

# **COUNTY OF ONONDAGA SYRACUSE NY**

**Dental Benefit Summary Plan Description  
7670-02-413111**

**Revised 01-01-2024**

**BENEFITS ADMINISTERED BY**



A UnitedHealthcare Company

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**COUNTY OF ONONDAGA**  
**GROUP DENTAL BENEFIT PLAN**  
**SUMMARY PLAN DESCRIPTION**

**INTRODUCTION**

The purpose of this document is to provide You and Your covered Dependents, if any, with summary information in English on benefits available under this Plan, as well as with information on a Covered Person's rights and obligations under the COUNTY OF ONONDAGA Group Dental Benefit Plan (the "Plan"). You are a valued Employee of COUNTY OF ONONDAGA, and Your employer is pleased to sponsor this Plan to provide benefits that can help meet Your dental care needs. Please read this document carefully and contact Your [Employee Benefits](#) office if You have questions or if You have difficulty translating this document.

COUNTY OF ONONDAGA is named the Plan Administrator for this group dental Plan. The Plan Administrator has retained the services of an independent Third Party Administrator, UMR, Inc. (hereinafter "UMR") to process claims and handle other duties for this self-funded Plan. UMR, as the Third Party Administrator, does not assume liability for benefits payable under this Plan, since it is solely a claims-paying agent for the Plan Administrator.

The employer assumes the sole responsibility for funding the Plan benefits out of general assets; however, Employees help cover some of the costs of covered benefits through contributions, Deductibles, and Plan Participation amounts as described in the Schedule of Benefits. All claim payments and reimbursements are paid out of the general assets of the employer and there is no separate fund that is used to pay promised benefits.

Some of the terms used in this document begin with capital letters, even though it normally would not be capitalized. These terms have special meaning under the Plan. Most terms will be listed in the Glossary of Terms, but some terms are defined within the provisions in which they are used. Becoming familiar with the terms defined in the Glossary of Terms will help You to better understand the provisions of this group dental Plan.

Each Individual covered under this Plan will be receiving an identification card that he or she may present to providers whenever he or she receives services. On the back of this card are phone numbers to call in case of questions or problems.

This document contains information on the benefits and limitations of the Plan and will serve as both the Summary Plan Description (SPD) and Plan Document. Therefore, it will be referred to as both the SPD and the Plan Document.

This document became effective on January 1, 2018.

## PLAN INFORMATION

<b>Plan Name</b>	COUNTY OF ONONDAGA GROUP DENTAL BENEFIT PLAN
<b>Name And Address Of Employer</b>	COUNTY OF ONONDAGA JOHN H. MULROY CIVIC CENTER 15 <sup>th</sup> FL, 421 MONTGOMERY ST SYRACUSE NY 13202
<b>Name, Address, And Phone Number Of Plan Administrator</b>	COUNTY OF ONONDAGA JOHN H. MULROY CIVIC CENTER 15 <sup>th</sup> FL, 421 MONTGOMERY ST SYRACUSE NY 13202 315-435-3498
<b>Named Fiduciary</b>	COUNTY OF ONONDAGA
<b>Employer Identification Number Assigned By The IRS</b>	15-6000461
<b>Type Of Benefit Plan Provided</b>	Self-funded Health and Welfare Plan providing group dental benefits.
<b>Type Of Administration</b>	The administration of the Plan is under the supervision of the Plan Administrator. The Plan is not financed by an insurance company and benefits are not guaranteed by a contract of insurance. UMR provides administrative services such as claim payments for dental claims.
<b>Name And Address Of Agent For Service Of Legal Process</b>	ROBERT DURR, COUNTY ATTORNEY 10 <sup>th</sup> FL, 421 MONTGOMERY ST SYRACUSE NY 13202  Services of legal process may also be made upon the Plan Administrator.
<b>Funding Of The Plan</b>	Employer and Employee Contributions  Benefits are provided by a benefit Plan maintained on a self-insured basis by Your employer.
<b>Collective Bargaining Provisions</b>	The Plan is maintained pursuant to one or more collective bargaining agreements. A copy of each agreement may be obtained upon written request to the Plan Administrator, and each agreement is available for examination.
<b>Benefit Plan Year</b>	Benefits begin on January 1 and end on the following December 31. For new Employees and Dependents, a Benefit Plan Year begins on the individual's Effective Date and runs through December 31 of the same Benefit Plan Year.
<b>Plan's Fiscal Year</b>	January 1 through December 31

**Compliance**

It is intended that this Plan comply with all applicable laws. In the event of any conflict between this Plan and the applicable law, the provisions of the applicable law will be deemed controlling, and any conflicting part of this Plan will be deemed superseded to the extent of the conflict.

**Discretionary Authority**

The Plan Administrator will perform its duties as the Plan Administrator, and in its sole discretion, will determine appropriate courses of action in light of the reason and purpose for which this Plan is established and maintained. In particular, the Plan Administrator will have full and sole discretionary authority to interpret all Plan documents, including this SPD, and make all interpretive and factual determinations as to whether any individual is entitled to receive any benefit under the terms of this Plan. Any construction of the terms of any Plan document and any determination of fact adopted by the Plan Administrator will be final and legally binding on all parties, except that the Plan Administrator has delegated certain responsibilities to the Third Party Administrators for this Plan. Any interpretation, determination, or other action of the Plan Administrator or the Third Party Administrators will be subject to review only if a court of proper jurisdiction determines its action is arbitrary or capricious or otherwise a clear abuse of discretion. Any review of a final decision or action of the Plan Administrator or the Third Party Administrators will be based only on such evidence presented to or considered by the Plan Administrator or the Third Party Administrators at the time they made the decision that is the subject of review. Accepting any benefits or making any claim for benefits under this Plan constitutes agreement with and consent to any decisions that the Plan Administrator or the Third Party Administrators make, in their sole discretion, and further, means that the Covered Person consents to the limited standard and scope of review afforded under law.

## SCHEDULE OF BENEFITS

### Benefit Plan 001

Benefits for You and Your Dependents are listed below.

This coverage provides for the use of a Preferred Provider Organization (PPO). Certain benefits are paid at different levels if the service is not provided by a Participating Provider.

SUMMARY OF BENEFITS	PPO PROVIDER (In-Network)		NON-PPO PROVIDER (Out-of-Network)	
	Individual	Family	Individual	Family
<b>Deductibles Per Calendar Year:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Combined Basic Services, and Major Services</li> </ul>	\$50	\$150	\$50	\$150
<b>Maximums:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Calendar Year Benefit Maximum, including, Preventive Services And Diagnostic Services, Basic Services And Major Services</li> <li>• Lifetime Orthodontic Maximum</li> </ul>	<b>Individual</b> \$3,000  \$3,000		<b>Individual</b> \$3,000  \$3,000	
<b>Participation Percentage</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Preventive Services And Diagnostic Services:</b>                               Routine Cleanings, Fluoride Treatments, And Sealants. Oral Exams And Bitewing And Full-Mouth X-Rays. Refer To Covered Expenses For Any Limitations.</li> <li>• <b>Basic Services:</b>                               Fillings, Endodontics, Periodontics, And Oral Surgery. Refer To Covered Expenses For Any Limitations.</li> <li>• <b>Major Services:</b>                               Inlays, Onlays And Crowns, Bridges, Dentures, Implants. Refer To Covered Expenses For Any Limitations.</li> <li>• <b>Orthodontic Services:</b>                               Orthodontic Diagnosis, Treatment, And Appliances. Refer To Covered Expenses For Any Limitations.</li> </ul>	<b>The Plan Pays</b>  100%  100%  80%  50%		80%  80%  60%  50%	
<b>Limitations And Exclusions:</b>  Refer To General Exclusions.	Not Payable		Not Payable	

## Benefit Plan 002

Benefits for You and Your Dependents are listed below.

This coverage provides for the use of a Preferred Provider Organization (PPO). Certain benefits are paid at different levels if the service is not provided by a Participating Provider.

SUMMARY OF BENEFITS	PPO PROVIDER (In-Network)		NON-PPO PROVIDER (Out-of-Network)	
	Individual	Family	Individual	Family
<b>Deductibles Per Calendar Year:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Combined Basic Services, and Major Services</li> </ul>	\$50	\$150	\$50	\$150
<b>Maximums:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Calendar Year Benefit Maximum, including, Preventive Services And Diagnostic Services, Basic Services And Major Services</li> </ul>	<b>Individual</b> \$3,000		<b>Individual</b> \$3,000	
<b>Participation Percentage</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Preventive Services And Diagnostic Services:</b>  Routine Cleanings, Fluoride Treatments, And Sealants. Oral Exams And Bitewing And Full-Mouth X-Rays. Refer To Covered Expenses For Any Limitations.</li> <li>• <b>Basic Services:</b>  Fillings, Endodontics, Periodontics, And Oral Surgery. Refer To Covered Expenses For Any Limitations.</li> <li>• <b>Major Services:</b>  Inlays, Onlays And Crowns, Bridges, Dentures. Refer To Covered Expenses For Any Limitations.</li> </ul>	<b>The Plan Pays</b>		80%	80%
	100%			80%
	100%			80%
	80%			60%
<b>Limitations And Exclusions:</b>  Refer To General Exclusions.	Not Payable		Not Payable	

## **OUT-OF-POCKET EXPENSES AND MAXIMUMS**

### **DEDUCTIBLES**

A Deductible is an amount of money paid once per Plan Year by the Covered Person before any Covered Expenses are paid by this Plan. A Deductible applies to each Covered Person up to a family Deductible limit. When a new Plan Year begins, a new Deductible must be satisfied.

Deductible amounts are shown on the Schedule of Benefits. Generally, the applicable Deductible must be met before any benefits will be paid under this Plan.

The Deductible amounts that the Covered Person incurs at all benefit levels (whether Incurred at in-network or out-of-network providers) will be used to satisfy the applicable benefit level's total individual and family Deductibles.

If You have family coverage, any combination of covered family members may help meet the maximum family Deductible, up to each person's individual Deductible amount.

### **PLAN PARTICIPATION**

Plan Participation means that, after the Covered Person satisfies the Deductible, the Covered Person and the Plan each pay a percentage of the Covered Expenses. The Plan Participation rate is shown on the Schedule of Benefits. The Covered Person will be responsible for paying any remaining charges due to the provider after the Plan has paid its portion of the Covered Expense, subject to the Plan's maximum fee schedule, Negotiated Rate, or Usual and Customary amounts, as applicable.

### **ADDITIONAL OUT-OF-POCKET EXPENSES**

In addition to the Deductible, if applicable, and Plan Participation percentage, the Covered Person is also responsible for the following costs:

- Co-pays.
- Any remaining charges due to the provider after the Plan's benefits are determined.
- Full charges for services that are not covered benefits under this Plan.
- Penalties, legal fees, and interest charged by a provider.

For example, if the provider placed a resin (white) filling in Your tooth, but an amalgam (silver) filling would have been sufficient to restore the tooth, You will need to pay the difference between the cost of the resin filling and the cost of the amalgam filling.

### **INDIVIDUAL CALENDAR YEAR MAXIMUM BENEFIT**

All Covered Expenses will count toward the Covered Person's individual dental Calendar Year Maximum Benefit that is shown on the Schedule of Benefits, as applicable.

### **NO FORGIVENESS OF OUT-OF-POCKET EXPENSES**

The Covered Person is required to pay the out-of-pocket expenses (including Deductibles or required Plan Participation) under the terms of this Plan. The requirement that You and Your Dependent(s) pay the applicable out-of-pocket expenses may not be waived by a provider under any "fee forgiveness," "not out-of-pocket," or similar arrangement. If a provider waives the required out-of-pocket expenses, the Covered Person's claim may be denied and the Covered Person will be responsible for payment of the entire claim. The claim(s) may be reconsidered if the Covered Person provides satisfactory proof that he or she paid the out-of-pocket expenses under the terms of this Plan.



## ELIGIBILITY AND ENROLLMENT

### ELIGIBILITY AND ENROLLMENT PROCEDURES

You are responsible for enrolling in the manner and form prescribed by Your employer. The Plan's eligibility and enrollment procedures include administrative safeguards and processes designed to ensure and verify that eligibility and enrollment determinations are made in accordance with the Plan. From time to time, the Plan may request documentation from You or Your Dependents in order to make determinations for continuing eligibility. The coverage choices that will be offered to You will be the same choices offered to other, similarly situated Employees.

### ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

An **eligible Employee** is a person who is classified by the employer on both payroll and personnel records as an Employee who regularly works full-time or part time, [active Employees as defined by the Employee's collective bargaining agreement](#). [Full time active Employees are eligible for individual or family coverage and part time Employees are only eligible for individual coverage](#), but for purposes of this Plan, it does not include the following classifications of workers except as determined by the employer in its sole discretion:

- Leased Employees.
- Independent Contractors as defined in this Plan.
- Consultants who are paid on other than a regular wage or salary basis by the employer.
- Members of the employer's Board of Directors, owners, partners, or officers, unless engaged in the conduct of the business on a full-time, regular basis.

For purposes of this Plan, eligibility requirements are used only to determine a person's initial eligibility for coverage under this Plan. An Employee may retain eligibility for coverage under this Plan if the Employee is temporarily absent on an approved leave of absence, which may be combined with the employer's short-term disability policy, with the expectation of returning to work following the approved leave as determined by the employer's leave policy, provided that contributions continue to be paid on a timely basis. COBRA is not applicable until short-term disability is exhausted. Employees who meet eligibility requirements during a measurement period as required by the Affordable Care Act (ACA) regulations will be deemed to have met the eligibility requirements for the corresponding coverage period as required by the ACA regulations. The employer's classification of an individual is conclusive and binding for purposes of determining eligibility under this Plan. No reclassification of a person's status, for any reason, by a third party, whether by a court, governmental agency, or otherwise, without regard to whether or not the employer agrees to such reclassification, will change a person's eligibility for benefits.

An **eligible Dependent** includes:

- Your legal spouse, provided he or she is not covered as an Employee under this Plan. For purposes of eligibility under this Plan, a legal spouse does not include a Common-Law Marriage spouse, even if such partnership is recognized as a legal marriage in the state in which the couple resides. An eligible Dependent does not include an individual from whom You have obtained a legal separation or divorce. Documentation on a Covered Person's marital status may be required by the Plan Administrator.

- A Dependent Child until the Child reaches his or her 19<sup>th</sup> birthday. The term “**Child**” includes the following Dependents who meet eligibility criteria below:
  - A natural biological Child;
  - A stepchild;
  - A legally adopted Child or a Child legally Placed for Adoption as granted by action of a federal, state or local governmental agency responsible for adoption administration or a court of law if the Child has not attained age 18 as of the date of such placement;
  - A Child under Your (or Your spouse’s Legal Guardianship as ordered by a court);
  - A Child who is considered an alternate recipient under a Qualified Medical Child Support Order (QMCSO);
  
- A Dependent does not include the following:
  - A Child who is under the age of 19, working full-time and eligible for benefits under his or her employer;
  - A foster Child;
  - A Child of a Domestic Partner or a Child under Your Domestic Partner’s Legal Guardianship;
  - A grandchild;
  - A Domestic Partner;
  - A Dependent Child if the Child is covered as a Dependent of another Employee at this company;
  - Any other relative or individual unless explicitly covered by this Plan.

**Eligibility Criteria:** To be an eligible Totally Disabled Dependent Child, the following conditions must all be met:

- A Totally Disabled Dependent Child under the [limiting age of 19 \(or 26 if child was enrolled as a full-time student\)](#) and must be dependent upon the Employee for more than 50 percent of his or her support and maintenance. This financial requirement does not apply to Children who are enrolled in accordance with a Qualified Medical Child Support Order because of the Employee's divorce or separation decree.
- A Totally Disabled Dependent Child age 26 or over must be unmarried.

Note: An Employee must be covered under this Plan in order for Dependents to qualify for and obtain coverage.

**RIGHT TO CHECK A DEPENDENT’S EMPLOYMENT STATUS:** The Plan reserves the right to check the employment status of a Dependent at any time throughout the year. You and Your Dependent have an obligation to notify the Plan should the Dependent’s employment status change during the Plan Year. Please notify Your [Employee Benefits](#) office regarding status changes.

**NON-DUPLICATION OF COVERAGE:** Any person who is covered as an eligible Employee shall not also be considered an eligible Dependent under this Plan.

#### **EXTENDED COVERAGE FOR DEPENDENT CHILDREN**

A Dependent Child may be eligible for extended Dependent coverage under this Plan under the following circumstances:

- The Dependent Child was covered by this Plan on the day before the Child’s 19<sup>th</sup> birthday; or
- The Dependent Child is a Dependent of an Employee newly eligible for the Plan; or
- The Dependent Child is eligible due to a special enrollment event or a Qualifying Status Change event, as outlined in the Section 125 Plan.

The Dependent Child must also fit the following category:

- A covered Dependent Child who is attending high school, a licensed trade school, or an Accredited Institution of Higher Education as a Full-Time Student will continue to be eligible until the day of the month in which the Child turns age 26 or until the Dependent Child no longer attends school as a Full-Time Student, whichever is earlier. Extended coverage for Dependent Children who have not reached age 26 will terminate [retroactively to the last day of the attended school term](#), that the Dependent Child is no longer attending or enrolled as a Full-Time Student. A Full-Time Student who is enrolled and begins attending school during any semester, but cannot continue due to Illness or Injury will continue to be covered for the remainder of the semester. (See below for more information on Loss of Full-Time Student Status due to Medical Necessity) The Plan may require proof of the Dependent Child's Full-Time Student enrollment on an as-needed basis. A Full-Time Student who finishes the spring term shall be deemed a Full-Time Student throughout the summer if the Student has enrolled as a Full-Time Student for the following fall term, regardless of whether or not such Student enrolls for the summer term.
- A Dependent Child who otherwise qualified for Extended Dependent coverage but loses Full-Time Student status may re-enroll in the Plan [at the actual date the student commenced full time attendance at the high school or an accredited institute of higher learning](#), subject to the Plan terms, if the Dependent Child qualifies for extended coverage due to initial or re-enrollment as a Full-Time Student. For the purposes of the Plan, the beginning of the semester is deemed to be September 1 for the fall semester, January 1 for the spring semester and June 1 for the summer semester.

or

- If You have a Dependent Child covered under this Plan who is under the age of 19 and Totally Disabled, either mentally or physically, that Child's dental coverage may continue beyond the day the Child would otherwise cease to be a Dependent under the terms of this Plan. You must submit written proof that the Child is Totally Disabled within 30 calendar days after the day coverage for the Dependent would normally end. The Plan may, for three years, ask for additional proof at any time, after which the Plan may ask for proof not more than once per year. Coverage may continue subject to the following minimum requirements:
  - The Dependent must not be able to hold a self-sustaining job due to the disability; and
  - Proof of the disability must be submitted as required (Notice of Award of Social Security Income is acceptable); and
  - The Employee must still be covered under this Plan.

A Totally Disabled Dependent Child older than 19 who loses coverage under this Plan may not re-enroll in the Plan under any circumstances

### **Loss of Full-Time Status Due to Medical Necessity**

Dependents who are enrolled in a licensed trade school or an Accredited Institution of Higher Education on the day before the first day of a Medically Necessary leave of absence or reduction in full-time status will be entitled to up to twelve months of coverage continuation. To qualify:

- The Plan received written certification from the Dependent's treating Physician stating that the Child is suffering from a serious Illness or Injury and that a leave or reduction in enrollment is Medically Necessary.
- The leave must begin while the Dependent is suffering from a serious Illness or Injury and be Medically Necessary.

Coverage during a Medically Necessary leave of absence will be the same as if the Child remained a Full-Time Student and will continue for up to one year from the date the Medically Necessary leave began or until the Dependent would otherwise lose eligibility under the Plan, whichever is sooner. In addition, if any changes are made to the Plan during the Medically Necessary leave, the Dependent Child remains eligible for the changed coverage in the same manner as would have applied if the changed coverage had been the previous coverage, so long as Dependent Children are still covered by the Plan.

**IMPORTANT:** It is Your responsibility to notify the Plan Sponsor within 60 days if Your Dependent no longer meets the criteria listed in this section. If, at any time, the Dependent fails to attend school as a Full-Time Student for reasons other than minor, short-term Illness or Injury or Medical Necessity (as described above), or the Dependent does not meet the qualifications of Totally Disabled, the Plan has the right to be reimbursed from the Dependent or Employee for any dental claims paid by the Plan during the period that the Dependent did not qualify for extended coverage. Please refer to the COBRA Section in this document.

Employees have the right to choose which eligible Dependents are covered under the Plan.

### **EFFECTIVE DATE OF EMPLOYEE'S COVERAGE**

Your coverage will begin on the later of the following dates:

- If You apply within 30 days of hire, Your coverage will become effective the first day of the month following Your date of hire.
- If You are eligible to enroll under the Special Enrollment Provision, Your coverage will become effective on the date set forth under the Special Enrollment Provision if application is made within 30 calendar days of the event.

### **EFFECTIVE DATE OF COVERAGE FOR YOUR DEPENDENTS**

Your Dependent's coverage will be effective on the later of:

- The date Your coverage under the Plan begins if You enroll the Dependent at that time; or
- The date You acquire Your Dependent if application is made within 30 calendar days of acquiring the Dependent; or
- The date set forth under the Special Enrollment Provision, if Your Dependent is eligible to enroll under the Special Enrollment provision and application is made within 30 calendar days following the event; or
- The date specified in a Qualified Medical Child Support Order or the date the Plan Administrator determines that the order is a QMCSO.

A contribution will be charged from the first day of coverage for the Dependent if an additional contribution is required. In no event will Your Dependent be covered prior to the day Your coverage begins.

### **ANNUAL OPEN ENROLLMENT PERIOD**

During the annual open enrollment period, eligible Employees will be able to enroll themselves and their eligible Dependents for coverage under this Plan. Covered Employees will be able to make changes in coverage for themselves and their eligible Dependents.

Coverage Waiting Periods and pre-existing conditions limits are waived during the annual open enrollment period for covered Employees and covered Dependents changing from one Plan to another Plan or changing coverage levels within the Plan.

If You and/or Your Dependent becomes covered under this Plan as a result of electing coverage during the annual open enrollment period, the following will apply:

- The employer will give eligible Employees written notice prior to the start of an annual open enrollment period; and
- This Plan does not apply to charges for services performed or treatment received prior to the Effective Date of the Covered Person's coverage; and
- The Effective Date of coverage will be January 1 following the annual open enrollment period.

## **SPECIAL ENROLLMENT PROVISION**

### **LOSS OF DENTAL COVERAGE**

If You or Your Dependents lose other dental insurance or group dental coverage and are otherwise eligible under this Plan, and did not enroll when first eligible because You or Your Dependents had other dental coverage, then You or Your Dependents may enroll for dental coverage under this Plan if You meet the following conditions:

- You or Your Dependents were covered under a group dental plan or dental insurance policy at the time coverage under this Plan was first offered; and
- The coverage under the other group dental plan or dental insurance policy was:
  - Under a federal COBRA continuation provision and that coverage was exhausted; or
  - Under another type of coverage and that coverage terminated as a result of:
    - Loss of eligibility for the coverage due to legal separation, divorce, death, termination of employment, or reduction in the number of hours of employment; or
    - The current or former employer no longer contributing toward the coverage; and
  - Not terminated due to the person's failure to pay timely premiums or for cause, such as making a fraudulent claim or an intentional misrepresentation of material fact.

You or Your Dependent must apply for coverage under this Plan no later than 30 days after the date the other coverage ended.

- You and/or Your Dependents were covered under a Medicaid plan or state child health plan and Your or Your Dependents coverage was terminated due to loss of eligibility. You must request coverage under this Plan within 60 days after the date of termination of such coverage.

### **NEWLY ELIGIBLE FOR PREMIUM ASSISTANCE UNDER MEDICAID OR CHILDREN'S HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM**

A current Employee and his or her Dependents may be eligible for a special enrollment period if the Employee and/or Dependents are determined eligible, under a state's Medicaid plan or state child health plan, for premium assistance with respect to coverage under this Plan. The Employee must request coverage under this Plan within 60 days after the date the Employee and/or Dependents are determined to be eligible for such assistance.

### **CHANGE IN FAMILY STATUS**

Current Employees and their Dependents, COBRA Qualified Beneficiaries, and other eligible persons have special opportunities to enroll for coverage under this Plan if they experience changes in family status.

If a person becomes an eligible Dependent through marriage, birth, adoption, or Placement for Adoption, the Employee, spouse, and newly acquired Dependent(s) who are not already enrolled may enroll for health coverage under this Plan during a special enrollment period. The Employee must request and apply for coverage within 30 calendar days of the marriage, birth, adoption, or Placement for Adoption.

## **EFFECTIVE DATE OF COVERAGE UNDER SPECIAL ENROLLMENT PROVISION**

If an eligible person properly applies for coverage during this special enrollment period, the coverage will become effective as follows:

- In the case of marriage, **not later than the first day of first month beginning after the date of the completed request for enrollment is received** (note that eligible individuals must submit their enrollment forms prior to the Effective Dates of coverage in order for salary reductions to have preferred tax treatment from the date coverage begins); or
- In the case of a Dependent's birth, on the date of such birth; or
- In the case of a Dependent's adoption, the date of such adoption or Placement for Adoption; or
- In the case of eligibility for premium assistance under a state's Medicaid plan or state child health plan, the first day of the month following the date the completed enrollment form is received by the Plan; or
- In the case of loss of coverage, the first day of the month following the date the completed enrollment form is received by the Plan.

## **RELATION TO SECTION 125 CAFETERIA PLAN**

This Plan may also allow additional changes to enrollment due to change in status events under the employer's Section 125 Cafeteria Plan. Please refer to the employer's Section 125 Cafeteria Plan for more information.

## TERMINATION

For information about continuing coverage, refer to the COBRA Continuation of Coverage section of this SPD.

### EMPLOYEE'S COVERAGE

Your coverage under this Plan will end on the earliest of:

- The end of the period for which Your last contribution is made, if You fail to make any required contribution toward the cost of coverage when due; or
- The date this Plan is canceled; or
- The date coverage for Your benefit class is canceled; or
- The day of the month in which You tell the Plan to cancel Your coverage if You are voluntarily canceling it while remaining eligible because of a change in status, because of special enrollment or at annual open enrollment periods; or
- The end of the stability period in which You became a member of a non-covered class, as determined by the employer, unless You are temporarily absent from work due to active military duty. Refer to USERRA under the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act of 1994 section; or
- The day of the month in which Your employment ends; or
- The date You submit a false claim or are involved in any other fraudulent act related to this Plan or any other group plan.

### YOUR DEPENDENT'S COVERAGE

Coverage for Your Dependent will end on the earliest of the following:

- The end of the period for which Your last contribution is made if You fail to make any required contribution toward the cost of Your Dependent's coverage when due; or
- The day Your coverage ends; or
- The day of the month in which Your Dependent is no longer Your legal spouse due to legal separation or divorce, as determined by the law of the state in which You reside; or
- The end of the month in which Your Dependent Child attains the limiting age listed under the Eligibility and Enrollment section, or
- If Your Dependent Child qualifies for extended Dependent coverage as a Full-Time Student, the [coverage will be terminated retroactively to the end of the month of the attended school term](#) in which Your Dependent Child no longer qualifies as a Full-Time Student unless failure to attend is due to Illness or Injury – (see Extended Dependent Coverage section for more information); or
- If Your Dependent Child qualifies for extended Dependent coverage because he or she is Totally Disabled, the day of the month in which Your Dependent Child is no longer deemed Totally Disabled under the terms of the Plan; or
- The day of the month in which Your Dependent Child no longer satisfies a required eligibility criterion listed in the Eligibility and Enrollment Section; or



- The date Dependent coverage is no longer offered under this Plan; or
- The day of the month in which You tell the Plan to cancel Your Dependent's coverage if You are voluntarily canceling it while remaining eligible because of a change in status, because of special enrollment or at annual open enrollment periods; or
- The day of the month in which the Dependent becomes covered as an Employee under this Plan; or
- The date You or Your Dependent Child submits a false claim or is involved in any fraudulent act related to this Plan or any other group plan.

## COBRA CONTINUATION OF COVERAGE

**NOTE:** UMR (the claims administrator) does not administer the benefits or services described within this provision. Please contact the benefit manager or Your Employer with any questions related to this coverage or service.

**Important:** Read this entire provision to understand a Covered Person's COBRA rights and obligations.

The following is a summary of the federal continuation requirements under the Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1985 (COBRA), as amended. This summary generally explains COBRA continuation coverage, when it may become available to You and Your family, and what You and Your Dependents need to do to protect the right to receive it. When You become eligible for COBRA, You may also become eligible for other coverage options that may cost less than COBRA continuation coverage. This summary provides a general notice of a Covered Person's rights under COBRA, but is not intended to satisfy all the requirements of federal law. Your employer or the COBRA Administrator will provide additional information to You or Your Dependents as required.

You may have other options available to You when You lose group health coverage. For example, You may be eligible to buy an individual plan through the Health Insurance Marketplace. By enrolling in coverage through the Marketplace, You may qualify for lower costs on Your monthly premiums and lower out-of-pocket costs. Additionally, You may qualify for a 30-day special enrollment period for another group health plan for which You are eligible (such as a spouse's plan), even if that plan generally does not accept Late Enrollees.

### INTRODUCTION

Federal law gives certain persons, known as Qualified Beneficiaries (defined below), the right to continue their health care benefits (including dental benefits) beyond the date that they might otherwise lose coverage. The Qualified Beneficiary must pay the entire cost of the COBRA continuation coverage, plus an administrative fee. In general, a Qualified Beneficiary has the same rights and obligations under the Plan as an active participant.

A Qualified Beneficiary may elect to continue coverage under this Plan if such person's coverage would terminate because of a life event known as a Qualifying Event (outlined below). When a Qualifying Event causes (or will cause) a Loss of Coverage, the Plan must offer COBRA continuation coverage. Loss of Coverage means more than losing coverage entirely. It means that a person ceases to be covered under the same terms and conditions that are in effect immediately before the Qualifying Event. In short, a Qualifying Event plus a Loss of Coverage allows a Qualified Beneficiary the right to elect coverage under COBRA.

Generally, You, Your covered spouse, and Your Dependent Children may be Qualified Beneficiaries and eligible to elect COBRA continuation coverage, even if You or Your Dependent is already covered under another employer-sponsored group health plan or are enrolled in Medicare at the time of the COBRA election.

### COBRA CONTINUATION COVERAGE FOR QUALIFIED BENEFICIARIES

The length of COBRA continuation coverage that is offered varies based on who the Qualified Beneficiary is and what **Qualifying Event** is experienced as outlined below.

If You are an Employee, You will become a Qualified Beneficiary if You lose coverage under the Plan because either one of the following Qualifying Events happens:

<b>Qualifying Event</b>	<b>Length of Continuation</b>
• Your employment ends for any reason other than Your gross misconduct	up to 18 months
• Your hours of employment are reduced	up to 18 months

(There are two ways in which this 18-month period of COBRA continuation coverage may be extended. See the section below entitled “The Right to Extend the Length of COBRA Continuation Coverage” for more information.)

Your spouse will become a Qualified Beneficiary if he or she loses coverage under the Plan because any one of the following Qualifying Events happen:

<b>Qualifying Event</b>	<b>Length of Continuation</b>
• The Employee dies	up to 36 months
• The Employee’s hours of employment are reduced	up to 18 months
• The Employee’s employment ends for any reason other than his or her gross misconduct	up to 18 months
• The Employee becomes entitled to Medicare benefits (under Part A, Part B, or both)	up to 36 months
• The Employee and spouse become divorced or legally separated	up to 36 months

Your Dependent Children will become Qualified Beneficiaries if they lose coverage under the Plan because any one of the following Qualifying Events happens:

<b>Qualifying Event</b>	<b>Length of Continuation</b>
• The parent-Employee dies	up to 36 months
• The parent-Employee’s employment ends for any reason other than his or her gross misconduct	up to 18 months
• The parent-Employee’s hours of employment are reduced	up to 18 months
• The parent-Employee becomes entitled to Medicare benefits (Part A, Part B, or both)	up to 36 months
• The parents become divorced or legally separated	up to 36 months
• The Child loses eligibility for coverage under the Plan as a Dependent	up to 36 months

**Note: A spouse or a Dependent Child newly acquired through birth or adoption during a period of continuation coverage is eligible to be enrolled as a Dependent. The standard enrollment provision of the Plan applies to enrollees during continuation coverage. A Dependent other than a newborn or newly adopted Child, who is acquired and enrolled after the original Qualifying Event, is not eligible as a Qualified Beneficiary if a subsequent Qualifying Event occurs.**

## **COBRA NOTICE PROCEDURES**

### **THE NOTICE(S) A COVERED PERSON MUST PROVIDE UNDER THIS SUMMARY PLAN DESCRIPTION**

In order to be eligible to receive COBRA continuation coverage, covered Employees and their Dependents have certain obligations with respect to certain Qualifying Events (including divorce or legal separation of the Employee and spouse or a Dependent Child’s loss of eligibility for coverage as a Dependent) to provide written notices to the administrator. Follow the rules described in this procedure when providing notice to the administrator, whether to Your employer or to the COBRA administrator.

A Qualified Beneficiary’s written notice must include all of the following information (a form to notify the COBRA administrator is available upon request).

- The Qualified Beneficiary’s name, his or her current address, and his or her complete phone number,
- The group number and the name of the Employee’s employer,
- A description of the Qualifying Event (i.e., the life event experienced), and
- The date the Qualifying Event occurred or will occur.

For purposes of the deadlines described in this Summary Plan Description, the notice must be postmarked by the deadline. In order to protect Your family's rights, the Plan Administrator should be informed of any changes to the addresses of family members. Keep copies of all notices You send to the Plan Administrator or COBRA administrator.

## **COBRA NOTICE REQUIREMENTS AND ELECTION PROCESS**

### **EMPLOYER OBLIGATIONS TO PROVIDE NOTICE OF THE QUALIFYING EVENT**

Your employer will give notice to the COBRA administrator when coverage terminates due to the Employee's termination of employment or reduction in hours, the death of the Employee, or the Employee's becoming entitled to Medicare benefits due to age or disability (Part A, Part B, or both). Your employer will notify the COBRA administrator within 30 calendar days of when one of these events occurs.

### **EMPLOYEE OBLIGATIONS TO PROVIDE NOTICE OF THE QUALIFYING EVENT**

The Covered Person must give notice to the Plan Administrator in the case of divorce or legal separation of the Employee and a spouse, a Dependent Child ceasing to be eligible for coverage under the Plan, or a second Qualifying Event. The covered Employee or Qualified Beneficiary must provide written notice to the Plan Administrator in order to ensure rights to COBRA continuation coverage. The Covered Person must provide this notice within the 60-calendar-day period that begins on the latest of:

- The date of the Qualifying Event; or
- The date on which there is a Loss of Coverage (or would be a Loss of Coverage) due to the original Qualifying Event; or
- The date on which the Qualified Beneficiary is informed of this notice requirement by receiving this Summary Plan Description or the General COBRA Notice.

The Plan Administrator will notify the COBRA administrator within 30 calendar days from the date that notice of the Qualifying Event has been provided.

The COBRA administrator will, in turn, provide an election notice to each Qualified Beneficiary within 14 calendar days of receiving notice of a Qualifying Event from the employer, the covered Employee or the Qualified Beneficiary.

### **MAKING AN ELECTION TO CONTINUE GROUP DENTAL COVERAGE**

Each Qualified Beneficiary has the independent right to elect COBRA continuation coverage. A Qualified Beneficiary will receive a COBRA election form that should be completed in order to elect to continue group health coverage under this Plan. A Qualified Beneficiary may elect COBRA coverage at any time within the 60-day election period. The election period ends 60 calendar days after the later of:

- The date Plan coverage terminates due to a Qualifying Event; or
- The date the Plan Administrator provides the Qualified Beneficiary with an election notice.

A Qualified Beneficiary must notify the COBRA Administrator of his or her election in writing or via the online portal, if available, in order to continue group health coverage and must make the required payments when due in order to remain covered. If online election is available, You will receive instructions for online election when Your election notice is provided. If the Qualified Beneficiary does not choose COBRA continuation coverage within the 60-day election period, group health coverage will end on the day of the Qualifying Event.

## **PAYMENT OF CLAIMS AND DATE COVERAGE BEGINS**

No claims will be paid under this Plan for services the Qualified Beneficiary receives on or after the date coverage is lost due to a Qualifying Event. If, however, the Qualified Beneficiary has not completed a waiver and decides to elect COBRA continuation coverage within the 60-day election period, group dental coverage will be reinstated retroactively to the date coverage was lost, provided the Qualified Beneficiary makes the required payment when due. Any claims that were denied during the initial COBRA election period will be reprocessed once the COBRA administrator receives the completed COBRA election form and required payment.

If a Qualified Beneficiary previously waived COBRA coverage but revokes that waiver within the 60-day election period, coverage will not be retroactive to the date of the Qualifying Event but instead will become effective on the date the waiver is revoked.

## **PAYMENT FOR CONTINUATION COVERAGE**

Qualified Beneficiaries are required to pay the entire cost of continuation coverage, which includes both the employer and Employee contributions. This cost may also include a 2% additional fee to cover administrative expenses (or in the case of the 11-month extension due to disability, a 50% additional fee). The cost of continuation coverage is subject to change at least once per year.

If Your employer offers annual open enrollment opportunities for active Employees, each Qualified Beneficiary will have the same options under COBRA (for example, the right to add or eliminate coverage for Dependents). The cost of continuation coverage will be adjusted accordingly.

The **initial payment** is due no later than 45 calendar days after the Qualified Beneficiary elects COBRA as evidenced by the postmark date on the envelope or, if online election is available, the date Your election is submitted electronically. This first payment must cover the cost of continuation coverage from the time coverage under the Plan would have otherwise terminated, up to the time the first payment is made. If the initial payment is not made within the 45-day period, then coverage will remain terminated without the possibility of reinstatement. There is no grace period for the initial payment.

The due date for **subsequent payments** is typically the first day of the month for any particular period of coverage. However, the Qualified Beneficiary will receive specific payment information, including due dates, when the Qualified Beneficiary becomes eligible for and elects COBRA continuation coverage.

If, for whatever reason, any Qualified Beneficiary receives any benefits under the Plan during a month for which the payment was not made on time, then the Qualified Beneficiary will be required to reimburse the Plan for the benefits received.

If the COBRA administrator receives a check that is missing information or contains discrepancies regarding the information on the check (e.g., the numeric dollar amount does not match the written dollar amount), the COBRA administrator will provide a notice to the Qualified Beneficiary with information regarding what needs to be done to correct the mistake.

**Note: Payment will not be considered made if a check is returned for non-sufficient funds.**

## **A QUALIFIED BENEFICIARY'S NOTICE OBLIGATIONS WHILE ON COBRA**

Always keep the COBRA administrator informed of the current addresses of all Covered Persons who are or who may become Qualified Beneficiaries. Failure to provide this information to the COBRA administrator may cause You or Your Dependents to lose important rights under COBRA.

In addition, written notice to the COBRA administrator is required within 30 calendar days of the date any one of the following events occurs:

- The Qualified Beneficiary marries. Refer to the Special Enrollment Provision section of this SPD for additional information regarding special enrollment rights.

- A Child is born to, adopted by, or Placed for Adoption by a Qualified Beneficiary. Refer to the Special Enrollment Provision section of this SPD for additional information regarding special enrollment rights.
- A final determination is made by the Social Security Administration that a disabled Qualified Beneficiary is no longer disabled.
- A Qualified Beneficiary becomes covered by another group dental plan.

Additionally, if the COBRA administrator or the Plan Administrator requests additional information from the Qualified Beneficiary, the Qualified Beneficiary must provide the requested information in the timeframe outlined in the request document.

## LENGTH OF CONTINUATION COVERAGE

COBRA coverage is available up to the maximum periods described below, subject to all COBRA regulations and the conditions of this Summary Plan Description:

- For Employees and Dependents: 18 months from the Qualifying Event if due to the Employee's termination of employment or reduction of work hours. (If an active Employee enrolls in Medicare before his or her termination of employment or reduction in hours, then the covered spouse and Dependent Children will be entitled to COBRA continuation coverage for up to the greater of 18 months from the Employee's termination of employment or reduction in hours, or 36 months from the earlier Medicare Enrollment Date, whether or not Medicare enrollment is a Qualifying Event.)
- For Dependents only: 36 months from the Qualifying Event if coverage is lost due to one of the following events:
  - The Employee's death.
  - The Employee's divorce or legal separation.
  - The former Employee's enrollment in Medicare.
  - A Dependent Child's loss of eligibility as a Dependent as defined by the Plan.

## THE RIGHT TO EXTEND THE LENGTH OF COBRA CONTINUATION COVERAGE

While on COBRA continuation coverage, certain Qualified Beneficiaries may have the right to extend continuation coverage provided written notice is given to the COBRA Administrator as soon as possible but no later than the **required** timeframes stated below.

**Social Security Disability Determination (For Employees and Dependents):** A Qualified Beneficiary may be granted an 11-month extension to the initial 18-month COBRA continuation period, for a total maximum of 29 months of COBRA, in the event that the Social Security Administration determines the Qualified Beneficiary to be disabled either before becoming eligible for, or within the first 60 days of being covered by, COBRA continuation coverage. This extension will not apply if the original COBRA continuation was for 36 months.

If the Qualified Beneficiary has non-disabled family members who are also Qualified Beneficiaries, those non-disabled family members are also entitled to the disability extension.

The Qualified Beneficiary must give the COBRA administrator a copy of the Social Security Administration letter of disability determination before the end of the initial 18-month period and within 60 days of the later of:

- The date of the Social Security Administration disability determination;
- The date the Qualifying Event occurs;
- The date the Qualified Beneficiary loses (or would lose) coverage due to the original Qualifying Event; or

- The date on which the Qualified Beneficiary is informed of the requirement to notify the COBRA administrator of the disability by receiving this Summary Plan Description or the General COBRA Notice.

Note: Premiums may be higher after the initial 18-month period for persons exercising this disability extension provision available under COBRA.

If the Social Security Administration determines the Qualified Beneficiary is no longer disabled, the Qualified Beneficiary must notify the Plan of that fact within 30 days after the Social Security Administration's determination.

**Second Qualifying Events: (Dependents Only):** If Your family experiences another Qualifying Event while receiving 18 months of COBRA continuation coverage, the spouse and Dependent Children in Your family who are Qualified Beneficiaries may receive up to 18 additional months of COBRA continuation coverage, for a maximum of 36 months, if notice of the second event is provided to the COBRA administrator. This additional coverage may be available to the spouse or Dependent Children who are Qualified Beneficiaries if the Employee or former Employee dies, becomes entitled to Medicare (Part A, Part B, or both) or is divorced or legally separated, or if the Dependent Child loses eligibility under the Plan as a Dependent. This extension is available only if the Qualified Beneficiaries were covered under the Plan prior to the original Qualifying Event or in the case of a newborn Child being added as a result of a HIPAA special enrollment right. Dependents acquired during COBRA continuation (other than newborns and newly adopted Children) are not eligible to continue coverage as the result of a subsequent Qualifying Event. These events will lead to the extension only when the event would have caused the spouse or Dependent Child to lose coverage under the Plan had the first Qualifying Event not occurred.

You or Your Dependents must provide the notice of a second Qualifying Event to the COBRA administrator within a 60-day period that begins to run on the latest of:

- The date of the second Qualifying Event; or
- The date the Qualified Beneficiary loses (or would lose) coverage due to the second Qualifying Event; or
- The date on which the Qualified Beneficiary is informed of the requirement to notify the COBRA administrator of the second Qualifying Event by receiving this Summary Plan Description or the General COBRA Notice.

## **COVERAGE OPTIONS OTHER THAN COBRA CONTINUATION COVERAGE**

There may be other coverage options for You and Your family through the Health Insurance Marketplace, Medicaid, or other group health plan coverage (such as a spouse's plan) through what is called a "special enrollment period." Some of these options may cost less than COBRA continuation coverage. You can learn more about many of these options at [www.healthcare.gov](http://www.healthcare.gov).

## **EARLY TERMINATION OF COBRA CONTINUATION**

COBRA continuation coverage may terminate before the end of the above maximum coverage periods for any of the following reasons:

- The employer ceases to maintain a group dental plan for any Employees. (Note that if the employer terminates the group dental plan under which the Qualified Beneficiary is covered, but still maintains another group dental plan for other, similarly-situated Employees, the Qualified Beneficiary will be offered COBRA continuation coverage under the remaining group health plan, although benefits and costs may not be the same.)
- The required contribution for the Qualified Beneficiary's coverage is not paid within the timeframe expressed in the COBRA regulations.
- After electing COBRA continuation coverage, the Qualified Beneficiary becomes entitled to and enrolled in Medicare.

- After electing COBRA continuation coverage, the Qualified Beneficiary becomes covered under another group health plan.
- The Qualified Beneficiary is found not to be disabled during the disability extension. The Plan will terminate the Qualified Beneficiary's COBRA continuation coverage one month after the Social Security Administration makes a determination that the Qualified Beneficiary is no longer disabled.
- Termination for cause, such as submitting fraudulent claims.

## **SPECIAL NOTICE**

At the time of a COBRA Qualifying Event, a Qualified Beneficiary has two primary options. The first is to waive his or her right to COBRA and make an election for coverage, whether group health coverage or insurance coverage through the individual market or the exchanges, in accordance with his or her HIPAA special enrollment rights. Please refer to the Special Enrollment Provision section for further details. The second option is to elect COBRA continuation coverage. If COBRA continuation coverage is elected, the continuation coverage must be maintained (by paying the cost of the coverage) for the duration of the COBRA continuation period. If the continuation coverage is not exhausted and maintained for the duration of the COBRA continuation period, the Qualified Beneficiary will lose his or her special enrollment rights. It is important to note that losing HIPAA special enrollment rights may have adverse effects for the Qualified Beneficiary since it will make it difficult to obtain coverage, whether group health coverage or insurance coverage through the individual market or the exchange. After COBRA continuation coverage is exhausted, the Qualified Beneficiary will have the option of electing other group health coverage or insurance coverage through the individual market or the exchange, in accordance with his or her HIPAA special enrollment rights.

## **DEFINITIONS**

**Qualified Beneficiary** means a person covered by this group dental Plan immediately before a Qualifying Event. A Qualified Beneficiary may be an Employee, the spouse of a covered Employee, or the Dependent Child of a covered Employee. This includes a Child who is born to or Placed for Adoption with a covered Employee during the Employee's COBRA coverage period if the Child is enrolled within the Plan's Special Enrollment Provision for newborns and adopted Children. This also includes a Child who was receiving benefits under this Plan pursuant to a Qualified Medical Child Support Order (QMCSO) immediately before the Qualifying Event.

**Qualifying Event** means Loss of Coverage due to one of the following:

- The death of the covered Employee.
- Voluntary or involuntary termination of the covered Employee's employment (other than for gross misconduct).
- A reduction in work hours of the covered Employee.
- Divorce or legal separation of the covered Employee from the Employee's spouse. (Also, if an Employee terminates coverage for his or her spouse in anticipation of a divorce or legal separation, and a divorce or legal separation later occurs, then the later divorce or legal separation may be considered a Qualifying Event even though the ex-spouse lost coverage earlier. If the ex-spouse notifies the Plan or the COBRA administrator in writing within 60 calendar days after the divorce or legal separation and can establish that the coverage was originally eliminated in anticipation of the divorce or legal separation, then COBRA coverage may be available for the period after the divorce or legal separation.)
- The covered former Employee becomes enrolled in Medicare.
- A Dependent Child no longer qualifies as a Dependent as defined by the Plan.



**Loss of Coverage** means any change in the terms or conditions of coverage in effect immediately before a Qualifying Event. Loss of Coverage includes a change in coverage terms, a change in plans, termination of coverage, partial Loss of Coverage, an increase in Employee cost, and other changes that affect terms or conditions of coverage. Loss of Coverage does not always occur immediately after a Qualifying Event, but must always occur within the applicable 18- or 36-month coverage period. A Loss of Coverage that is not caused by a Qualifying Event may not trigger COBRA rights.

**Must a Qualified Beneficiary be Given the Right to Enroll in a Conversion Health Plan at the End of the Maximum Coverage Period for COBRA Continuation Coverage?** If a Qualified Beneficiary's COBRA continuation coverage under a group health plan ends as a result of the expiration of the applicable maximum coverage period, the Plan will, during the 180-day period that ends on that expiration date, provide the Qualified beneficiary with the option of enrolling under a conversion health Plan if such an option is otherwise generally available to similarly situated non-COBRA beneficiaries under the Plan.

## **IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS**

Questions concerning your Plan or your COBRA continuation coverage rights should be addressed to the contact or contacts identified below. For more information about COBRA, the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, and other laws affecting group health plans, contact the nearest Regional or District Office of the U.S. Department of Labor's Employee Benefits Security Administration (EBSA) in your area or visit the EBSA website at [www.dol.gov/ebsa](http://www.dol.gov/ebsa). (Addresses and phone numbers of Regional and District EBSA Offices are available through EBSA's website.) For more information about the Marketplace, visit [www.HealthCare.gov](http://www.HealthCare.gov).

The Plan Administrator:  
COUNTY OF ONONDAGA  
JOHN H. MULROY CIVIC CENTER  
15<sup>th</sup> FL, 421 MONTGOMERY ST  
SYRACUSE NY 13202

The COBRA Administrator

# UNIFORMED SERVICES EMPLOYMENT AND REEMPLOYMENT RIGHTS ACT OF 1994

## INTRODUCTION

Employers are required to offer COBRA-like health care continuation coverage to persons in the armed service if the absence for military duty would result in a loss of coverage. Employees on leave for military service must be treated as if they are on leaves of absence and are entitled to any other rights and benefits accorded to similarly situated Employees on leaves of absence or furloughs. If an employer has different types of benefits available depending on the type of leave of absence, the most favorable comparable leave benefits must apply to Employees on military leave. Reinstatement following a military leave of absence may not be subject to Waiting Periods.

## COVERAGE

The maximum length of health care continuation coverage required under the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act of 1994 (USERRA) is the lesser of:

- 24 months beginning on the day that the uniformed service leave begins, or
- A period beginning on the day that the service leave begins and ending on the day after the Employee fails to return to or reapply for employment within the time allowed by USERRA.

## USERRA NOTICE AND ELECTION

An Employee or an appropriate officer of the uniformed service in which his or her service is to be performed must notify the employer that the Employee intends to leave the employment position to perform service in the uniformed services. An Employee should provide notice as far in advance as is reasonable under the circumstances. The Employee is excused from giving notice due to military necessity, or if giving notice is otherwise impossible or unreasonable under the circumstances.

Upon notice of intent to leave for uniformed service, Employees will be given the opportunity to elect USERRA continuation. Dependents do not have an independent right to elect USERRA coverage. Election of, payment for, and termination of the USERRA extension will be governed by the same requirements set forth under the COBRA Continuation of Coverage section, to the extent the COBRA requirements do not conflict with USERRA.

## PAYMENT

If the military leave orders are for a period of 30 days or less, the Employee is not required to pay more than the amount he or she would have paid as an active Employee. For periods of 31 days or longer, if an Employee elects to continue dental coverage pursuant to USERRA, such Employee and covered Dependents will be required to pay up to 102% of the full premium for the coverage elected.

## EXTENDED COVERAGE RUNS CONCURRENTLY

Employees and their Dependents may be eligible for both COBRA and USERRA at the same time. Election of either the COBRA or USERRA extension by an Employee on leave for military service will be deemed an election under both laws, and the coverage offering the most benefit to the Employee will generally be extended. Coverage under both laws will run concurrently. Dependents who choose to independently elect extended coverage will be deemed eligible for the COBRA extension only because they are not eligible for a separate, independent right of election under USERRA.

## PROVIDER NETWORK

The word "**Network**" means an organization that has contracted with various providers to provide dental care services to Covered Persons at negotiated fees. Providers who participate in a Network have agreed to accept the negotiated fees as payment in full, including any portion of the fees that the Covered Person must pay due to the Deductible, Plan Participation amounts, or other out-of-pocket expenses. The allowable charges used in the calculation of the payable benefit to participating providers will be determined by the Negotiated Rates in the network contract. A provider who does not participate in a Network may bill Covered Persons for additional fees over and above what the Plan pays.

Knowing to which Network a provider belongs will help a Covered Person determine how much he or she will need to pay for certain services. To obtain the highest level of benefits under this Plan, Covered Persons should receive services from in-network providers; however, this Plan does not limit a Covered Person's right to choose his or her own provider of dental care at his or her own expense if a dental expense is not a Covered Expense under this Plan, or is subject to a limitation or exclusion.

To find out to which Network a provider belongs, please refer to the Provider Directory, or call the toll-free number that is listed on the back of the Plan's identification card. The participation status of providers may change from time to time.

The preferred provider organization is POMCO Dental Network.

### EXCEPTIONS TO THE PROVIDER NETWORK RATES

Some benefits may be processed at in-network benefit levels when provided by out-of-network providers. When non-network charges are covered in accordance with Network benefits, the charges are still subject to the Usual and Customary charge limitations.

### PROVIDER DIRECTORY INFORMATION

Each covered Employee, COBRA participant, and Child or guardian of a Child who is considered an alternate recipient under a Qualified Medical Child Support Order will automatically be given or electronically provided a separate document, at no cost, that lists the participating Network providers for this Plan. The Employee should share this document with other covered individuals in his or her household. If a covered spouse or Dependent wants a separate provider list, he or she may make a written request to the Plan Administrator. The Plan Administrator may make a reasonable charge to cover the cost of furnishing complete copies to the spouse or other covered Dependents.

Information on participating providers can also be accessed at the following website:

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

## **PRE-TREATMENT ESTIMATE OF BENEFITS**

One of the advantages of this dental Plan is that it enables a Covered Person to see the amount payable by the Plan prior to having the Dentist begin any extensive treatment. Through this process, Covered Persons can prevent any misunderstandings as to what is covered by the Plan. A Covered Person can accurately estimate what he or she will owe the Dentist. This procedure is known as "Pre-Treatment Estimate of Benefits." Here is how the process works:

Usually, before beginning any extensive treatment, the Covered Person will be advised as to what the Dentist intends to do. This plan of action is referred to as the Treatment Plan. The Dentist will submit the Treatment Plan to UMR prior to performing the services. UMR will then notify the Covered Person and the Dentist, in advance, regarding what benefits are payable under this Plan, and how much the Covered Person will be responsible for paying.

Obtaining a Pre-Treatment Estimate of Benefits is recommended. This feature is not mandatory; however, dental care can be expensive. A Covered Person may want to have an idea of how much this Plan will pay before agreeing to have the treatment performed.

Note: The Pre-Treatment Estimate of Benefits is not a guarantee of payment and is valid for 12 months after the notice date. Benefits are payable if coverage is in effect on the date the services are performed (subject to all Plan provisions) and if the claim is submitted to the Plan within the timely filing period. If additional procedures are performed, the claim will be reviewed in its entirety.

## COVERED EXPENSES

The Plan will pay for the following Covered Expenses Incurred by a Covered Person, subject to any Deductibles, Plan Participation amounts, maximums, or limits shown on the Schedule of Benefits, and to all other provisions as stated in this SPD. Benefits are based on the Usual and Customary charge, fee schedule, or Negotiated Rate. Any procedure that is not specifically listed as covered is excluded.

### General Overview:

This Plan provides dental benefits under several categories of dental services. Within each category, there are a number of subcategories of covered services.

### PREVENTIVE SERVICES

- Cleanings (routine prophylaxis) - limited to two per calendar year.
- Topical fluoride treatments - covered for Dependent Children under the age of 19 only. Limited to two treatments per calendar year. A cleaning performed with a fluoride treatment is a separate dental service.
- Space maintainers - fixed appliances to maintain a space created by the premature loss of a primary tooth or teeth through the age of 13 only.
- Sealants - covered for Dependent Children under the age of 14 only. Limited to permanent molar teeth only once every 36 consecutive months. Not covered for primary teeth.

### DIAGNOSTIC SERVICES

- Oral exams - limited to two per calendar year.
- Full-mouth X-rays - limited to one every 36 consecutive months, unless necessary due to an Injury, combined with panoramic / panorex X-rays.
- Panoramic / panorex X-rays - limited to one every 36 consecutive months, unless necessary due to an Injury combined with full-mouth X-rays.
- Bitewing X-rays - limited to two visits per year.
- Ancillary - emergency oral exams and palliative treatment for relief of dental pain.
- X-rays – all other dental X-rays when Medically Necessary as part of the treatment of a Covered Expense.

### BASIC SERVICES

- Restorative fillings – amalgam, silicate, acrylic, synthetic porcelain, and composite fillings.
- Preformed stainless steel crowns – limited to Dependent Children with deciduous primary teeth only.
- Endodontics – root canal treatments, root canal fillings, pulp vitality tests, and other related procedures.
- Periodontics – debridement and exams, and other related procedures necessary to treat a disease of the supporting tissues of the teeth. Periodontal splinting is not a covered expense.
- Periodontal maintenance.
- Oral surgery – extractions and other oral surgery including preoperative and postoperative care.

- Local anesthesia when Medically Necessary.
- General anesthesia – when administered by a Dentist due to oral or dental surgery when Medically Necessary.
- Rebase procedures for denture or bridges. Not covered during the first six months after initial placement.
- Reline procedures for dentures or bridges. Not covered during the first six months after initial placement.

## **MAJOR SERVICES**

- Inlays or onlays.
- Crowns.
- Implants and implant-related services.
- Installation of removable or fixed bridgework.
- Installation of partial and complete dentures, including six-month post-installation care.

### **Limitations for Major Restorative Services**

Replacement of an implant, abutment, retainer, or denture is limited to once every five years.

Replacement of an inlay, onlay, or crown will be covered only if the appliance was installed at least five years prior to its replacement. This provision will not apply if replacement is due to an Accidental Injury that occurred while You were covered under this Plan. This provision will not apply if replacement is required due to the involvement of an additional tooth surface.

Replacement of a bridge or denture will be covered only if the appliance was installed at least five years prior to its replacement. This provision will not apply if:

- Replacement is Medically Necessary due to the placement of an initial opposing full denture;
- Replacement is Medically Necessary due to the extraction of additional natural teeth. Such extraction must leave the bridge or partial denture unserviceable;
- The bridge or denture is damaged beyond repair while in the oral cavity. The Injury must occur while You are covered under this Plan; or
- The existing denture is a temporary denture, placed while You were covered under this Plan. Replacement by a permanent denture must be required and performed within 12 months of the date the temporary denture was placed.

Expenses Incurred for prosthodontic services performed on teeth other than permanent teeth are not covered.

Expenses Incurred at any time to replace a bridge or denture that meets, or can be made to meet, commonly held dental standards of functional acceptability are not covered.

The initial installation of a bridge or denture, replacing natural teeth that were extracted prior to Your effective date, is not covered. Such installation will be covered if Medically Necessary due to the loss or extraction of additional natural teeth after Your effective date.

## ORTHODONTIC BENEFITS PROVISION

### Benefit-001

The Plan will pay Covered Expenses for Orthodontic Procedures. This benefit is subject to Medical Necessity and all other Plan provisions.

With respect to each Covered Person, the Lifetime Maximum Benefit payable under this provision for all covered orthodontic expenses will not exceed the orthodontic Maximum Benefit shown in the Schedule of Benefits.

### DEPENDENT CHILD LIMITATION

This provision applies only to an eligible Dependent Child who is age 18 or under on the date the Orthodontic Procedure begins. This provision does not apply to You or Your spouse. Benefits will terminate under this provision for a Dependent Child on the date such Child turns age 19.

### ORTHODONTIC PROCEDURE

**Orthodontic Procedure** means movement of teeth by means of active appliances to correct the position of maloccluded or malpositioned teeth. Orthodontic Procedure includes minor treatment to control harmful habits and diagnostic services (casts, consultations, exams, X-rays, and related photos taken by the Dentist).

### ORTHODONTIC TREATMENT PLAN

The Treatment Plan is a Dentist's report, on a form satisfactory to the Plan, that:

- Provides a classification of the malocclusion;
- Recommends and describes necessary treatment by Orthodontic Procedures;
- Estimates the duration over which treatment will be completed;
- Estimates the total charge for such treatment; and
- Is accompanied by cephalometric X-rays, study models, and such other supporting evidence as the Plan may reasonably require.

### COVERED ORTHODONTIC EXPENSES

In order to be payable, orthodontic treatment must be needed for one or more of the following conditions:

- Overbite or overjet of at least four millimeters; or
- Upper and lower arches in either protrusive or retrusive relation of at least one cusp; or
- Cross-bite; or
- An arch length difference of more than four millimeters in either the upper or lower arch.

Orthodontic services are not covered until You have been covered under the Plan for 12 consecutive months.

If You are a Late Enrollee as defined in this Plan, orthodontic services are not covered until You have been covered under the Plan for 18 consecutive months.

## COORDINATION OF BENEFITS

Coordination of Benefits (COB) applies whenever a Covered Person has dental coverage under more than one Plan, as defined below. It does not, however, apply to prescription benefits. The purpose of coordinating benefits is to help Covered Persons pay for Covered Expenses, but not to result in total benefits that are greater than the Covered Expenses Incurred.

The order of benefit determination rules below determine which plan will pay first (i.e., which is the Primary Plan). The Primary Plan pays without regard to the possibility that another plan may cover some expenses. A Secondary Plan pays for Covered Expenses after the Primary Plan has processed the claim, and will reduce the benefits it pays so that the total payment between the Primary Plan and the Secondary Plan does not exceed the Covered Expenses Incurred. Up to total of 100% of charges Incurred may be paid between the plans.

The Plan will coordinate benefits with the following types of medical or dental plans:

- Group dental plans, whether insured or self-insured.
- Group health plans, whether insured or self-insured.
- Foreign policies.
- Medical coverage related to dental care under group or individual automobile policies (including no-fault policies). See the order of benefit determination rules (below).
- Medicare or other governmental benefits, as permitted by law, not including Medicaid. See below.

However, this Plan does not coordinate benefits with individual health or dental plans.

Each contract for coverage is considered a separate plan. If a plan has two parts and COB rules apply to only one of the two parts, each of the parts is treated as a separate plan. If a plan provides benefits in the form of services rather than cash payments, the reasonable cash value of each service rendered will be considered an allowable expense and a benefit paid.

When this Plan is secondary, and when not in conflict with a network contract requiring otherwise, covered charges will not include any amount that is not payable under the primary plan as a result of a contract between the primary plan and a provider of service in which such provider agrees to accept a reduced payment and not to bill the Covered Person for the difference between the provider's contracted amount and the provider's regular billed charge.

### ORDER OF BENEFIT DETERMINATION RULES

The first of the following rules that apply to a Covered Person's situation is the rule that will apply.

- The plan that has no coordination of benefits provision is considered primary.
- When medical payments related to dental care are available under motor vehicle insurance (including no-fault policies), this Plan will always be considered secondary regardless of the individual's election under Personal Injury Protection (PIP) coverage with the auto carrier.
- If an individual is covered under one plan as a Dependent and another plan as an Employee, member, or subscriber, the plan that covers the person as an Employee, member, or subscriber (that is, other than as a Dependent) is considered primary. The Primary Plan must pay benefits without regard to the possibility that another plan may cover some expenses. This Plan will deem any Employee plan beneficiary to be eligible for primary benefits from his or her employer's benefit plan.
- The plan that covers a person as a Dependent is generally secondary. The plan that covers a person as a Dependent is primary only when both plans agree that COBRA or state continuation coverage should always pay secondary when the person who elected COBRA is covered by another plan as a Dependent. See continuation coverage below.



- If an individual is covered under a spouse's Plan and also under his or her parent's plan, the Primary Plan is the plan that has covered the person for the longer period of time. In the event the dependent child's coverage under the spouse's plan began on the same date as the dependent child's coverage under either or both parents' plans, the plan of the parent or spouse whose birthday falls earlier in the calendar year is the Primary Plan. If the parents and/or spouse have the same birthday, the plan that has covered the parent or spouse for the longer period of time is the Primary Plan.
- If one or more plans cover the same person as a Dependent Child:
  - The Primary Plan is the plan of the parent whose birthday is earlier in the year if:
    - The parents are married; or
    - The parents are not separated (whether or not they have been married); or
    - A court decree awards joint custody without specifying that one party has the responsibility to provide dental care coverage.

If both parents have the same birthday, the plan that has covered either of the parents the longest is primary.
  - If the specific terms of a court decree state that one of the parents is responsible for the Child's dental care expenses or dental care coverage and the plan of that parent has actual knowledge of those terms, that plan is primary. This rule applies to claim determination periods or plan years starting after the plan is given notice of the court decree.
  - If the parents are not married and reside separately, or are divorced or legally separated (whether or not they have ever been married), the order of benefits is:
    - The plan of the custodial parent;
    - The plan of the spouse of the custodial parent;
    - The plan of the non-custodial parent; and then
    - The plan of the spouse of the non-custodial parent.
- Active or Inactive Employee: If an individual is covered under one plan as an active Employee (or Dependent of an active Employee), and is also covered under another plan as a retired or laid-off Employee (or Dependent of an active or laid-off Employee), the plan that covers the person as an active Employee (or Dependent of an active Employee) will be primary. This rule does not apply if the rule in the third paragraph (above) can determine the order of benefits. If the other plan does not have this rule, this rule is ignored.
- Continuation Coverage Under COBRA or State Law: If a person has elected continuation of coverage under COBRA or state law, and also has coverage under another plan, the continuation coverage is secondary. This is true even if the person is enrolled in another plan as a Dependent. If the two plans do not agree on the order of benefits, this rule is ignored. This rule does not apply if one of the first four bullets above applies.
- Longer or Shorter Length of Coverage: The plan that has covered the person as an Employee, member, subscriber, or retiree the longest is primary.
- If an active Employee is on leave due to active duty in the military in excess of 30 days, the plan that covers the person as an active Employee, member, or subscriber is considered primary.
- If the above rules do not determine the Primary Plan, the Covered Expenses may be shared equally between the plans. This Plan will not pay more than it would have paid had it been primary.

## **TRICARE**

If an eligible Employee is on active military duty, TRICARE is the only coverage available to that Employee. Benefits are not coordinated with the Employee's dental insurance plan.

In all instances where an eligible Employee is also a TRICARE beneficiary, TRICARE will pay secondary to this employer-provided Plan.

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

Certain facts about dental care coverage and services are needed to apply these COB rules and to determine benefits payable under this Plan and other plans. The Plan may obtain the information it needs from or provide such information to other organizations or persons for the purpose of applying those rules and determining benefits payable under this Plan and other plans covering the person claiming benefits. The Plan need not tell, or obtain the consent of, any person to do this. However, if the Plan needs assistance in obtaining the necessary information, each person claiming benefits under this Plan must provide the Plan any information it needs to apply those rules and determine benefits payable.

## **REIMBURSEMENT TO THIRD PARTY ORGANIZATION**

A payment made under another plan may include an amount that should have been paid under this Plan. If it does, the Plan may pay that amount to the organization that made that payment. That amount will then be treated as if it were a benefit paid under this Plan. The Plan will not have to pay that amount again.

## **RIGHT OF RECOVERY**

If the amount of the payments made by the Plan is more than the Plan should have paid under this COB provision, the Plan may recover the excess from one or more of the persons it paid or for whom the Plan has paid, or from any other person or organization that may be responsible for the benefits or services provided for the Covered Person.

## GENERAL EXCLUSIONS

The Plan does not pay for expenses Incurred for the following, even if deemed to be Medically Necessary, unless otherwise stated below. The Plan does not apply exclusions to treatment listed in this SPD as covered dental benefits based upon the source of the Injury when the Plan has information that the Injury is due to a medical condition (including both physical and mental health conditions) or domestic violence.

1. **Acts of War:** Illness or Injury caused or contributed to by international armed conflict, hostile acts of foreign enemies, invasion, or war or acts of war, whether declared or undeclared.
2. **Appointments Missed:** Appointments the Covered Person did not attend.
3. **Athletic Mouth Guards.**
4. **Before Effective Date and After Termination:** Services, supplies, or expenses Incurred before coverage begins or after coverage ends under this Plan.
5. **Congenital:** Care of a congenital or developmental malformation, including congenitally missing teeth.
6. **Cosmetic:** Services or treatment for cosmetic purposes as determined by the Plan, including, but not limited to bleaching. This exclusion does not apply to Accidental Dental Injury or to orthodontic services.
7. **Crowns.** Crowns for teeth that are restorable by other means or for the purpose of periodontal splinting.
8. **Denture Duplication.**
9. **Duplicate Services and Charges or Inappropriate Billing** including the preparation of medical or dental reports and itemized bills.
10. **Excess Charges:** Charges or the portion thereof that are in excess of the Usual and Customary charge, the Negotiated Rate, or the fee schedule.
11. **Experimental or Investigational, or Unproven:** Services, supplies, medicines, treatment, facilities, or equipment that the Plan determines are Experimental, Investigational, or Unproven, including administrative services associated with Experimental, Investigational, or Unproven treatment.
12. **Fractures:** Treatment of fractures not including teeth or alveolar processes.
13. **Gnathological Recordings.**
14. **Gold Foil Restorations.**
15. **Interest and Legal Fees.**
16. **Medical Plan.** Any part of Allowed Charges paid by a medical plan sponsored by the Employer or not paid due to the medical plan deductible, copayment or coinsurance provisions.

17. **Medications**, whether prescription or over-the-counter, other than those administered while in the Dentist's office as part of treatment.
18. **Military**: A military-related Illness of or Injury to a Covered Person on active military duty, unless payment is legally required.
19. **Multiple Surgical and Periodontal Procedures** in the same area. Benefits will be limited to the most extensive and inclusive procedure.
20. **Myofunctional Therapy**.
21. **Not Medically Necessary**: Services, supplies, treatment, facilities, or equipment that the Plan determines are not Medically Necessary.
22. **Occlusal Restorations**. Single-surface occlusal restorations of a tooth to which a sealant has been applied within 12 months and two or three surface restorations within six months, which include occlusal surfaces on which sealants have been placed. NOTE: Single surface occlusal restorations performed on a tooth from 12-36 months after a sealant has been applied to that tooth, the obligation shall only be to pay the fee appropriate to the restoration in excess of the fee paid for the application of the sealant.
23. **Orthodontic Services**, unless covered elsewhere in this document.
24. **Orthognathic Surgery**, unless covered elsewhere in this document.
25. **Preventive Control Programs**, including oral hygiene instruction; plaque control; dietary planning; lab tests; anaerobic culture, except in connection with periodontal disease; sensitivity testing; and bite registrations.
26. **Professionally Recognized Standards**: Procedures that are not necessary and that do not meet professionally-recognized standards of care.
27. **Programs** for oral hygiene or plaque control.
28. **Provider Adjustments**. Provider adjustments for previously submitted claims requested or billed more than one year after the date services or supplies were Incurred will not be considered for benefits, whatever the reason for delay. **Note**: The Late Claim Filing rule applies to initial claims.
29. **Replacement** or duplication of a bridge, crown or denture for one or more of the following:
  - Made useless due to patient abuse, misuse or neglect.
  - Lost or stolen appliance.
  - Within five years of an initial installation or a prior replacement except as otherwise specifically included in the Plan.
  - Which is or can be made functional or serviceable according to common dental standards.
30. **Services At No Charge or Cost**: Services for which the Covered Person would not be obligated to pay in the absence of this Plan or that are available to the Covered Person at no cost, or for which the Plan has no legal obligation to pay, except for care provided in a facility of the uniformed services as per Title 32 of the National Defense Code, or as required by law.
31. **Services Not Furnished By a Dentist or Dental Hygienist** who is acting under a Dentist's supervision and direction, except for x-rays ordered by a Dentist.
32. **Services Or Supplies** related to crowns, inlays, onlays or high noble fillings unless the extent of tooth disease or fracture prevents the use of silver amalgam or resin composite or synthetic porcelain fillings.
33. **Services Or Supplies** related to dentures, crowns, inlays, onlays, bridgework or other devices or services if their sole purpose is to increase vertical dimension or to restore occlusion.

34. **Services Or Supplies Related to Occlusal Equilibration. Exception:** Treatment to the extent required to treat periodontal disease.
35. **Services Provided By a Close Relative.** See the Glossary of Terms section of this SPD for a definition of "Close Relative."
36. **Splinting.** Crowns, fillings or appliances that are used to connect (splint) teeth, or change or alter the way the teeth meet, including altering the vertical dimension, restoring the bite (occlusion) or are cosmetic.
37. **Splints** unless necessary as the result of an Accidental Injury.
38. **Supplies** for plaque control or oral hygiene that can be purchased over-the-counter.
39. **TMJ Irreversible Treatments.** Procedures such as surgery to treat TMJ; treatment considered medical in nature.
40. **Treatment** for the purpose of altering vertical dimension, restoring occlusion, splinting, or replacing tooth structure lost as a result of abrasion, attrition, or erosion, unless covered elsewhere in this document.
41. **Treatment of Disturbances** of the temporomandibular joint, craniomandibular dysfunctions, myofacial pain syndrome, or any other disorder of the joint linking the jaw to the skull and the associated muscles. This exclusion also pertains to temporomandibular joint radiographs.
42. **Workers' Compensation:** Dental health services for which other coverage is required by federal, state, or local law to be bought or provided through other arrangements. This includes coverage required by workers' compensation or similar legislation. This exclusion does not apply to employers that are not required by law to buy or provide, through other arrangements, workers' compensation insurance for employees, owners, and/or partners.

**Benefits not specifically included in the Covered Expenses section of this document are considered excluded.**

## CLAIMS AND APPEAL PROCEDURES

### REASONABLE AND CONSISTENT CLAIMS PROCEDURES

The Plan's claims procedures are designed to ensure and verify that claim determinations are made in accordance with the Plan documents. The Plan provisions will be applied consistently with respect to similarly situated individuals.

### PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE

**Personal Representative** means a person (or provider) who may contact the Plan on the Covered Person's behalf to help with claims, appeals, or other benefit issues. A minor Dependent must have the signature of a parent or Legal Guardian in order to appoint a third party as a Personal Representative.

If a Covered Person chooses to use a Personal Representative, the Covered Person must submit proper documentation to the Plan stating the following: the name of the Personal Representative, the date and duration of the appointment, and any other pertinent information. In addition, the Covered Person must agree to grant his or her Personal Representative access to his or her Protected Health Information. The Covered Person should contact the Claims Administrator to obtain the proper forms. All forms must be signed by the Covered Person in order to be considered official.

### PROCEDURES FOR SUBMITTING CLAIMS

Most providers will accept assignment and coordinate payment directly with the Plan on the Covered Person's behalf. If the provider will not accept assignment or coordinate payment directly with the Plan, the Covered Person will need to send the claim to the Plan within the timelines outlined below in order to receive reimbursement. The address for submitting medical claims is on the back of the group dental identification card.

A Covered Person who receives services in a country other than the United States is responsible for ensuring the provider is paid. If the provider will not coordinate payment directly with the Plan, the Covered Person will need to pay the claim up front and then submit the claim to the Plan for reimbursement. The Plan will reimburse the Covered Person for any covered amount in U.S. currency. The reimbursed amount will be based on the U.S. equivalency rate that is in effect on the date the Covered Person paid the claim, or on the date of service if the paid date is not known.

A complete claim must be submitted in writing and should include the following information:

- Covered Person's/patient's ID number, name, sex, date of birth, Social Security number, address, and relationship to Employee
- Authorized signature from the Covered Person
- Diagnosis
- Date of service
- Place of service
- Procedures, services, or supplies (narrative description)
- Charges for each listed service
- Number of days or units
- Patient's account number (if applicable)
- Total billed charges
- Provider's billing name, address, and telephone number
- Provider's Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN)
- Signature of provider
- Billing provider
- Any information on other insurance (if applicable)
- Whether the patient's condition is related to employment, an auto accident, or another accident (if applicable)
- Assignment of benefits (if applicable)

## **TIMELY FILING**

Covered Persons are responsible for ensuring that complete claims are submitted to the Third Party Administrator as soon as possible after services are received, but no later than 12 months from the date of service. If Medicare or Medicaid paid as primary in error, the timely filing requirement may be increased to three years from the date of service. A Veteran's Administration hospital has six years from the date of service to submit the claim. A complete claim means that the Plan has all the information that is necessary in order to process the claim. Claims received after the timely filing period will not be allowed.

## **HOW DENTAL BENEFITS ARE CALCULATED**

When UMR receives a claim for a service that has been provided to a Covered Person, it will determine if the service is a covered benefit under this group dental Plan. If the service is not a covered benefit, the claim will be denied and the Covered Person will be responsible for paying the provider for these costs. If the service is a covered benefit, UMR will establish the allowable payment amount for that service, in accordance with the provisions of this SPD.

Claims for covered benefits are paid according to the lesser of the billed charges, a Negotiated Rate, or based on Usual and Customary amounts.

**Negotiated Rate:** On occasion, UMR will negotiate a payment rate with a provider for a particular covered service. The Negotiated Rate is what the Plan will pay to the provider, minus any Deductible, Plan Participation rate, or penalties that the Covered Person is responsible for paying. If a network contract is in place, the network contract determines the Plan's Negotiated Rate.

**Usual and Customary (U&C)** is the amount that the Plan determines for reimbursement to dental care providers in the same geographical area (or greater area, if necessary) for the same services, treatment, or materials. As it relates to charges made by a network provider, the term "Usual and Customary" means the Negotiated Rate as contractually agreed to by the provider and network (see above). Covered Persons may be responsible for amounts over which the Plan determines to be the Usual and Customary amount.

## **NOTIFICATION OF BENEFIT DETERMINATION**

If a claim is submitted by a Covered Person or a provider on behalf of a Covered Person, the Covered Person will receive an Explanation of Benefits (EOB) form that will explain how much the Plan paid toward the claim and how much of the claim is the Covered Person's responsibility due to cost-sharing obligations, non-covered benefits, penalties, or other Plan provisions. Please check the information on each EOB form to make sure the services charged were actually received from the provider and that the information appears to be correct. If You have any questions or concerns about the EOB form, call the Plan at the number listed on the EOB form or on the back of the group dental identification card. The provider will receive a similar form for each claim that is submitted.

## **TIMELINES FOR INITIAL BENEFIT DETERMINATION**

A claim is considered to be filed when the claim for benefits has been submitted to UMR for formal consideration under the terms of this Plan.

## **CIRCUMSTANCES CAUSING LOSS OR DENIAL OF PLAN BENEFITS**

Claims may be denied for any of the following reasons:

- Termination of Your employment.
- A Covered Person's loss of eligibility for coverage under the dental Plan.
- Charges are Incurred prior to the Covered Person's Effective Date or following termination of coverage.
- A Covered Person reached the Maximum Benefit under this Plan.
- Amendment of the group dental Plan.
- Termination of the group dental Plan.

- The Employee, Dependent, or provider did not respond to a request for additional information needed to process the claim or appeal.
- Application of Coordination of Benefits.
- Enforcement of subrogation.
- Services are not covered benefits under this Plan.
- Services are not considered Medically Necessary.
- Misuse of the Plan identification card or other fraud.
- Failure to pay premiums if required.
- The Employee or Dependent is responsible for charges due to Deductible, Plan Participation obligations, or penalties.
- Application of the Usual and Customary fee limits, the fee schedule, or Negotiated Rates.
- Incomplete or inaccurate claim submission.
- Procedures are considered Experimental, Investigational, or Unproven.
- Other reasons as stated elsewhere in this SPD.

### **ADVERSE BENEFIT DETERMINATION (DENIED CLAIMS)**

**Adverse Benefit Determination** means a denial, reduction, or termination of a benefit, or a failure to provide or make payment, in whole or in part, for a benefit. It also includes any such denial, reduction, termination, or failure to provide or make payment that is based on a determination that the Covered Person is no longer eligible to participate in the Plan.

If a claim is being denied in whole or in part, and the Covered Person will owe any amount to the provider, the Covered Person will receive an initial claim denial notice, usually referred to as an Explanation of Benefits (EOB) form, within the timelines described above. The EOB form will:

- Explain the specific reasons for the denial.
- Provide a specific reference to pertinent Plan provisions on which the denial was based.
- Provide a description of any material or information that is necessary for the Covered Person to perfect the claim, along with an explanation of why such material or information is necessary, if applicable.
- Provide appropriate information as to the steps the Covered Person can take to submit the claim for appeal (review).

If an internal rule or guideline was relied upon, or if the denial was based on Medical Necessity or Experimental, Investigational, or Unproven treatment, the Plan will notify the Covered Person of that fact. The Covered Person has the right to request a copy of the rule/guideline or clinical criteria that were relied upon, and such information will be provided free of charge.

### **APPEALS PROCEDURE FOR ADVERSE BENEFIT DETERMINATIONS**

If a Covered Person disagrees with the denial of a claim, the Covered Person or his or her Personal Representative may request that the Plan review its initial determination by submitting a written request to the Plan as described below. An appeal filed by a provider on the Covered Person's behalf is not considered an appeal under the Plan unless the provider is a Personal Representative.

**First Level of Appeal:** This is a **mandatory** appeal level. The Covered Person must exhaust the following internal procedures before taking any outside legal action.

- The Covered Person must file the appeal within 180 days of the date he or she received the EOB form from the Plan showing that the claim was denied. The Plan will assume the Covered Person received the EOB form seven days after the Plan mailed the EOB form.
- The Covered Person or his or her Personal Representative will be allowed reasonable access to review or copy pertinent documents, at no charge.



- The Covered Person may submit written comments, documents, records, and other information related to the claim to explain why he or she believes the denial should be overturned. This information should be submitted at the same time the written request for a review is submitted.
- The Covered Person has the right to submit evidence that his or her claim is due to the existence of a physical or mental medical condition or domestic violence, under applicable federal nondiscrimination rules.
- The review will take into account all comments, documents, records, and other information submitted that relates to the claim. This will include comments, documents, records, and other information that either were not submitted previously or were not considered in the initial benefit decision. The review will be conducted by individuals who were not involved in the original denial decision, and are not under the supervision of the person who originally denied the claim.
- If the benefit denial was based, in whole or in part, on a dental judgment, the Plan will consult with a dental care professional with training and experience in the relevant dental field. This dental care professional may not have been involved in the original denial decision, and may not be supervised by the dental care professional who was involved. If the Plan has consulted with dental or vocational experts in connection with the claim, these experts will be identified upon the Covered Person's request, regardless of whether or not the Plan relies on their advice in making any benefit determinations.
- After the claim has been reviewed, the Covered Person will receive written notification letting him or her know if the claim is being approved or denied. The notification will provide the Covered Person with the information outlined under the "Adverse Benefit Determination" section above.

**Second Level of Appeal:** This is a **voluntary** appeal level. The Covered Person is not required to follow this internal procedure before taking outside legal action.

- A Covered Person who is not satisfied with the decision following the first appeal has the right to appeal the denial a second time.
- The Covered Person or his or her Personal Representative must submit a written request for a second review within 30 calendar days following the date he or she received the Plan's decision regarding the first appeal. The Plan will assume the Covered Person received the determination letter regarding the first appeal seven days after the Plan sent the determination letter.
- The Covered Person may submit written comments, documents, records, and other pertinent information to explain why he or she believes the denial should be overturned. This information should be submitted at the same time the written request for a second review is submitted.
- The Covered Person has the right to submit evidence that his or her claim is due to the existence of a physical or mental medical condition or domestic violence, under applicable federal nondiscrimination rules.
- The second review will take into account all comments, documents, records, and other information submitted that relates to the claim that either were not submitted previously or were not considered in the initial benefit decision. The review will be conducted by individuals who were not involved in the original denial decision or the first appeal, and are not under the supervision of those individuals.
- If the benefit denial was based, in whole or in part, on a dental judgment, the Plan will consult with a dental care professional with training and experience in the relevant dental field. This dental care professional may not have been involved in the original denial decision or first appeal, and may not be supervised by the dental care professional who was involved. If the Plan has consulted with dental or vocational experts in connection with the claim, these experts will be identified upon the Covered Person's request, regardless of whether or not the Plan relies on their advice in making any benefit determinations.
- After the claim has been reviewed, the Covered Person will receive written notification letting him or her know if the claim is being approved or denied. The notification will provide the Covered Person with the information outlined under the "Adverse Benefit Determination" section above.

Regarding the above voluntary appeal level, the Plan agrees that any statutory limitations that are applicable to pursuing the claim in court will be put on hold during the period of this voluntary appeal process. The voluntary appeal process is available only after the Covered Person has followed the mandatory appeal level as required above. This Plan also agrees that it will not charge the Covered Person a fee for going through the voluntary appeal process, and it will not assert a failure to exhaust administrative remedies if a Covered Person elects to pursue a claim in court before following this voluntary appeal process. A Covered Person's decision about whether to submit a benefit dispute through this voluntary appeal level will have no effect on his or her rights to any other benefits under the Plan. If You have any questions regarding the voluntary level of appeal, including applicable rules, a Covered Person's right to representation (i.e., to appoint a Personal Representative) or other details, please contact the Plan.

**Appeals should be sent within the prescribed time period as stated above to the following address(es).**

Note: Appeal request forms are available at [www.UMR.com](http://www.UMR.com) to assist You in providing all the recommended information to ensure a full and fair review of Your adverse benefit determination. You are not required to use this form.

Send dental appeals to:  
UMR  
CLAIMS APPEAL UNIT  
PO BOX 30546  
SALT LAKE CITY UT 84130-0546

#### **TIME PERIODS FOR MAKING DECISIONS ON APPEALS**

After reviewing a claim that has been appealed, the Plan will notify the Covered Person of its decision within the following timeframes, although Covered Persons may voluntarily extend these timelines. In addition, if any new or additional evidence is relied upon or generated during the determination of the appeal, the Plan will provide such evidence to You free of charge and sufficiently in advance of the due date of the response to the Adverse Benefit Determination. If such evidence is received at a point in the process where we are unable to provide You with a reasonable opportunity to respond prior to the end of the period stated below, the time period will be tolled to allow You a reasonable opportunity to respond to the new or additional evidence.

The timelines below will apply only to the mandatory appeal level. The voluntary appeal level will not be subject to specific timelines.

Post-Service Claim: Within a reasonable period of time, but no later than 60 calendar days after the Plan receives the request for review.

#### **RIGHT TO REQUEST OVERPAYMENTS**

The Plan reserves the right to recover any payments made by the Plan that were:

- Made in error; or
- Made after the date the person's coverage should have been terminated under this Plan; or
- Made to any Covered Person or any party on a Covered Person's behalf where the Plan Sponsor determines the payment to the Covered Person or any party is greater than the amount payable under this Plan.

The Plan has the right to recover against Covered Persons if the Plan has paid them or any other party on their behalf.

## FRAUD

Fraud is a crime for which an individual may be prosecuted. Any Covered Person who willfully and knowingly engages in an activity intended to defraud the Plan is guilty of fraud. The Plan will utilize all means necessary to support fraud detection and investigation. It is a crime for a Covered Person to file a claim containing any false, incomplete, or misleading information with intent to injure, defraud, or deceive the Plan. In addition, it is a fraudulent act when a Covered Person willfully and knowingly fails to notify the Plan regarding an event that affects eligibility for a Covered Person. Notification requirements are outlined in this SPD and other Plan materials. Please read them carefully and refer to all Plan materials that You receive (e.g., COBRA notices). A few examples of events that require Plan notification are divorce, a Dependent aging out of the Plan, and enrollment in other group health coverage while on COBRA. (Please note that the examples listed are not all-inclusive.)

These actions will result in denial of the Covered Person's claim or in termination of the Covered Person's coverage under the Plan, and are subject to prosecution and punishment to the full extent under state and/or federal law.

Each Covered Person must:

- File accurate claims. If someone else, such as the Covered Person's spouse or another family member, files claims on the Covered Person's behalf, the Covered Person should review the claim form before signing it;
- Review the Explanation of Benefits (EOB) form. The Covered Person should make certain that benefits have been paid correctly based on his or her knowledge of the expenses Incurred and the services rendered;
- Never allow another person to seek dental treatment under his or her identity. If the Covered Person's Plan identification card is lost, the Covered Person should report the loss to the Plan immediately;
- Provide complete and accurate information on claim forms and any other forms. He or she should answer all questions to the best of his or her knowledge; and
- Notify the Plan when an event occurs that affects a Covered Person's eligibility.

In order to maintain the integrity of this Plan, each Covered Person is encouraged to notify the Plan whenever a provider:

- Bills for services or treatment that have never been received; or
- Asks a Covered Person to sign a blank claim form; or
- Asks a Covered Person to undergo tests that the Covered Person feels are not needed.

Covered Persons concerned about any of the charges that appear on a bill or EOB form, or who know of or suspect any illegal activity, should call the toll-free hotline at 1-800-356-5803. All calls are strictly confidential.

## OTHER FEDERAL PROVISIONS

### FAMILY AND MEDICAL LEAVE ACT (FMLA)

If an Employee is on a family or medical leave of absence that meets the eligibility requirements under the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 (FMLA), his or her employer will continue coverage under this Plan in accordance with state and federal FMLA regulations, provided the following conditions are met:

- Contributions are paid; and
- The Employee has a written, approved leave from the employer.

Coverage will be continued for up to the greater of:

- The leave period required by the FMLA and any amendment; or
- The leave period required by applicable state law.

An Employee may choose not to retain group health coverage during an FMLA leave. When the Employee returns to work following the FMLA leave, the Employee's coverage will usually be restored to the level the Employee would have had if the FMLA leave had not been taken. For more information, please contact Your [Employee Benefits](#) office.

### QUALIFIED MEDICAL CHILD SUPPORT ORDERS PROVISION

A Dependent Child will become covered as of the date specified in a judgment, decree, or order issued by a court of competent jurisdiction or through a state administrative process.

The order must clearly identify all of the following:

- The name and last known mailing address of the participant;
- The name and last known mailing address of each alternate recipient (or official state or political designee for the alternate recipient);
- A reasonable description of the type of coverage to be provided to the Child or the manner in which such coverage is to be determined; and
- The period to which the order applies.

Please contact the Plan Administrator to request a copy, at no charge, of the written procedures that the Plan uses when administering Qualified Medical Child Support Orders.

**This group dental Plan also complies with the provisions of the:**

- TRICARE Prohibition Against Incentives and Nondiscrimination Requirements amendments.

## **HIPAA ADMINISTRATIVE SIMPLIFICATION MEDICAL PRIVACY AND SECURITY PROVISION**

### **USE AND DISCLOSURE OF PROTECTED HEALTH INFORMATION UNDER HIPAA PRIVACY AND SECURITY REGULATIONS**

This Plan will Use a Covered Person's Protected Health Information (PHI) to the extent of and in accordance with the Uses and Disclosures permitted by the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA). Specifically, this Plan will Use and Disclose a Covered Person's PHI for purposes related to health care Treatment, Payment for health care, and Health Care Operations. Additionally, this Plan will Use and Disclose a Covered Person's PHI as required by law and as permitted by authorization. This section establishes the terms under which the Plan may share a Covered Person's PHI with the Plan Sponsor, and limits the Uses and Disclosures that the Plan Sponsor may make of a Covered Person's PHI.

This Plan will Disclose a Covered Person's PHI to the Plan Sponsor only to the extent necessary for the purposes of the administrative functions of Treatment, Payment for health care, or Health Care Operations.

The Plan Sponsor will Use and/or Disclose a Covered Person's PHI only to the extent necessary for the administrative functions of Treatment, Payment for health care, or Health Care Operations that it performs on behalf of this Plan.

This Plan agrees that it will Disclose a Covered Person's PHI to the Plan Sponsor only upon receipt of a certification from the Plan Sponsor that the terms of this section have been adopted and that the Plan Sponsor agrees to abide by these terms.

The Plan Sponsor is subject to all of the following restrictions that apply to the Use and Disclosure of a Covered Person's PHI:

- The Plan Sponsor will Use and Disclose a Covered Person's PHI (including Electronic PHI) only for Plan Administrative Functions, as required by law or as permitted under the HIPAA regulations. This Plan's Notice of Privacy Practices also contains more information about permitted Uses and Disclosures of PHI under HIPAA;
- The Plan Sponsor will implement administrative, physical, and technical safeguards that reasonably and appropriately protect the confidentiality, integrity, and availability of the Electronic PHI that it creates, receives, maintains, or transmits on behalf of the Plan;
- The Plan Sponsor will require each of its subcontractors or agents to whom the Plan Sponsor may provide a Covered Person's PHI to agree to the same restrictions and conditions imposed on the Plan Sponsor with regard to a Covered Person's PHI;
- The Plan Sponsor will ensure that each of its subcontractors or agents to whom the Plan Sponsor may provide Electronic PHI agree to implement reasonable and appropriate security measures to protect Electronic PHI;
- The Plan Sponsor will not Use or Disclose PHI for employment-related actions and decisions or in connection with any other of the Plan Sponsor's benefits or Employee benefit plans;
- The Plan Sponsor will promptly report to this Plan any breach or impermissible or improper Use or Disclosure of PHI not authorized by the Plan documents;
- The Plan Sponsor will report to the Plan any breach or security incident with respect to Electronic PHI of which the Plan Sponsor becomes aware;

- The Plan Sponsor and the Plan will not Use genetic information for underwriting purposes. For example, underwriting purposes will include determining eligibility, coverage, or payment under the Plan, with the exception of determining medical appropriateness of a treatment;
- The Plan Sponsor will allow a Covered Person or this Plan to inspect and copy any PHI about the Covered Person contained in the Designated Record Set that is in the Plan Sponsor's custody or control. The HIPAA Privacy Regulations set forth the rules that the Covered Person and the Plan must follow and also sets forth exceptions;
- The Plan Sponsor will amend or correct, or make available to the Plan to amend or correct, any portion of the Covered Person's PHI contained in the Designated Record Set to the extent permitted or required under the HIPAA Privacy Regulations;
- The Plan Sponsor will keep a Disclosure log for certain types of Disclosures set forth in the HIPAA Regulations. Each Covered Person has the right to see the Disclosure log. The Plan Sponsor does not have to maintain a log if disclosures are for certain Plan-related purposes such as Payment of benefits or Health Care Operations;
- The Plan Sponsor will make its internal practices, books, and records related to the Use and Disclosure of a Covered Person's PHI available to this Plan and to the Department of Health and Human Services or its designee for the purpose of determining this Plan's compliance with HIPAA;
- The Plan Sponsor must, if feasible, return to this Plan or destroy all of a Covered Person's PHI that the Plan Sponsor received from or on behalf of this Plan when the Plan Sponsor no longer needs the Covered Person's PHI to administer this Plan. This includes all copies in any form, including any compilations derived from the PHI. If return or destruction is not feasible, the Plan Sponsor agrees to restrict and limit further Uses and Disclosures to the purposes that make the return or destruction infeasible;
- The Plan Sponsor will provide that adequate separation exists between this Plan and the Plan Sponsor so that a Covered Person's PHI (including Electronic PHI) will be used only for the purpose of Plan administration; and
- The Plan Sponsor will use reasonable efforts to request only the minimum necessary type and amount of a Covered Person's PHI to carry out functions for which the information is requested.

The following Employees, classes of Employees, or other workforce members under the control of the Plan Sponsor may be given access to a Covered Person's PHI for Plan Administrative Functions that the Plan Sponsor performs on behalf of the Plan as set forth in this section:

Employee Benefits Specialist, Employee Benefits Claims Clerk/ Benefits Manager/ Account Clerk/ Deputy Commissioner Personnel/ Commissioner Personnel/ Director Employee

This list includes every Employee, class of Employees or other workforce members under the control of the Plan Sponsor who may receive a Covered Person's PHI. If any of these Employees or workforce members Use or Disclose a Covered Person's PHI in violation of the terms set forth in this section, the Employees or workforce members will be subject to disciplinary action and sanctions, including the possibility of termination of employment. If the Plan Sponsor becomes aware of any such violation, the Plan Sponsor will promptly report the violation to this Plan and will cooperate with the Plan to correct the violation, to impose the appropriate sanctions, and to mitigate any harmful effects to the Covered Person.

## DEFINITIONS

**Administrative Simplification** is the section of the law that addresses electronic transactions, privacy and security. The goals are to:

- Improve efficiency and effectiveness of the health care system;
- Standardize electronic data interchange of certain administrative transactions;

- Safeguard security and privacy of Protected Health Information;
- Improve efficiency to compile/analyze data, audit, and detect fraud; and
- Improve the Medicare and Medicaid programs.

**Business Associate (BA) in relationship to a Covered Entity (CE)** means a person to whom the CE Discloses Protected Health Information (PHI) so that a person may carry out, assist with the performance of, or perform a function or activity for the CE. This includes contractors or other persons who receive PHI from the CE (or from another business partner of the CE) for the purposes described in the previous sentence, including lawyers, auditors, consultants, Third Party Administrators, health care clearinghouses, data processing firms, billing firms, and other Covered Entities. This excludes persons who are within the CE's workforce.

**Covered Entity (CE)** is one of the following: a health plan, a health care clearinghouse, or a health care provider who transmits any health information in connection with a transaction covered by this law.

**Designated Record Set** means a set of records maintained by or for a Covered Entity that includes a Covered Person's PHI. This includes medical or dental records, billing records, enrollment records, Payment records, claims adjudication records, and case management record systems maintained by or for this Plan. This also includes records used to make decisions about Covered Persons. This record set must be maintained for a minimum of six years.

**Disclose or Disclosure** is the release or divulgence of information by an entity to persons or organizations outside that entity.

**Electronic Protected Health Information (Electronic PHI)** is Individually Identifiable Health Information that is transmitted by electronic media or maintained in electronic media. It is a subset of Protected Health Information.

**Health Care Operations** are general administrative and business functions necessary for the CE to remain a viable business. These activities include:

- Conducting quality assessment and improvement activities;
- Reviewing the competence or qualifications and accrediting/licensing of health care professional plans;
- Evaluating health care professional and health plan performance;
- Training future health care professionals;
- Insurance activities related to the renewal of a contract for insurance;
- Conducting or arranging for medical (or dental) review and auditing services;
- Compiling and analyzing information in anticipation of or for use in a civil or criminal legal proceeding;
- Population-based activities related to improving health or reducing health care costs, protocol development, case management, and care coordination;
- Contacting of health care providers and patients with information about Treatment alternatives and related functions that do not entail direct patient care; and
- Activities related to the creation, renewal, or replacement of a contract for health insurance or health benefits, as well as ceding, securing, or placing a contract for reinsurance of risk related to claims for health care (including stop-loss and excess of loss insurance).

**Individually Identifiable Health Information** is information that is a subset of health information, including demographic information collected from a Covered Person, and that:

- Is created by or received from a Covered Entity;
- Relates to the past, present, or future physical or mental health or condition of a Covered Person, the provision of health care or the past, present, or future Payment for the provision of health care; and
- Identifies the Covered Person or there is reasonable basis to believe the information can be used to identify the Covered Person.

**Payment** means the activities of the health plan or a Business Associate, including the actual Payment under the policy or contract; and a health care provider or its Business Associate that obtains reimbursement for the provision of health care.

**Plan Administrative Functions** means administrative functions of Payment or Health Care Operations performed by the Plan Sponsor on behalf of the Plan, including quality assurance, claims processing, auditing, and monitoring.

**Plan Sponsor** means Your employer.

**Privacy Official** is the individual who provides oversight of compliance with all policies and procedures related to the protection of PHI and federal and state regulations related to a Covered Person's privacy.

**Protected Health Information (PHI)** is Individually Identifiable Health Information transmitted or maintained by a Covered Entity in written, electronic, or oral form. PHI includes Electronic PHI.

**Treatment** is the provision of health care by, or the coordination of health care (including health care management of the individual through risk assessment, case management, and disease management) among, health care providers; the referral of a patient from one provider to another; or the coordination of health care or other services among health care providers and third parties authorized by the health plan or the individual.

**Use** means, with respect to Individually Identifiable Health Information, the sharing, employment, application, utilization, examination, or analysis of such information within an entity that maintains such information.



## **PLAN AMENDMENT AND TERMINATION INFORMATION**

The Plan Sponsor fully intends to maintain this Plan indefinitely; however, the employer reserves the right to terminate, suspend, or amend this Plan at any time, in whole or in part, including making modifications to the benefits under this Plan. No person or entity has any authority to make any oral change or amendments to this Plan. No agent or representative of this Plan will have the authority to legally change the Plan terms or SPD or waive any of its provisions, either purposefully or inadvertently. If a misstatement affects the existence of coverage, the relevant facts will be used in determining whether coverage is in force under the terms of this Plan and in what amount. The Plan Administrator will provide written notice to Covered Persons within 60 days following the adopted formal action that makes material reduction of benefits to the Plan, or may, alternatively, furnish such notification through communications maintained by the Plan Sponsor or Plan Administrator at regular intervals of no greater than 90 days.

### **COVERED PERSON'S RIGHTS IF PLAN IS AMENDED OR TERMINATED**

If this Plan is amended, a Covered Person's rights are limited to Plan benefits in force at the time expenses are Incurred, whether or not the Covered Person has received written notification from the Plan Administrator that the Plan has been amended.

If this Plan is terminated, the rights of a Covered Person are limited to Covered Expenses Incurred before the Covered Person receives notice of termination. All claims Incurred prior to termination, but not submitted to either the Plan Sponsor or the Third Party Administrator within 75 days of the Effective Date of termination of this Plan due to bankruptcy, will be excluded from any benefit consideration.

The Plan will assume that the Covered Person receives the written amendment or termination letter from the Plan Administrator seven days after the letter is mailed to the Covered Person.

No person will become entitled to any vested rights under this Plan.

### **DISTRIBUTION OF ASSETS UPON TERMINATION OF PLAN**

Post-tax contributions paid by COBRA beneficiaries and/or Retirees, if applicable, will be used for the exclusive purpose of providing benefits and defraying reasonable expenses related to Plan administration, and will not inure to the benefit of the employer.

### **NO CONTRACT OF EMPLOYMENT**

This Plan is not intended to be, and may not be construed as, a contract of employment between any Covered Person and the employer.

## GLOSSARY OF TERMS

**Accidental Dental Injury / Injury** means damage to the mouth, teeth, and supporting tissues due directly to a blow from outside the mouth.

**Accredited Institution of Higher Education** means, for the purposes of this Plan, a two-year or four-year degree-granting college or university or licensed trade school and which is accredited in the current publication of Accredited Institution of Higher Education.

**Adverse Benefit Determination** means a denial, reduction, or termination of a benefit or a failure to provide or make payment, in whole or in part, for a benefit. It also includes any such denial, reduction, termination, or failure to provide or make payment that is based on a determination that the Covered Person is no longer eligible to participate in the Plan.

**Calendar Year Maximum Benefit** means the maximum amount of covered benefits payable during a calendar year while a person is covered under this Plan. Once the Calendar Year Maximum Benefit is met, no further covered benefits will be available for the remainder of that calendar year.

**Child (Children)** means any of the following individuals with respect to an Employee: a natural biological Child; a stepchild; a legally adopted Child or a Child legally Placed for Adoption; a Child under the Employee's or spouse's Legal Guardianship; or a Child who is considered an alternate recipient under a Qualified Medical Child Support Order (even if the Child does not meet the definition of "Dependent").

**Close Relative** means a member of the immediate family. Immediate family includes the Employee, spouse, mother, [mother-on-law](#), father, [father-in-law](#), grandmother, grandfather, stepparents, step-grandparents, siblings, [brother-in-law](#), [sister-in-law](#), stepsiblings, half-siblings, Children, stepchildren, and grandchildren.

**COBRA** means Title X of the Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1985, as amended from time to time, and applicable regulations. This law gives a Covered Person the right, under certain circumstances, to elect continuation coverage under the Plan when active coverage ends due to a qualifying event.

**Common-Law Marriage** means a partnership whereby two adult individuals are considered married because they have lived together for a certain period of time, hold themselves to be married even without a license and a formal ceremony, and meet other applicable requirements of the state in which the Common-Law Marriage was established.

**Covered Expenses** means any expense, or portion thereof, that is Incurred as a result of receiving an eligible benefit under this Plan.

**Covered Person** means an Employee or Dependent who is enrolled under this Plan.

**Deductible** means an amount of money paid once per Plan Year by the Covered Person (up to a family limit, if applicable) before any Covered Expenses are paid by the Plan. The Schedule of Benefits shows the amount of the applicable Deductible (if any) and the dental care benefits to which it applies.

**Dental Hygienist** means a person who is licensed to practice dental hygiene and who works under the supervision and direction of a Dentist.

**Dentist** means a person who is licensed to practice dentistry, and who is practicing within the scope of such license. The term also includes any physician who furnishes any dental services that such physician is licensed to perform.

**Dependent** – see the Eligibility and Enrollment section of this SPD.

**Domestic Partner** means an unmarried person of the same or opposite sex with whom the covered Employee shares a committed relationship, who is jointly responsible for the other's welfare and financial obligations, who is at least 18 years of age, who is not related by blood, who maintains the same residence, and who is not married to or legally separated from anyone else.

**Effective Date** means the first day of coverage as defined in this SPD. The Covered Person's Effective Date may or may not be the same as his or her Enrollment Date, as Enrollment Date is defined by the Plan.

**Emergency Dental Care** means care of a dental condition that is required unexpectedly and immediately because of an Injury or Illness.

**Employee** – see the Eligibility and Enrollment section of this SPD.

**Enrollment Date** means:

- For anyone who applies for coverage when first eligible, the date that coverage begins.
- For anyone who enrolls under the Special Enrollment Provision, the first day coverage begins.

**Experimental, Investigational, or Unproven** means any drug, service, supply, care, or treatment that, at the time provided or sought to be provided, is not recognized as conforming to accepted medical practice or to be a safe, effective standard of medical practice for a particular condition. This includes, but is not limited to:

- Items within the research, Investigational, or Experimental stage of development or performed within or restricted to use in Phase I, II, or III clinical trials (unless identified as a covered service elsewhere);
- Items that do not have strong, research-based evidence to permit conclusions and/or clearly define long-term effects and impact on health outcomes (i.e., that have not yet been shown to be consistently effective for the diagnosis or treatment of the specific condition for which it is sought). Strong, research-based evidence is identified as peer-reviewed published data derived from multiple, large, human, randomized, controlled clinical trials OR at least one or more large, controlled, national, multi-center, population-based studies;
- Items based on anecdotal and Unproven evidence (literature consisting only of case studies or uncontrolled trials), i.e., items that lack scientific validity, but may be common practice within select practitioner groups even though safety and efficacy is not clearly established;
- Items that have been identified through research-based evidence to not be effective for a medical condition and/or to not have a beneficial effect on health outcomes.

Note: FDA and/or Medicare approval does not guarantee that a drug, supply, care, or treatment is accepted medical practice; however, lack of such approval will be a consideration in determining whether a drug, service, supply, care, or treatment is considered Experimental, Investigational, or Unproven. In assessing cancer care claims, sources such as the National Comprehensive Cancer Network (NCCN) Compendium, Clinical Practice Guidelines in Oncology™, or National Cancer Institute (NCI) standard of care compendium guidelines, or similar material from other or successor organizations will be considered along with benefits provided under the Plan and any benefits required by law. Furthermore, off-label drug or device use (sought for outside FDA-approved indications) is subject to medical review for appropriateness based on prevailing peer-reviewed medical literature, published opinions and evaluations by national medical associations, consensus panels, technology evaluation bodies, and/or independent review organizations to evaluate the scientific quality of supporting evidence.

**FMLA** means the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993, as amended.

**Full-Time Student or Student** means a Student attending high school or an Accredited Institution of Higher Education. To be considered Full-Time Students, Dependents must attend at least 12 credits per semester or 6 credits per semester for graduate studies, or equivalent if the school operates on an alternative term basis. Alternatively, the Student must meet the accredited college or university's definition of Full-Time Student. Students attending a combination of accredited institutions and whose total combined attendance meets the requirements listed in this paragraph also will qualify as Full-Time Students. With respect to a licensed trade school, attendance requires enrollment in a 6 month or longer training program for at least 20 hours per week that awards a formal certification upon graduation and the school must be accredited by a national governing body.

**HIPAA** means the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996, as amended from time to time, and applicable regulations. This law gives special enrollment rights, prohibits discrimination, and protects privacy of protected health information, among other things.

**Illness** means a bodily disorder, disease, or physical sickness affecting the mouth, teeth, or gums.

**Incurred** means the date on which a service or treatment is given, a supply is received, or a facility is used, without regard to when the service, treatment, supply, or facility is billed, charged, or paid, **except that the charges will be deemed Incurred:**

- With respect to fixed bridgework, crowns, inlays, onlays or gold restorations, on the date the first preparation of the tooth or teeth involved; or
- With respect to full or partial dentures, on the date the final impression was taken; or
- With respect to root canal therapy, on the later of the dates that the pulp chamber was opened or canals are explored to the apex; or
- With respect to periodontal surgery, on the date that the surgery was actually performed.

**Independent Contractor** means someone who signs an agreement with the employer as an Independent Contractor, or an entity or individual who performs services to or on behalf of the employer who is not an Employee or an officer of the employer, and who retains control over how work is completed. The employer who hires the Independent Contractor controls only the outcome of the work and not the performance of the hired service. Determination as to whether an individual or entity is an Independent Contractor will be made consistent with Section 530 of the Internal Revenue Code.

**Late Enrollee** means a person who enrolls under this Plan other than on:

- The earliest date on which coverage can become effective under the terms of this Plan; or
- A special Enrollment Date for the person as defined by HIPAA.

**Legal Guardianship / Legal Guardian** means an individual recognized by a court of law as having the duty of taking care of a person and managing the individual's property and rights.

**Maximum Benefit** means the maximum amount or the maximum number of days or treatments that are considered a Covered Expense by the Plan.

**Medically Necessary / Medical Necessity** means treatment, services, supplies, medicines, or facilities necessary and appropriate for the diagnosis, care, or treatment of an Illness or Injury that meet all of the following criteria as determined by the Plan:

- In accordance with *Generally Accepted Standards of Dental Practice*; and
- The health intervention is for the purpose of treating a dental condition; and
- It is the most appropriate supply or level of service, considering potential benefits and harm to the patient; and
- It is known to be effective in improving dental outcomes. For new interventions, effectiveness is determined by scientific evidence. For existing interventions, effectiveness is determined first by scientific evidence, then by professional standards, and finally by expert opinion; and
- It is cost-effective for a specific condition, compared to alternate interventions, including the option of no intervention. The term "cost-effective" does not necessarily mean for the lowest price; and

- It is not primarily for the convenience or preference of the Covered Person, of the Covered Person's family, or of any provider; and
- It is not Experimental, Investigational, cosmetic, or custodial in nature; and
- It is currently, or at the time the charges were Incurred, recognized as acceptable medical practice by the Plan.

The fact that a Dentist has performed, prescribed, recommended, ordered, or approved a service, Treatment Plan, supply, medicine, equipment, or facility, or the fact that such service is the only available procedure or treatment for a condition, does not, in itself, make the utilization of the service, Treatment Plan, supply, medicine, equipment, or facility Medically Necessary.

**Medicare** means the program of medical care benefits provided under Title XVIII of the Social Security Act, as amended.

**Negotiated Rate** means the amount that providers have contracted to accept as payment in full for Covered Expenses of the Plan.

**Pediatric Dental Services** means services provided to individuals under the age of 19.

**Placed for Adoption / Placement for Adoption** means the assumption and retention of a legal obligation for total or partial support of a Child in anticipation of adoption of such Child. The Child's placement with the person terminates upon the termination of such legal obligation.

**Plan** means the COUNTY OF ONONDAGA Group Dental Benefit Plan.

**Plan Participation** means that the Covered Person and the Plan each pay a percentage of the Covered Expenses as listed on the Schedule of Benefits, after the Covered Person pays the Deductible(s).

**Plan Sponsor** means an employer who sponsors a group dental plan.

**QMSCO** means a Qualified Medical Child Support Order in accordance with applicable law.

**Qualified** means licensed, registered, and/or certified in accordance with applicable state law, and the particular service or treatment being provided is within the scope of the license, registration, and/or certification.

**Third Party Administrator (TPA)** means a service provider hired by the Plan to process dental claims and perform other administrative services. The TPA does not assume liability for payment of benefits under this Plan.

**Totally Disabled** means, as determined by the Plan in its sole discretion:

- That an Employee is prevented from engaging in any job or occupation for wage or profit for which the Employee is qualified by education, training, or experience; or
- That a covered Dependent has been diagnosed with a physical, psychiatric, or developmental disorder, or some combination thereof, and as a result cannot engage in activities of daily living and/or substantial gainful activities that a person of like age and sex in good health can perform, preventing an individual from attaining self-sufficiency.

**Treatment Plan** means the Dentist's report to the Plan that:

- Lists the dental care recommended by the Dentist for the Covered Person; and
- Shows the Dentist's normal fee for each dental procedure; and
- Includes preoperative x-rays and all other diagnostic materials needed by the Plan; and
- Is prepared on a form acceptable to the Plan.

**Usual and Customary** means the amount the Plan determines to be the reasonable charge for comparable services, treatment, or materials in a Geographical Area. In determining whether charges are Usual and Customary, due consideration will be given to the nature and severity of the condition being treated and any medical complications or unusual or extenuating circumstances. **Geographical Area** means a zip code area, or a greater area if the Plan determines it is needed to find an appropriate cross section of accurate data.

**Waiting Period** means a period of time that must pass before coverage becomes effective for an Employee or Dependent who is otherwise eligible to enroll under the terms of this Plan. Refer to the Eligibility and Enrollment section of this plan to determine if a Waiting Period applies.

**You / Your** means the Employee.