical plan , your complete inability to perform everyday duties appropriate for your employment, age or sex. The inability may be due to disease, illness , injury , or pregnancy. The State reserves the right to determine total disability based upon the report of a duly qualified physician or physicians chosen by the claims administrator .
Uniformed Service	Uniformed Service means the Armed Forces, the Army National Guard, the Air National Guard when engaged in active duty for training, inactive duty training, or full-time National Guard duty, the commission corps of the Public Health Service, and any other category of persons designated by the President of the United States of America in time of war or emergency . For purposes of USERRA coverage only, services as an intermittent disaster response appointee of the NDMS when federally activated or attending authorized training in support of their Federal mission is deemed service in the uniformed services, although such appointee is not a member of the uniformed services as defined by USERRA.
Urgent admission	Urgent admission means a hospital admission by a physician due to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The onset of or change in an illness, the diagnosis of an illness, or an injury; and • The condition, while not needing an emergency admission, is severe enough to require confinement as an inpatient in a hospital within two weeks from the date the need for the confinement becomes apparent.
Urgent care claim	Urgent care claim means any claim for medical care or treatment where the failure to make a non-urgent care determination quickly (i) could seriously jeopardize the life or health of the claimant or the ability of the claimant to regain maximum function or (ii) in the opinion of a physician with knowledge of the claimant’s medical condition, would subject the claimant to severe pain that cannot be adequately managed without the care or treatment that is the subject of the claim.
Urgent care provider	Urgent care provider means: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A freestanding medical facility that meets all of the following requirements. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Provides unscheduled medical services to treat an urgent condition if the person’s physician is not reasonably available. ○ Routinely provides ongoing unscheduled medical services for more than 8 consecutive hours. ○ Makes charges. ○ Is licensed and certified as required by any state or Federal law or regulation. ○ Keeps a medical record on each patient. ○ Provides an ongoing quality assurance program. This includes reviews by physicians other than those who own or direct the facility.

Word	Definition
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Is run by a staff of physicians. At least one physician must be on call at all times. ○ Has a full-time administrator who is a licensed physician. ● A physician’s office, but only one that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Has contracted with Aetna to provide urgent care; and ○ Is, with Aetna’s consent, included in the directory as a network urgent care provider. ○ It is not the emergency room or outpatient department of a hospital.
Urgent condition	<p>Urgent condition means a sudden illness, injury, or condition that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● is severe enough to require prompt medical attention to avoid serious deterioration of your health; ● includes a condition which would subject you to severe pain that could not be adequately managed without urgent care or treatment; ● does not require the level of care provided in the emergency room of a hospital; and ● requires immediate outpatient medical care that cannot be postponed until your physician becomes reasonably available.
Veneer	<p>Veneer means a layer of tooth-colored material attached to the surface of an anterior tooth to repair chips or cracks, fix gaps and change the shape and size of teeth. A chairside veneer is a restoration created in the dentist’s office. A laboratory veneer is a restoration that is created (cast) at a laboratory. Chairside and laboratory veneers may be paid at different benefit levels.</p>
Vision plan	<p>Vision plan means vision benefits under the plan, as set forth in section 5, <i>Vision Plan</i>.</p>
VSP	<p>VSP means Alaska Vision Services Plan, the claims administrator for the vision plan.</p>
VSP doctor	<p>VSP doctor means an optometrist or ophthalmologist licensed and otherwise qualified to practice vision care or provide vision care materials who has contracted with VSP to provide such services for the plan.</p>

17. VERSION HISTORY LOG

The version history log is a running list of the sections of the plan booklet that have changed over time.

Date	Version	Description
01/01/2020	2020	Formatting of document was updated.
01/01/2020	2020	Amendment 2019-1: AMENDS THE FOLLOWING PARAGRAPH UNDER SECTION 1.3.1. ELIGIBLE EMPLOYEES Surviving dependents of a peace officer or a firefighter of the State whose bargaining unit or employee group participates in the plan or the surviving dependents of a peace officer or a firefighter who were enrolled in the former Public Safety Employee Association Health and Welfare Trust on later of the date of the peace officer or firefighter's death or June 30, 2019, provided that any such surviving dependents meet the criteria to receive medical insurance premium payments pursuant to Alaska Statute 39.60.040, Peace Officer and Firefighter Survivors' Fund.
01/01/2021	2021	Section 18.2.2 Other Applicable Events Section 2. Benefit Schedule Section 3.5.7 Hospital Expenses Section 3.5.34 Medical Foods Section 3.6.2 Accessing Network Pharmacies and Benefits Section 3.6.8 Drug Copay Assistance Program Section 3.6.16 Pharmacy Benefit Exclusions Section 3.4.3 Services Requiring Precertification Section 6.2 Carryover of Unused Amounts in HFSA
01/01/2022	2022	Section 1.8.2.2 Other Applicable Events Section 2.1 Medical Benefit Schedule Section 3.3.3 Accessing Out-of-Network Providers and Benefits Section 3.3.4.1 Involuntary Out of Network Services Section 3.3.6.1 Continuity of Care Section 3.3.7 Recognized Charge Section 3.4.3 Services Requiring Precertification Section 3.5.4 Teladoc Services Section 3.5.5 Preventive Care and Screening Services Section 3.5.23 Ambulance Services Section 3.5.24 Travel Section 3.5.26 Gene Based, Cellular and other Innovative Therapies (GCIT) Section 3.5.31 Medical Treatment of Mouth, Jaws and Teeth Section 3.5.32 Medical Treatment of Obesity Section 3.5.36 Hinge Health Section 4.3.1 Class I Preventive Services Section 4.3.2 Class II Restorative Services Section 4.3.3 Class III Prosthetic Services Section 4.3.3.3 Other Services and Limitations Section 14.11 Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act Section 16 Definitions
01/01/2023	2023	Section 2.1 Medical Benefit Schedule Section 3.3.1 Accessing Network Providers and Benefits Section 3.3.4.1 Involuntary Out-of-Network Services Section 3.3.5 Coalition Health Center Section 3.4.3 Services Requiring Precertification Section 3.4.4 How Failure to Precertify Affects your Benefits

Date	Version	Description
		Section 3.5.5 Preventive Care and Screening Services Section 3.5.11 Skilled Nursing Facility Section 3.5.25.5 Travel Expenses Section 3.5.26 Gene Based, Cellular and other Innovative Therapies (GCIT) Section 3.6.5 Medical Necessity Section 3.6.16 Pharmacy Benefit Exclusions Section 3.7 Medical Plan Exclusions Section 4.3.2.5 Anesthesia Services Section 11.4 How Coordination of Benefits Works Section 14.11 Mental Health Parity and Addition Equity Act Section 16. Definitions
01/01/2024	2024	Section 2.1 Medical Benefit Schedule Section 2.4 Vision Benefit Schedule Section 3.4.2 The Precertification Process Section 3.5.4.2 Teladoc Behavioral Health Consultations Section 3.5.5 Preventive Care and Screening Services Section 3.5.15 Cognitive Therapy, Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy, and Speech Therapy Rehabilitation Benefits Section 3.5.17 Acupuncture Section 3.5.23 Prosthetic Devices Section 3.5.24 Ambulance Services Section 3.7 Medical Plan Exclusions Section 5.2.5 Network Providers Section 8.4 Physician and Other Provider Services Section 8.14 If a Claim is Denied Section 14.11 Mental Health Parity Addiction and Equity Act Section 15.30 Applicable Law and Venue Section 16 Definitions