



# Evidence of Coverage

## Southern Star/Estrella Health

### Employee Only Large Group

**January 2015**

 nevada health co-op  
health insurance simplified

# *Nevada Health CO-OP*

## *Southern Star/Estrella Health Employee Only*

### *Large Group Evidence of Coverage*

This Group Evidence of Coverage (“EOC”) describes the healthcare plan made available to Eligible Employees of the Employer (referred to as the “Group”).

Nevada Health CO-OP (the “CO-OP”) and the Group have agreed to all of the terms of this EOC, and the EOC has been incorporated by reference into the Group Enrollment Agreement (“GEA”) entered into by the CO-OP and the Group. This EOC may be terminated by the CO-OP or the Group upon appropriate written notice in accordance with the GEA. The Group is responsible for giving Members notice of termination.

This EOC and your attached Attachment A Benefit Schedule tell you about your benefits, rights and duties as a CO-OP Member. They also tell you about the CO-OP’s duties to you. If you have any questions regarding any information contained in this EOC, please call the CO-OP Care Department at (702) 823-2667 or (855) 606-2667, the CO-OP’s TTY line for the hearing impaired at 711 or go to [www.nevadahealthcoop.org](http://www.nevadahealthcoop.org). A CO-OP Care Crew Member will be happy to assist you.

This EOC including Attachment A Benefit Schedule and any other Attachments, Endorsements, Riders or Amendments to it, your Enrollment Form, health statements, Member Identification Card and all other applications received by the CO-OP are all part of your CO-OP membership package. Please read them carefully and keep them in a safe place. **Words that are capitalized are defined in Section 13. — Glossary.**

Please carefully review your EOC and your Attachment A Benefit Schedule to determine which Covered Services require Prior Authorization. Failure of the Member to comply with the requirements of the CO-OP’s Care Management Program and the Prior Authorization process may result in a denial or reduction of benefits.

**PARA OBTENER ASISTENCIA EN ESPAÑOL, LLAME AL (702) 823-2667 O (855) 606-2667.**

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**If you have any questions regarding your health care coverage, please contact the CO-OP Care Department at the following:**

**Physical Address:** Nevada Health CO-OP  
3900 Meadows Lane, Suite 100  
Las Vegas, Nevada 89107

**Mailing Address:** Nevada Health CO-OP  
3900 Meadows Lane, Suite 214  
Las Vegas, Nevada 89107

**Phone:** (Monday – Friday from 8:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m., Pacific Standard Time):

**(702) 823-2667 or (855) 606-2667**

**The Department of Business and Industry  
State of Nevada|  
Division of Insurance**

*Telephone Numbers  
for  
Consumers of Healthcare*

The Division of Insurance (“Division”) has established a telephone service to receive inquiries and complaints from consumers concerning healthcare plans in Nevada.

**Hours of operation for the Division:**

Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m., Pacific Standard Time (PST)

The Division is closed during state holidays.

**Contact information for the Division:**

**Carson City Office:**

Phone: (775) 687-0700

Fax: (775) 687-0787

1818 East College Pkwy., Suite 103

Carson City, NV 89706

**Las Vegas Office:**

Phone: (702) 486-4009

Fax: (702) 486-4007

2501 East Sahara Ave., Suite 302

Las Vegas, NV 89104

**The Division also provides a toll-free number for consumers residing outside of the above areas:** 1-888-872-3234

**PARA OBTENER ASISTENCIA EN ESPAÑOL, LLAME AL (702) 823-2667 o (855) 606-2667 .**

## **SECTION 1. ELIGIBILITY, ENROLLMENT AND EFFECTIVE DATE**

Subscribers who meet the following criteria are eligible for coverage under this EOC.

### **1.1 Who Is Eligible**

**Subscriber.** To be eligible to enroll as a Subscriber, an employee must:

- Be a bona fide employee of the Group;
- Meet the applicable Waiting Period and any minimum number of hours per week indicated by the Group in its Attachment A to the Group Enrollment Agreement (GEA);
- Enroll during an enrollment period; and
- Live or work in the CO-OP's Service Area.

### **1.2 Who Is Not Eligible**

- Any other person not defined in Section 1.1.

### **1.3 Changes In Eligibility Status**

It is the Subscriber's responsibility to give the CO-OP written notice within thirty-one (31) days of changes which affect his eligibility. Changes include, but are not limited to:

- Reaching the limiting age.
- Ceasing to satisfy the mental or physical handicap requirements.
- Death.
- Divorce.
- Transfer of residence outside Nevada.
- Any other event which affects eligibility.

Coverage for ineligible Members will terminate in accordance with the termination provisions described in this EOC.

### **1.4 Enrollment**

Eligible Employees must enroll during one of the Enrollment Periods described below or within thirty-one (31) days of first becoming eligible in order to have coverage under this Plan.

1. **Initial Enrollment Period.** An Initial Enrollment Period is the period of time during which any new Eligible Employee may enroll under this Plan as shown in the GEA signed by the Group.

2. **Group Open Enrollment Period.** An Open Enrollment Period of at least thirty-one (31) days may be held at least once a year allowing Eligible Employees to enroll under this Plan without giving evidence of good health.

3. **Special Enrollment Period.** A Special Enrollment Period allows a Special Enrollee to enroll for coverage under this Plan upon a Special Enrollment Event as defined herein during a period of at least thirty-one (31) days (or sixty (60) days for Medicaid Special Enrollment) following the Special Enrollment Event

## **1.5 Effective Date of Coverage**

Before coverage can become effective, the CO-OP must receive and accept premium payments and an Enrollment Form for the person applying to become a Member. When a person applies to become a Member on or before the date he is eligible, coverage starts as shown in the GEA signed by Group.

1. If a person applies to be a Member within thirty-one (31) days of the date he is first eligible to apply, coverage starts on the first day of the calendar month following the month when the Enrollment Form is received by CO-OP.

2. For a Special Enrollee, the Effective Date of Coverage is on the first day of the calendar month after an Enrollment Form is received, unless otherwise specified in the GEA.

3. When a person applies to become a Member during the Open Enrollment Period, coverage starts on the first day of the calendar month following the Open Enrollment Period.

## **SECTION 2. TERMINATION**

This section tells you under what conditions your coverage under this Plan will terminate and the date that the coverage will end.

### **2.1 Termination by the CO-OP**

The CO-OP may terminate coverage under this Plan at the times shown for any one or more of the following reasons:

- Failure to maintain eligibility requirements as set forth in Section 1.
- On the first day of the month that a contribution was due and not received by the CO-OP.
- If the Group fails to pay premiums payments within the Grace Period defined in this EOC, Coverage shall automatically terminate. A Grace Period of thirty (30) days will be granted for the payment of each premium due after the first premium, during which

the EOC will continue in force. The date of termination will be the last day of the month for which premium payments have been received and accepted by the CO-OP.

- If a Member performs an act or practice that constitutes fraud, or makes any intentional misrepresentation of material fact, as prohibited by the terms of coverage, the CO-OP has the right to rescind coverage and declare coverage under the Plan null and void as of the date of the occurrence of the fraud or intentional misrepresentation of material fact, or, if later, the original Effective Date of Coverage, and refund any applicable premium after deducting any costs incurred by the CO-OP as a result of the fraud or intentional misrepresentation. Acts of fraud or misrepresentation include the Member allowing his or any other Member's CO-OP ID Card to be used by any other person, or using another person's CO-OP ID Card, and knowingly furnishing incorrect or incomplete information to the CO-OP in order to obtain benefits for the Subscriber, or a non-enrolled individual. The Member will be liable to the CO-OP for all costs incurred as a result of the fraud, misrepresentation or misuse of the CO-OP ID Card. Thirty (30) days written notice shall be provided to the Member prior to any rescission of coverage. A Member has the right to appeal any such rescission.
- Subject to the Continuation of Coverage section, if a Member is no longer eligible for coverage through the Plan for any reason, including, without limitation, the Member's loss of residency in the State of Nevada, the date of termination will be the last day of the month when the eligibility ends.
- If the CO-OP discontinues coverage for this particular Health Plan in the State of Nevada, Coverage under this Evidence of Coverage will terminate. A 180 day written notice of termination will be provided by the CO-OP and mailed to the Subscriber's address of record. The Subscriber will have the option of purchasing other health insurance offered by the CO-OP in the individual market.
- If a Member changes from this Plan to another through open/special enrollment, the last day of coverage in the Plan will be the day before the effective date of coverage in his or her new plan.
- If a Member commits acts of physical or verbal abuse that pose a threat to our staff.
- On the date the GEA terminates for any reason, including but not limited to:
  - Nonpayment of premiums.
  - Failure to meet minimum enrollment requirements.
  - The CO-OP amends this EOC and the Group does not accept the amendment.

## **2.2 Termination by the Subscriber**

Subscriber has the right to terminate his coverage under this Plan upon prior written notice to the CO-OP. The Group is responsible for providing written notice to us to end your coverage. Such termination is effective on the termination date specified in the written notice from the Group instructing us to end your coverage, if fourteen (14) days' prior written notice is provided, or otherwise on the fourteenth (14th) day after the termination is requested. If the Group requests an earlier termination date, the Plan may agree to terminate coverage in fewer than fourteen (14) days after the request.

There are no pro-rated refunds given for terminating coverage in the middle of the month, and all coverage begins at the beginning of the month according to the policies and guidelines outlined in this Evidence of Coverage. All premiums are paid before the month of coverage, and once paid, are non-refundable.

### **2.3 Rescission**

As set forth in Section 2.1 above, if a Member performs an act or practice that constitutes fraud or makes any intentional material misrepresentation of fact or material omission to the CO-OP, it shall be cause for termination and rescission of the Coverage of the Member about whom the material misrepresentation of fact or material omission pertains. The CO-OP will timely notify Subscriber regarding such rescission and the CO-OP will refund any premium amounts paid by Subscriber minus any claims paid to providers on behalf of Subscriber. The CO-OP will seek reimbursement from the Subscriber for any amounts paid that exceed the premiums received. The CO-OP will not provide Coverage following the date of rescission and will not be responsible for any charges incurred on or after the date of rescission. Misrepresentations of fact include, but are not limited to the following:

1. Any failure to disclose to the CO-OP the Member's tobacco use prior to the effective date of Coverage hereunder;
2. Any misrepresentation of a Member's age; and
3. Any material false statements or omissions in any part of the Enrollment Application.

Coverage for the Subscriber shall be terminated if the Subscriber has committed an act of fraud or has made an intentional misrepresentation of material fact by submitting information that contains a material misstatement or commission.

### **2.4 Effect of Termination**

No benefits will be paid under this Plan by the CO-OP for services provided after termination of a Member's coverage under this Plan. You will be responsible for payment of medical services and supplies incurred after the Effective Date of the termination.

## **SECTION 3. CONTINUATION OF COVERAGE**

This section tells you under what conditions your coverage can continue at the Group rates in certain instances for a limited period of time when coverage under the Group Health Benefit Plan ends.

### **3.1 COBRA**

For the purposes of the Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1985 (COBRA) and the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1989 (OBRA), the Group shall be considered the Plan Administrator.



**Important Note:** This EOC does not, and cannot, contain all of the information that is required under the COBRA continuation coverage regulations. Federal laws and regulations regarding COBRA are publicly available.

(a) A Subscriber who would lose coverage under this Plan because of: 1) a reduction in the Subscriber's regularly scheduled work hours, or 2) because of termination of the Subscriber's employment with the Group for any reason, other than gross misconduct, has the right to elect COBRA continuation coverage. Such coverage may continue for up to eighteen (18) months.

The premium for this COBRA continuation coverage may be increased to 102% of the premium for providing coverage to other Subscribers under this Plan. COBRA continuation coverage will not take effect until the Subscriber elects COBRA and makes the required payment. The Subscriber have an initial grace period of forty-five (45) days from the date of COBRA election to make the first premium payment.

(b) **Election of COBRA Continuation Coverage.** A Subscriber identified in 3.1(a) or (b) above must elect to continue coverage within sixty (60) days of the election notice which qualifies him to continue coverage. If the election is not made within sixty (60) days, the Subscriber is not eligible to continue coverage under this Plan.

Each Subscriber will have an independent right to elect COBRA continuation coverage. .

(c) **Plans Offered Under COBRA Continuation Coverage.** Subscribers who qualify and elect COBRA continuation coverage must be offered the same Plan as similarly situated employees for whom a qualifying event has not occurred. When a qualified Subscriber leaves the CO-OP's Service Area, they will be given the opportunity to elect alternate coverage that the Group makes available to its active employees.

For purposes of COBRA continuation coverage, "similarly situated employees" means the group of covered employees receiving coverage under a Group Health Benefit Plan maintained by the employer. Similarly situated employees receive healthcare coverage for a reason other than under COBRA continuation coverage and who, based on all of the facts and circumstances, are most similarly situated to the circumstances of the qualified Subscriber immediately before the qualifying event.

For the purposes of determining the cost of COBRA continuation coverage, the Plan is entitled to take into account the Plan under which COBRA continuation coverage is provided.

(d) **Other Options.** You may have other options available to you when you lose group health coverage. Instead of enrolling in 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 options (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. 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 doesn't accept late enrollees. You can learn more about many of these options at [www.healthcare.gov](http://www.healthcare.gov).

(e) **Notice from Plan Administrator (Group).** The Plan Administrator will have up to forty-four (44) days from the qualifying event to provide the Subscriber with the COBRA election notice which contains information concerning the actions required to elect COBRA continuation coverage and the premium to be paid. The Plan Administrator has the sole obligation to provide the Subscriber with a notice of unavailability in the event that the Plan Administrator determines that such Subscriber is not entitled to COBRA continuation coverage. The CO-OP assumes no responsibility for the Plan Administrator's failure to provide COBRA notifications to the eligible Members.

The CO-OP assumes no further obligation to provide COBRA continuation coverage if:

- The Plan Administrator does not notify the Member within forty-four (44) days of the qualifying event; or
- The Member does not make a timely election; or
- The Plan Administrator fails to notify the CO-OP of the election within thirty (30) days of the election; or
- Timely premium payments are not made as described in 3.1(f).

There are two (2) ways in which the eighteen (18)-month period of COBRA continuation coverage identified in 3.1(a) can be extended:

1. **Disability Extension.** If a Subscriber covered under the Plan is disabled as determined under Title II (OASDI) or Title XVI (SSI) of the Social Security Act (SSA), COBRA continuation coverage will be extended from eighteen (18) months up to a total maximum of twenty-nine (29) months, provided the disability started at some time before the sixtieth (60th) day of COBRA continuation coverage, continues until the end of the eighteen (18)-month period of COBRA continuation coverage, and notice is received by the Group before the initial eighteen (18)-month period expires.

The premium for the extension period of COBRA continuation coverage will be increased to 150% of the applicable Group premium for providing coverage to other Subscribers under this Plan. During the extended period, a disabled individual's coverage will be terminated automatically as of the first day of the month that is more than thirty (30) days after a final determination that the Subscriber is no longer disabled.

The individual is required to notify the Group within thirty (30) days of such determination. Disabled individuals are also subject to termination as set forth in 3.1(f).

(f) **Required Notification.** The Subscriber must notify the Group and the Group must notify the CO-OP within sixty (60) days beginning from the latest of:

1. The date on which the relevant qualifying event occurs;

2. The date on which there is a loss of coverage under the Plan as a result of the qualifying event; or

3. The date on which the Subscriber is informed through the Plan's EOC or the general COBRA notice of their obligation to provide notice and the procedures for providing such notice.

The Subscriber must provide notice to the Group of any of the following qualifying events:

- A Subscriber's divorce.
- A Subscriber's legal separation.
- A second qualifying event after a Subscriber has become entitled to COBRA continuation coverage with a maximum duration of eighteen (18) or twenty-nine (29) months.
- A Subscriber entitled to receive COBRA continuation coverage with a maximum duration of eighteen (18) months has been determined by the Social Security Administration under Title II or XVI of SSA to be disabled at any time during the first sixty (60) days of COBRA continuation coverage.

The Member who seeks the disability extension must notify the Plan Administrator and the CO-OP of the Social Security Administration disability determination no later than sixty (60) days after the latest of:

4. The date of Social Security Administration determination;

5. The date on which the qualifying event occurs;

6. The date on which the Subscriber loses coverage under the Plan as a result of a qualifying event;

7. The date on which the Subscriber is informed through the Plan's EOC or the general COBRA notice of their obligation to provide notice.

- A disabled Subscriber, who has subsequently been determined by the Social Security Administration under Title II or XVI of the SSA to no longer be disabled.

If a Member is determined by the Social Security Administration to no longer be disabled, the Member must notify the Plan of that fact within thirty (30) days after the Social Security Administration's determination.

Any Subscriber, or any representative designated or authorized to act on behalf of the Subscriber may provide the notice and the provision of notice by one individual shall satisfy any responsibility to provide notice on behalf of the with respect to the qualifying event.

(g) **Non-Eligibility and Termination.** In addition to the CO-OP's other rights to terminate this coverage as shown in Section 2., COBRA continuation coverage will not be allowed

or shall be terminated prior to the end of the applicable eighteen (18)-month, the nineteen (19) to twenty-nine (29) month extension period for the disability extension, , if any of the following occur:

- The GEA is terminated in its entirety.
- The Subscriber fails to pay premiums in full when due.

The Subscriber will have a one-time only initial grace period of forty-five (45) days from the date of COBRA election to make the first premium payment. Thereafter, payments for COBRA continuation coverage are due by the first day of each monthly period to which the payment applies (payments must be postmarked on or before the thirty (30)-day grace period).

If you do not make payments on a timely basis, COBRA continuation coverage will terminate as of the last day of the period for which timely payment was made.

- The Subscriber becomes covered under another Group Health Benefit Plan which does not include a Preexisting Condition clause that applies to the Subscriber.
- The Subscriber becomes entitled to Medicare benefits (under Part A, Part B or both) after electing COBRA continuation coverage.
- A disabled Subscriber is found to be no longer disabled.

The Plan Administrator has the sole obligation to provide the Subscriber with a notice of termination in the event that COBRA continuation coverage is terminated prior to the end of the maximum period. The CO-OP assumes no responsibility for the Plan Administrator's failure to provide such notification to the eligible Members.

(h) **Address Changes.** The Member shall be responsible for notifying the Group of any changes in the addresses.

(i) **Plan Contact Information. For additional information about the Plan or your rights** under COBRA continuation coverage, contact the CO-OP Care Department by calling (702) 823-2667 or (855) 606-2667.

(j) **COBRA and FMLA.** If the Subscriber has taken a leave of absence under the Family Medical Leave Act of 1993 (FMLA) and does not return to work at the end of the FMLA leave, the Subscriber may elect COBRA continuation coverage for up to eighteen (18) months from the earliest to occur of the following:

- The date that the Subscriber states that they will not be returning to work at the end of the leave;
- The end of the approved leave, assuming that the Subscriber does not return, and
- The date that the FMLA entitlement ends.

For purposes of an FMLA leave, the Subscriber will be eligible for COBRA continuation coverage only if:

- The Subscriber is covered by the Group Health Benefit Plan on the day before the leave begins (or become covered during the FMLA leave);
- The Subscriber does not return to employment at the end of the FMLA leave; and
- The Subscriber loses coverage under the CO-OP's Health Benefit Plan before the end of what would be the maximum COBRA continuation coverage period.

### **3.2 Federal Continuation of Coverage under the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA)**

Members who enter military service will be provided continuation and reinstatement rights in accordance with the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act of 1994 (USERRA), as amended from time to time. USERRA Continuation Coverage is a temporary continuation of coverage when it would otherwise end because the employee has been called to active duty in the uniformed services. USERRA protects employees who leave for and return from any type of uniformed service in the United States armed forces, including the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, Coast Guard, National Guard, National Disaster Medical Service, the reserves of the armed forces, and the commissioned corps of the Public Health Service.

The Subscriber shall have the right to continue Group coverage as follows.

(a) **Eligibility.** In the event that Subscriber would lose coverage under the Plan because of Subscriber's absence from work due to Subscriber's service in the uniformed services, Subscriber may elect to continue coverage under the Plan on behalf of Subscriber.

Contact your Employer to obtain a copy of the COBRA or USERRA election forms. Completed USERRA election forms must be submitted to the CO-OP in the same timeframes as is permitted under COBRA.

(b) **Duration of COBRA Continuation Coverage.** The maximum period of COBRA continuation coverage under this section shall be the lesser of:

1. The 24-month period beginning on the date on which the Subscriber's absence from work begins; or

2. The day after the date on which the Subscriber fails to apply for or return to work with the Group as follows:

a. If the Subscriber served in the uniformed services and is absent from work for less than thirty-one (31) days;

(1) COBRA continuation coverage ends on the day after the date the Subscriber submits an application for reemployment which must not be later than the beginning of the first full regularly scheduled work period on the first full calendar day following completion of the period of service and the expiration of eight (8) hours after a period allowing for the Subscriber's transportation from the place of that service to the Subscriber's residence;  
or

(2) As soon as possible after the expiration of the eight (8) hour period referred to in (1) if reporting within the period under (1) is impossible or unreasonable through no fault of the Subscriber.

b. If the Subscriber is absent from work for any period for purposes of determining the Subscriber's fitness to perform service in the uniformed service, not later than the period described in (1) above.

c. If the Subscriber served in the uniformed services and is absent from work for more than thirty (30) days but less than 181 days, COBRA continuation coverage ends on the day after the date the Subscriber submits an application for reemployment, which must not be later than fourteen (14) days after completion of the period of service. If applying within that period is impossible or unreasonable through no fault of the Subscriber, then the application for reemployment must be made by the next first full calendar day when applying becomes possible.

d. If the Subscriber served in the uniformed services and is absent from work for more than 180 days, COBRA continuation coverage ends on the day after the date the Subscriber submits an application for reemployment which must not be later than ninety (90) days after completion of such period of service.

(c) **Premium for COBRA Continuation Coverage.** A Subscriber electing COBRA continuation coverage under this section shall be responsible for paying the applicable premium for such coverage. The premium for COBRA continuation coverage shall not exceed 102% of the applicable premium for providing coverage to other Subscribers of the Group. However, if the Subscriber performs service in the uniformed services for less than thirty-one (31) days, the Subscriber shall be liable only for the premium contribution (if any) that the Subscriber was paying for coverage under the Plan immediately prior to serving in the uniformed services.

### **3.3 Total Disability of Subscriber**

For Groups of any size, continuation of coverage shall be offered to each Subscriber who are otherwise covered by this Plan while the Subscriber is on leave without pay (as defined by the GEA), as a result of Total Disability. This coverage is for any Injury or Illness suffered by the Subscriber, which is not related to the Total Disability. This coverage will continue, subject to the payment of the applicable premium, until the earliest to occur of:

- The date Subscriber's employment is terminated.
- The date Subscriber obtains other healthcare coverage on an insured or self-insured basis.
- The date the GEA is terminated.
- After a period of twelve (12) months during which benefits for such coverage are provided to the Subscriber.
- The date the Subscriber no longer resides or works within the CO-OP's Service Area.

**NOTE:** In this Section 3., “Totally Disabled” or “Total Disability” refers to the continuing inability of the Subscriber to substantially perform duties related to his employment. Coverage is equal to coverage provided in this Plan.

### **3.4 Non-Election**

For Groups of any size, if a Subscriber does not elect to continue coverage under the Group Plan, or does not qualify for continuation of coverage, coverage under this Plan shall terminate on the date provided for in this EOC.

## **SECTION 4. CARE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM**

This section tells you about the CO-OP’s Care Management Program.

### **4.1 Care Management Program**

The CO-OP’s Care Management Program, using the services of professional medical peer review committees, utilization review committees, and/or the Medical Director, determines whether services and supplies are Medically Necessary. The CO-OP’s Care Management Program helps direct care to the most appropriate setting to provide healthcare in a cost-effective manner.

### **4.2 Care Management Program Requirements**

The CO-OP’s Care Management Program requires the Member, Plan Providers and the CO-OP to work together.

- All Plan Providers have agreed to participate in the CO-OP’s Care Management Program. Plan Providers have agreed to accept the CO-OP’s Reimbursement Schedule amount as payment in full for Covered Services, less the Member’s payment of any applicable Copayment, Deductible or Coinsurance amount, whereas Non-Plan Providers have not. In no event will the CO-OP pay more than the maximum payment allowance established in the CO-OP Reimbursement Schedule.
- It is the Member’s responsibility to verify that the Provider selected is a Plan Provider before receiving any non-Emergency Services and to comply with all other rules of the CO-OP’s Care Management Program.

When required, compliance by the Member with the CO-OP’s Care Management Program is mandatory. Failure to comply with the rules of the CO-OP’s Care Management Program means the Member will be responsible for costs of services received.

### **4.3 Care Management Program Process**

The Care Management Program’s medical professionals may review proposed services and supplies to be received by a Member to determine:

- If the services are Medically Necessary and/or appropriate.
- The appropriateness of the proposed setting.

- The required duration of treatment or admission.

Following review, the CO-OP will complete the Prior Authorization form and send a copy to the Provider and the Member. The Prior Authorization form will specify approved Covered Services and supplies. **Prior Authorization is not a guarantee of payment for Covered Services.**

The final decision as to whether or not any care should be received is between the Member and the Provider. If the CO-OP denies a request by a Member and/or Provider for Prior Authorization of a service or supply, the Member or Provider may appeal the denial to the Advocacy Department (see the Appeals Procedures Section herein).

#### **4.4 Services Requiring Prior Authorization**

Certain Covered Services require Prior Authorization and review through the CO-OP's Care Management Program. The Attachment A Benefit Schedule shows which Covered Services may require Prior Authorization. Such list is subject to change and approval of some Covered Services may require participation in the CO-OP's medical management programs.

You do not need prior authorization in order to obtain access to OB/GYN care from a Provider who specializes in obstetrics or gynecology. The Provider, however, may be required to comply with certain procedures, including obtaining Prior Authorization for certain services, following a preapproved treatment plan or procedures for making referrals. For a list of current Plan Providers call (702) 823-2667 or (855) 606-2667 or view the list online at [www.nevadahealthcoop.org](http://www.nevadahealthcoop.org).

For medical care that requires Prior Authorization, you may notify us as follows:

- Have the Physician call us at (855) 897-0316;
- Call us directly at (702) 823-2667 or (855) 606-2667;
- Have an authorized representative call the CO-OP on your behalf, if it is not possible for you or your Provider to call the CO-OP.

#### **4.5 Emergency Admission Notification**

The Member must report all emergency admissions to the CO-OP Care Department within 24 hours of admission or as soon as reasonably possible to authorize continued care at (702) 823-2667 or (855) 606-2667.

Members requiring Emergency Services will not be required to obtain Prior Authorization from the CO-OP prior to receiving an initial medical screening examination and any immediate treatments or services necessary to stabilize a condition. This applies to both Plan Providers and non-Plan Providers. **If you are faced with a medical emergency, call 911 or go to the nearest emergency room.**



All emergency admissions are reviewed Retrospectively to determine if the treatment received was Medically Necessary and appropriate and was for Emergency Services as defined in this EOC.

#### **4.6 Hospitalist Program**

Inpatient Care from Hospitalist Program physician. If a Member is admitted as an inpatient at a Hospital at which a Hospitalist Program exists, the Member is subject to the Hospitalist Program.

(a) Inpatient care by the Hospitalist Program physicians is required for all Members. This is inpatient care by primary care physicians only. Primary care physicians are general practice, family practice and internal medicine Physicians. The Hospitalist Program does not include Physician care by specialists such as cardiologists, dermatologists, oncologists or anesthesiologists. For purposes of the Hospitalist Program only, OB/GYN and pediatric Physicians are considered specialists, not primary care physicians.

For inpatient Physician primary care under the Hospitalist Program, the Plan will pay the full Allowable Expense including any copays, Coinsurance and Deductibles. The Member will not have any out of pocket expenses for covered services by Hospitalist Program physicians. Care by specialists will continue to be covered and paid as normal under the Plan's Rules.

(b) If the Member refuses care from the Hospitalist Program physician and instead accepts inpatient Hospital care from his own primary care physician (not including OB/GYN and pediatric Physicians) or any other nonspecialist Hospital based Physician outside of the Hospitalist Program, the Plan will pay nothing for such care and the Member will be solely responsible for all amounts billed by such primary care physician.

(c) A Member who has been admitted and is receiving care from a Hospitalist Program physician also may accept care from his preestablished primary care physician who has been actively involved in the Member's ongoing primary care. However, his preestablished primary care physician providing care to an admitted Member will be reimbursed by the Plan for a consultation only and will not be the manager of the Member's inpatient care.

#### **4.7 Independent Medical Review; Appeals Rights**

The CO-OP may require a Member to have an Independent Medical Review prior to issuing Prior Authorization for any medical benefits. In that case, only a Physician or Chiropractor who is certified to practice in the same field of practice as the primary treating Physician or Chiropractor or who is formally educated in that field will conduct the review.

The Independent Medical Review will include a physical exam of the Member and a personal review of all x-rays and reports made by the primary treating Physician or Chiropractor. A certified copy of all reports of findings will be sent to the primary treating Physician or Chiropractor and the Member within ten (10) business days after the review.

If the Member disagrees with the findings of the review, he must submit an appeal for binding arbitration to the CO-OP within thirty (30) days after he receives the report. Please refer to the Appeals Procedures Section in this EOC for more information.

#### **4.8 Appeals Rights**

All decisions of the CO-OP's Care Management Program may be appealed by the Member through the Appeals Procedures as described in Section 12. If an imminent and serious threat to the health of the Member exists, the appeal will be directed to the CO-OP's Medical Director.

### **SECTION 5. OBTAINING COVERED SERVICES**

This section tells you under what conditions services are available under this Plan and your obligations as a Member. You should also carefully review the Exclusions and Limitations Sections (Section 6 and Section 7, respectively) prior to obtaining any healthcare services.

#### **5.1 Availability of Covered Services**

Members are entitled to receive Medically Necessary Covered Services set forth in Section 5 herein and the Attachment A Benefit Schedule, subject to all terms and conditions of this EOC, and payment of required premium.

#### **5.2 Tiered Plan Providers**

Tier I Plan Provider Benefits apply when you obtain or arrange for Covered Services through a contracted Tier 1 Plan Provider. Tier I benefits provide a higher level of coverage with lower out-of-pocket expenses than the Tier II or Non-Plan Provider benefits.

Tier II Plan Provider Benefits apply when a Member obtains Covered Services from a Tier II Plan Provider who is independently contracted by the CO-OP to provide Covered Services to Members. The Member's out-of-pocket expenses will be higher than when accessing Tier I benefits.

Any benefit maximums applicable are combined for Covered Services provided by Tier I and Tier II Plan Providers. Also the annual out-of-pocket maximum is combined for Tier I and Tier Plan Provider Benefits.

For a list of current Tier I and Tier II Plan Providers call (702) 823-2667 or (855) 606-2667 or view the list online at [www.nevadahealthcoop.org](http://www.nevadahealthcoop.org).

#### **5.3 Continuity of Care from Plan Providers**

Termination of a Plan Provider's contract will not release the Provider from treating a Member, except for reasons of medical incompetence or professional misconduct as determined by the CO-OP.

Coverage provided under this section is available until the latest of the following dates:

- The 120th day following the date the contract was terminated between the Provider and the CO-OP; or
- If the medical condition is pregnancy, the 45th day after the date of delivery or if the pregnancy does not end in delivery the date of the end of the pregnancy.

The Member or Plan Provider may submit a request for continuity of care to the address shown below. If the Plan agrees to the continued treatment, the Plan will pay for Covered Services at the Plan Provider level of benefits for a limited time, as outlined above. The Plan Provider may not seek payment from the Member for any amounts for which the Member would not be responsible if the Provider were still a Plan Provider.

Address:

Nevada Health CO-OP  
3900 Meadows Lane, Suite 214  
Las Vegas, Nevada 89107

Phone:

(702) 823-2667  
(855) 606-2667

#### **5.4 Incentive Program**

The CO-OP may develop a program designed to help Members understand their health status and support them in making positive lifestyle and behavior changes. Participation in the program would require the completion of specified activities. If the CO-OP develops an incentive program, participation in and/or completion of the identified activities will be voluntary and will not be required for participation in or coverage by this Plan. If and when such program is developed, you will be provided with the details in a separate communication.

Incentives may include reduced Coinsurance or Copayment levels or other financial incentives. Incentives would be based upon completion of required health actions and not the outcome of those actions. If any Member was required to complete personal health actions in order to receive an incentive but was unable to do so, that Member and/or the Member's Physician would be allowed to request a reasonable alternative or waiver by contacting the CO-OP Care Department at (702) 823-2667 or (855) 606-2667.

The CO-OP reserves the right to design and offer an incentive program for its Members. In all cases, the decision to participate in the program and any related treatment decisions will reside with the Member and his or her Physician.

### **SECTION 6. COVERED SERVICES**

This section tells you what services are covered under this Plan. Only services and supplies that meet the CO-OP's definition of Medically Necessary will be considered to be Covered Services. The Attachment A Benefit Schedule shows applicable Copayments, benefit limitations and Prior Authorization requirements for Covered Services.

## 6.1 Healthcare Facility Services

Covered Services include the following accommodations, services and supplies received during an admission to a Hospital, Ambulatory Surgical Facility, Skilled Nursing Facility or Hospice Care Facility.

### **Accommodations:**

- Semiprivate (or multibed unit) room, including bed, board and general nursing care.
- Private room including bed, board, and general nursing care, but only when treatment of the Member's condition requires a private room. The semiprivate room rate will be applied toward the private room rate when a Member receives private room accommodations for any reason other than Medical Necessity.
- Inpatient accommodations provided in connection with the birth of a child shall be provided for a minimum of forty-eight (48) hours following an uncomplicated vaginal delivery or a minimum of ninety-six (96) hours following an uncomplicated delivery by cesarean section. This provision does not require a Member to deliver in a Hospital or other healthcare facility or to remain therein for the minimum number of hours following delivery.
- Intensive care unit (including Cardiac Care Unit), including bed, board, general and special nursing care, and ICU equipment.
- Observation unit, including bed, board, and general nursing care not to exceed twenty-three (23) hours per day.
- Nursery charges for newborns.

**Services and Supplies.** Covered Services and supplies provided by a Hospital, Ambulatory Surgical Facility, Skilled Nursing Facility or Hospice Care Facility include:

- Operating, recovery, and treatment rooms and equipment (Hospital and Ambulatory Surgical Facility only);
- Delivery and labor rooms and equipment (Hospital and Ambulatory Surgical Facility only);
- Anesthesia materials and anesthesia administration by Hospital staff (Hospital and Ambulatory Surgical Facility only);
- Clinical pathology and laboratory services and supplies;
- Services and supplies for diagnostic tests required to diagnose Member's Illness, Injury or other conditions but only when charges for the services and/or supplies are made by the facility (Hospital, Skilled Nursing Facility and Ambulatory Surgical Facility only);
- Drugs consumed at the time and place dispensed which have been approved for general marketing in the United States by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA);
- Dressings, splints, casts and other supplies for medical treatment provided by the Hospital from a central sterile supply department;

- Oxygen and its administration;
- Non-replaced blood, blood plasma, blood derivatives, and their administration and processing;
- Intravenous injections and solutions;
- Private duty nursing subject to the benefit limitation for such services;
- Supportive services for a Hospice patient's family, including care for the patient which provides a respite from the stresses and responsibilities that result from the daily care of the patient and bereavement services provided to the family after the death of the patient (Hospice Care Facility only); and
- Sterilization procedures.

## **6.2 Medical – Physician Services**

Covered Services include services which are generally recognized and accepted non-surgical procedures for diagnosing or treating an Illness or Injury, performed by a Provider in his office, the patient's home, or a licensed healthcare facility, including tele-health consultations.

Covered Services include:

- Direct physical examination of the patient;
- Examination of some aspect of the patient by means of pathology laboratory or electronic monitoring procedure which is a generally recognized and accepted procedure for diagnostic or therapeutic purposes in the treatment of an Illness or Injury;
- Procedures for prescribing or administering medical treatment;
- Manual Manipulation (except for reductions of fractures or dislocations);
- Treatment of the temporomandibular joint including Medically Necessary dental procedures, such as dental splints;
- Anesthesia services;
- Family planning services including sterilization procedures; and
- Acupuncture.

## **6.3 Specialty Services and Consultations**

Covered Services include medical services rendered by a Specialist or other duly licensed Provider whose opinion or advice is requested by the CO-OP's Care Management Program professionals for further evaluation of an Illness or Injury on an Inpatient or outpatient basis, and including a tele-health consultation.

There will be no charge to a Member when seeking a second opinion for surgical or specialty services who has received Prior Authorization from the CO-OP's Care Management Program.

## **6.4 Preventive Services**

Covered Preventive Services will be paid at 100% of Allowable Expenses, without application of any Copayment, and/or Calendar Year Deductible and Coinsurance when such services are provided by a Plan Provider. In the absence of specific guidance in a federal Preventive Service guideline or recommendation, the Plan may use reasonable medical management techniques to determine the frequency, method, treatment or setting for a recommended Preventive Service.

Covered Services include the following Preventive Services in accordance with the recommended schedule outlined in the CO-OP Preventive Guidelines included in your member kit or you may access the most current version of these guidelines at any time by visiting the CO-OP's web site at [www.nevadahealthcoop.org](http://www.nevadahealthcoop.org).

- Evidence based items or services that have in effect a rating of “A” or “B” in the current recommendations of the United States Preventive Services Task Force (“USPSTF”); <http://www.uspreventiveservicestaskforce.org/uspstf/uspsabrecs.htm>
- Immunizations that have in effect a recommendation from the Advisory Committee on Immunizations Practices of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention;
- With respect to infants, children and adolescents, evidence-informed preventive care and screenings provided for in the comprehensive guidelines supported by the Health Resources and Services Administration (“HRSA”); and
- With respect to women, evidence-informed preventive care and screenings provided for in comprehensive guidelines supported by the HRSA, as long as they are not otherwise addressed by the recommendations of the USPSTF.

## **6.5 Physician Surgical Services – Inpatient and Outpatient**

Covered Services include surgical services that are generally recognized and accepted procedures for diagnosing or treating an Illness or Injury.

## **6.6 Oral Physician Surgical Services**

Although dental services are not Covered Services, the following Oral Surgical Services are Covered Services:

- Treatment for tumors and cysts requiring pathological examination of the jaws, cheeks, lips, tongue, roof and floor of the mouth.
- Removal of teeth which is necessary in order to perform radiation therapy.
- Treatment required to stabilize sound natural teeth, the jawbones, or surrounding tissues after an Injury (not to include injuries caused by chewing) when the treatment starts within the first ten (10) days after the Injury and ends within sixty (60) days. Examples of Covered Services, in such instances, include:
  - Root canal therapy, post and build up.

- Temporary crowns.
- Temporary partial bridges.
- Temporary and permanent fillings.
- Pulpotomy.
- Extraction's of broken teeth.
- Incision and drainage.
- Tooth stabilization through splinting.

No benefits are provided for removable dental prosthetics, dentures (partial or complete) or subsequent restoration of teeth, including permanent crowns.

## **6.7 Organ and Tissue Transplant Surgical Services**

All Covered Transplant Procedures are subject to the provisions of the CO-OP's Care Management Program and all other terms and provisions of the Plan, including the following:

1. The CO-OP's Care Management Program's professionals will determine if the Member satisfies the CO-OP's Medically Necessary criteria before receiving benefits for transplant services.
2. The CO-OP's Care Management Program's professionals will provide a written Referral for care to a Transplant Facility.
3. If, after Referral, either the CO-OP's Care Management Program's professionals or the medical staff of the Transplant Facility determines that the Member does not satisfy the Medically Necessary criteria for the service involved, benefits will be limited to Covered Services provided up to such determination.

Covered Transplant Procedures include the following services for human-to-human organ or tissue transplants received during a Transplant Benefit Period on an Inpatient basis due to an Injury or Illness as follows:

- Hospital room and board and medical supplies.
- Diagnosis, treatment, surgery and other Covered Services provided by a Physician.
- Organ and tissue procurement.
- Organ and tissue retrieval which includes removing and preserving the donated part.
- Rental of wheel chairs, Hospital-type beds and mechanical equipment required to treat respiratory impairment.
- Ambulance services.
- Medication, x-rays and other diagnostic services.
- Laboratory tests.

- Oxygen.
- Surgical dressings and supplies.
- Immunosuppressive drugs.
- Private nursing care by a Registered Nurse (R.N.) or a Licensed Practical Nurse (L.P.N.).
- Reasonable and necessary costs for transportation of the Member and a companion to and from the site of the transplant. If the Member is a minor, transportation of two (2) persons who travel with the minor is included. Reasonable and necessary lodging and meal costs incurred by such companions are included. Itemized receipts for these expenses are required.

The CO-OP makes no representation or warranty as to the medical competence or ability of any Transplant Facility or its respective staff or Physicians. The CO-OP shall have no liability or responsibility, either direct, indirect, vicarious or otherwise, for any actions or inaction, whether negligent or otherwise, on the part of any Transplant Facility or its respective staff or Physicians.

The CO-OP shall have no liability or responsibility, either direct, indirect, vicarious or otherwise, in the event a transplant patient is injured or dies, by whatever cause, while enroute to a Transplant Facility.

If a Covered Transplant Procedure is not performed as scheduled due to a change in the Member's medical condition or death, benefits will be paid for Prior Authorized Allowable Expenses incurred during the Transplant Benefit Period.

## **6.8 Assistant Surgical Services**

Covered Services include services performed by an assistant surgeon in connection with a covered surgical procedure but only to the extent that the surgical assistance is necessary due to the complexity of the procedure involved.

## **6.9 Emergency Services**

Emergency Services obtained from Non-Plan providers will be payable at the same benefit level as would be applied to care received from Plan Providers.

Benefits are limited to Allowable Expenses for Non-Plan Provider Emergency Services as defined under "CO-OP Reimbursement Schedule". Members are responsible for any Non-Plan Provider Emergency Service charges that exceed payments made by the CO-OP.

Benefits for Emergency Services are subject to any limit shown in the Attachment A Benefit Schedule.



(a) **Within the CO-OP's Service Area.**

1. **Non-Plan Providers.** If Emergency Services are provided by Non-Plan Providers, all Medically Necessary professional services and Inpatient or Outpatient Hospital Services will be covered subject to the other terms of this EOC.

2. **Payment.** Benefits for Emergency or Urgently Needed Services received from Non-Plan Providers are limited to Allowable Expenses for care required before the Member can safely receive services from a Plan Provider.

3. **Follow-Up Care.** In order for benefits to be payable, a Plan Provider must provide follow-up care, unless authorized by the CO-OP's Care Management Program.

(b) **Outside the CO-OP's Service Area.** Benefits for Covered Services received while outside the CO-OP's Service Area are limited to Emergency Services and Urgently Needed Services when care is required immediately and unexpectedly.

The Member should notify the CO-OP as soon as reasonably possible after the onset of the emergency medical condition. Elective or specialized care will not be covered if the circumstances leading to the need for such care could have been foreseen before leaving the CO-OP's Service Area.

1. **Payment.** Benefits are limited to the Allowable Expenses for such Covered Services.

2. **Follow-Up Care.** Continuing or follow-up treatment for Injury or Illness is limited to care required before the Member can safely return to the CO-OP's Service Area.

Once the patient is stabilized, benefits for continuing or follow-up treatment are provided only in the CO-OP's Service Area, subject to all provisions of this EOC.

## **6.10 Ambulance Services**

Covered Services include Ambulance Services to the nearest appropriate Hospital. The CO-OP will make direct payment to a Provider of Ambulance Services if the Provider does not receive payment from any other source.

## **6.11 Home Healthcare Services**

Covered Services include services given to a Member in his home by a licensed Home Healthcare Provider or an approved Hospital program for Home Healthcare. Such services are covered when a Member is homebound for medical reasons, physically not able to obtain Medically Necessary care on an outpatient basis, under the care of a Physician and such care is given in place of Inpatient Hospital or Skilled Nursing Facility care.

Covered Services and supplies provided by a Home Healthcare agency include:

- Professional services of a registered nurse, licensed practical nurse or a licensed vocational nurse on an intermittent basis.
- Physical therapy, speech therapy and occupational therapy by a licensed therapist.
- Medical and surgical supplies that are customarily furnished by the Home Healthcare agency or program for its patients.
- Prescribed drugs furnished and charged for by the Home Healthcare agency or program, including home infusion therapy.
- Health aide services furnished to Member only when receiving nursing services or therapy.
- Prior authorized medical social services and nutritional consultations by a certified registered dietitian may be covered.

#### **6.12 Short-Term Habilitative and Rehabilitation Services – Inpatient and Outpatient**

Short-Term Habilitative and Rehabilitation therapy Covered Services include:

- Speech therapy.
- Occupational therapy.
- Physical therapy on an Inpatient or outpatient basis. Inpatient physical therapy requires Prior Authorization.

Benefits for habilitation and rehabilitation therapy are limited to services given for acute or recently acquired conditions or congenital defects that, in the judgment of the CO-OP's Care Management Program, are subject to significant improvement through Short-Term therapy.

Covered Services do not include cardiac rehabilitation services provided on a non-monitored basis nor do they include treatment for mental retardation or delayed development.

#### **6.13 Laboratory Services**

Covered Services include prescribed diagnostic clinical and anatomic pathological laboratory services and materials.

#### **6.14 Routine Radiological and Non-Radiological Diagnostic Imaging Services**

Covered Services include prescribed routine diagnostic radiological and non-radiological diagnostic imaging services and materials, including general radiography, fluoroscopy, mammography, and sonography, but only when no charges are made for the same services and/or supplies by a Hospital, Skilled Nursing Facility or an Ambulatory Surgery Center.

#### **6.15 Other Diagnostic and Therapeutic Services**

Diagnostic and Therapeutic Covered Services include the following:

- Therapeutic radiology services;
- Complex diagnostic imaging services including nuclear medicine, computerized axial tomography (CT scan), cardiac ultrasonography, magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) and arthrography;
- Complex vascular diagnostic and therapeutic services including Holter monitoring, treadmill or stress testing and impedance venous plethysmography;
- Complex neurological diagnostic services including electroencephalograms (EEG), electromyogram (EMG) and evoked potential;
- Complex psychological diagnostic testing;
- Complex pulmonary diagnostic services including pulmonary function testing and apnea monitoring;
- Anti-cancer drug therapy. The financial limits applicable to oral chemotherapy will be no less favorable than the financial limits applicable to chemotherapy administered by injection or intravenously;
- Hemodialysis and peritoneal renal dialysis;
- Complex allergy diagnostic services including RAST and allergeoimmuno therapy;
- Otologic evaluations only for the purpose of obtaining information necessary for evaluation of the need for or appropriate type of medical or surgical treatment for a hearing deficit or a related medical problem;
- Treatment of temporomandibular joint disorder;
- Other Medically Necessary intravenous therapeutic services as approved by the CO-OP, including but not limited to, non-cancer related intravenous injection therapy; and
- Positron Emission Tomography (PET) Scans.

Different Copayments may apply to these Covered Services. Please refer to your Attachment A Benefit Schedule.

## **6.16 Prescription Drugs**

The Plan covers generic, formulary, non-formulary, specialty and Preventive Care Drugs at Contracting Pharmacies. Different Copayments, calendar year deductibles and Coinsurance may apply to generic, formulary, nonformulary drug benefits. A percentage of specialty Drugs are covered after the Calendar Year Deductible is satisfied. Specialty Drugs, including specialty medications delivered in a Provider's office, are subject to Prior Authorization. Members may be required to obtain certain Specialty Drugs through a CO-OP contracted specialty pharmacy. Please refer to your Attachment A Benefit Schedule and contact the CO-OP Care Department for additional information.

For maintenance Drugs that may be taken for longer than 30 days, Members may obtain up to a 90-day supply of covered medications mailed directly to their home. Different Copayments apply to most mail-order drug benefits. Please refer to your Attachment A Benefit Schedule.

Preventive Care Drugs are those Drugs which are required to be covered by the Plan at 100% of Allowable Expenses in accordance with the Preventive Guidelines set forth in Section 7.4, Preventive Services. The list of Preventive Care Drugs will be amended from time to time to reflect updated federal guidance and recommendations. To obtain a list of Preventive Care Drugs, please contact the CO-OP Care Department at (702) 823-2667 or (855) 606-2667.

Step therapy programs target highly utilized drug categories that contain multiple drugs with a high degree of interchangeability and generic availability. Step therapy programs promotes safe and effective drug therapy while maximizing on cost-savings associated with generic or preferred brand utilization.

Current categories include:

- Androgens - Testosterone replacement
- Angiotensin II Receptor Blockers (ARB's) - High Blood Pressure
- Atypical Antipsychotics - Mental health conditions
- Bisphosphonates - Osteoporosis
- GLP Inhibitors - Diabetes
- Insulin - Diabetes
- Insulin, Basal - Diabetes
- Intranasal Steroids - Nasal Allergy
- Proton Pump Inhibitors - Ulcers
- Triptans – Migraines

The Prior Authorization (PA) Program is designed to manage the utilization of specialty drugs that are relatively expensive, have significant potential for misuse or abuse, or require close monitoring because of potentially serious side effects. Examples of current categories include oral oncology, biologic agents for rheumatoid arthritis and multiple sclerosis and growth hormone products. For additional information on Drugs requiring Prior Authorization, please contact the CO-OP Care Department.

Key features of the PA focus are:

- Ensuring services delivered are clinically appropriate and cost-effective
- Eliminating barriers to obtain unusual, high-cost, or high-risk drugs when medically appropriate

- Encouraging open care-option dialogues among members, their pharmacists, and their prescribers

Excluded Drugs are Cosmetic (hair loss products, etc.) and anorexiant (weight loss products). No Prescription Drug will be excluded from coverage for a Member if it had previously been approved for coverage by the CO-OP for a medical condition of the Member and the Member's Provider determines, after conducting a reasonable investigation, that none of the drugs which are otherwise currently approved for coverage are medically appropriate for the Member; and the Prescription Drug is appropriately prescribed and considered safe and effective for treating the medical condition of the insured.

Information regarding the Plan's formulary may be obtained by contacting the CO-OP Care Department at (702) 823-2667 or (855) 606-2667.

### **6.17 Prosthetic and Orthotic Devices**

Covered Services include the following devices when received in connection with an Illness or Injury:

- Cardiac pacemakers.
- Breast prostheses for post-mastectomy patients.
- Terminal devices (example: hand or hook) and artificial eyes.
- Braces which include only rigid and semi-rigid devices used for supporting a weak or deformed body member or restricting or eliminating motion in a diseased or injured part of the body.
- Adjustment of Prosthetic or Orthotic Device required by wear or by change in the patient's condition when ordered by a Provider.
- Diabetic orthotic shoes, one pair per year.

### **6.18 Durable Medical Equipment**

All benefits for Durable Medical Equipment ("DME") includes administration, maintenance and operating costs of such equipment, if the equipment is Medically Necessary or Prior Authorized. DME includes, but is not limited to:

- Braces;
- Canes;
- Crutches;
- Intermittent positive pressure breathing machine;
- Hospital beds;
- Standard outpatient oxygen delivery systems;

- Traction equipment;
- Walkers;
- Wheelchairs; or
- Any other items that are determined to be Medically Necessary by the CO-OP's Care Management Program.

Replacements, repairs and adjustments to DME are limited to normal wear and tear or because of significant change in the Member's physical condition.

The CO-OP will not be responsible for the following:

- Non-Medically Necessary optional attachments and modifications to DME for the comfort or convenience of the Member;
- Accessories for portability or travel;
- A second piece of equipment with or without additional accessories that is for the same or similar medical purpose as existing equipment;
- Home and car remodeling; and
- Replacement of lost or stolen equipment.

#### **6.19 Mental Health Services, Severe Mental Illness and Substance Use Disorder Services**

All benefits for Mental Health, Severe Mental Illness and Substance Use Disorder Services are subject to the CO-OP Cares Assistance Program through the CO-OP's Behavioral Health/Substance Use Disorder Provider and shown in the Attachment A Benefit Schedule.

**Mental Health Services.** Covered Services include evaluation, crisis intervention or psychotherapy only.

- **Inpatient:** When authorized by the CO-OP's Behavioral Health/Substance Use Disorder Provider, Covered Services for the diagnosis and treatment of a Mental Illness.
- **Outpatient:** Outpatient evaluation and treatment of Mental Illness including individual and group psychotherapy sessions. Some services may require authorization by the CO-OP's Behavioral Health/Substance Use Disorder Provider.

**Severe Mental Illness Services.** When authorized by the CO-OP's Behavioral Health/Substance Use Disorder Provider, Covered Services include Inpatient and outpatient treatment for Severe Mental Illness as defined in this EOC. Benefits for the treatment of Severe Mental Illness are subject to the benefit levels shown in the Attachment A Benefit Schedule.

No benefits are available for psychosocial rehabilitation or care received as a custodial Inpatient.

**Substance Use Disorder Services.** Substance Use Disorder services include the following:

- **Inpatient:** when determined by the CO-OP's Behavioral Health/Substance Use Disorder Provider to be necessary, or when outpatient treatment is not feasible, services for diagnosis and medical treatment for alcoholism and abuse of drugs.
- **Outpatient:** services for the diagnosis, medical treatment and rehabilitation, including individual, group, and family counseling, and outpatient detoxification services for recovery from the effects of alcoholism and abuse of drugs. Some services may require authorization by the CO-OP's Behavioral Health/Substance Use Disorder Provider.
- **Detoxification:** treatment for withdrawal from the physiological effects of alcohol and drug abuse. Inpatient detoxification is considered appropriate treatment only for life-threatening withdrawal syndromes associated with drug and alcohol dependence.

**NOTE: All Inpatient and certain non-routine outpatient non-emergency Mental Health, Severe Mental Illness or Substance Use Disorder services require Prior Authorization by the CO-OP's Behavioral Health/Substance Use Disorder Provider. Members must contact the CO-OP at 702-823-2667 or 855-606-2667 for assistance in obtaining Prior Authorization for Covered Services. The CO-OP's Behavioral Health/Substance Use Disorder Provider will assist in scheduling an appointment or will make a referral to the appropriate Provider based on the service requested and the associated level of acuity. If the Member is unable to contact the CO-OP due to an emergency admission the Member must contact the CO-OP as soon as reasonably possible following the emergency admission to obtain Prior Authorization of any needed follow up care.**

**All admissions for Emergency Services are reviewed Retrospectively to determine if the treatment received was Medically Necessary and appropriate. If the Member is admitted to a Mental Health or Substance Use Disorder facility for non-emergency treatment without Prior Authorization, Member will be responsible for the cost of services received.**

## **6.20 Mastectomy Reconstructive Surgical Services**

Benefits are available for Subscriber for Mastectomy Reconstructive Surgery. Mastectomy Reconstructive Surgery is the surgical procedure performed following a mastectomy on one or both breasts to re-established symmetry between the two breasts. Such surgery includes, but is not limited to, augmentation, mammoplasty, reduction mammoplasty and mastopexy.

The following services received in connection with Mastectomy Reconstructive Surgical Services are Covered Services subject to the terms and conditions of this EOC:

- Reconstruction of the breast on which the mastectomy has been performed;
- Surgery and reconstruction of the other breast to produce a symmetrical appearance; and
- Prostheses and treatment of physical complications for all stages of mastectomy, including lymphedemas in a manner determined in consultation with the attending Physician and the patient.

### **The first three (3) years after mastectomy:**

Benefits for reconstructive surgery, including complications relating to the reconstructive surgery, performed while the patient is covered under this Plan, and within the three (3) years immediately following a mastectomy that was covered under this Plan, will be paid at the same level as would have been provided at the time of the mastectomy.

### **More than three (3) years after mastectomy:**

Benefits for reconstructive surgery performed more than three (3) years following a mastectomy that was covered under this Plan (if the patient is still covered by the CO-OP under this Plan) will be paid subject to all of the terms, conditions and exclusions contained in the EOC at the time of the reconstructive surgery.

No benefits will be paid for reconstructive surgery performed, or any complications relating to the reconstructive surgery, more than three (3) years following a mastectomy that was covered under this Plan if the patient is no longer covered by the CO-OP under this Plan.

## **6.21 Special Food Product / Enteral Formulas**

Covered Services include enteral formulas and special food product when prescribed by a Physician and authorized by the CO-OP's Care Management Program for treatment of an inherited metabolic disease.

- "Inherited Metabolic Disease" means a disease caused by an inherited abnormality of the body chemistry of a person characterized by congenital defects or defects arising shortly after birth resulting in deficient metabolism or malabsorption of amino acid, organic acid, carbohydrate or fat.
- "Special Food Product" means a food product specially formulated to have less than one gram of protein per serving intended to be consumed under the direction of a Physician. The term does not include food that is naturally low in protein.

## **6.22 Self-Management and Treatment of Diabetes**

Coverage includes medication, equipment, supplies and appliances for the treatment of diabetes. Diabetes includes type I, type II and gestational diabetes. Covered Services include:

- Medically Necessary training and education provided to a Member for the care and management of diabetes, after he is initially diagnosed with diabetes, to include counseling in nutrition and the proper use of equipment and supplies for the treatment of diabetes;
- Medically Necessary training and education which is a result of a subsequent diagnosis that indicates a significant change in the symptoms or condition of the Member and which requires modification of his program of self-management of diabetes; and
- Medically Necessary training and education because of the development of new techniques and treatment for diabetes.



### **6.23 Gastric Restrictive Surgical Services**

Covered Services include Prior Authorized Medically Necessary Gastric Restrictive Surgical Services for extreme obesity under the following circumstances:

- Have a body mass index (BMI) of greater than 40kg/m<sup>2</sup>; or
- Have a BMI greater than 35kg/m<sup>2</sup> with significant co-morbidities; and
- Can provide documented evidence that dietary attempts at weight control are ineffective; and
- Must be at least 18 years old.

Documentation supporting the reasonableness and necessity of a Gastric Restrictive Surgical Service is required, including compliant attendance at a medically supervised weight loss program (within the last twenty-four (24) months) for at least three (3) months with documented failure of weight loss. Significant clinical evidence that weight is affecting overall health and is a threat to life will also be required.

The CO-OP requires that an initial psychological/ psychiatric evaluation resulting in a recommendation for Gastric Restrictive Surgical Services is performed prior to review consideration by the CO-OP's Care Management Program. The CO-OP may also require participation in a post-operative group therapy program.

### **6.24 Genetic Disease Testing Services**

Covered Services include Prior Authorized Medically Necessary Genetic Disease Testing, when:

- Such testing is prescribed following the Member's history, physical examination and pedigree analysis, genetic counseling, and completion of conventional diagnostic studies, and a definitive diagnosis remains uncertain and a genetic disease diagnosis is suspected, and;
- The Member displays clinical features, or is at direct risk of inheriting the mutation in question (pre-symptomatic); and
- The result of the test will directly impact the treatment being delivered to the Member.

### **6.25 Clinical Trial or Study**

Covered Services include coverage for medical treatment received as part of a clinical trial or study if the following provisions apply:

- The clinical trial or study is conducted in the state of Nevada;

- The medical treatment is provided in a Phase I, Phase II, Phase III or Phase IV clinical trial or study for the treatment of cancer or Phase II, Phase III, or Phase IV clinical trial or study for chronic fatigue syndrome;
- The clinical trial or study is approved by:
  1. An agency of the National Institutes of Health as set forth in 42 U.S.C. § 281(b) or other federal agency;
  2. A cooperative group;
  3. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) as an application for a new investigational drug;
  4. The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; or
  5. The U.S. Department of Defense.
- The medical treatment is provided by a duly licensed Provider of healthcare and the facility and personnel have the experience and training to provide the medical treatment in a capable manner;
- There is no medical treatment available which is considered a more appropriate alternative than the medical treatment provided in the clinical trial or study;
- There is a reasonable expectation based on clinical data that the medical treatment provided in the clinical trial or study will be at least as effective as any other medical treatment; and
- The Member has signed a statement of consent before his participation in the clinical trial or study indicating that he has been informed of:
  1. The procedure to be undertaken;
  2. Alternative methods of treatment; and
  3. The risks associated with participation in the clinical trial or study.

Benefit coverage for medical treatment received during a clinical trial or study is limited to the following Covered Services:

- The initial consultation to determine whether or not the Member is eligible to participate in the clinical trial or study;
- Any drug or device that is approved for sale by the FDA without regard to whether the approved drug or device has been approved for use in the medical treatment of the Member, if the drug or device is not paid for by the manufacturer, distributor, or Provider;
- Services normally covered under this Plan that are required as a result of the medical treatment or related complications provided in the clinical trial or study;

- Routine health care services that would otherwise be covered for the Member;
- Services required for the clinically appropriate monitoring of the Member during the clinical trial or study when not provided by the sponsor of the clinical trial or study, and, for a Phase I study, when such services are not directly related to such study.

Benefit coverage for medical treatment received during a clinical trial or study does not include:

- Any portion of the clinical trial or study that is customarily paid for by a government or a biotechnical, pharmaceutical or medical industry;
- Health care services that are specifically excluded from coverage under this Plan, regardless of whether such services are provided under the clinical trial or study;
- Health care services that are customarily provided by the sponsors of the clinical trial or study free of charge to the participants in the trial or study;
- Extraneous expenses related to participation in the clinical trial or study including, without limitation, travel, housing and other expenses that a participant may incur;
- Any expenses incurred by a person who accompanies the Member during the clinical trial or study;
- Any item or service that is provided solely to satisfy a need or desire for data collection or analysis that is not directly related to the clinical management of the insured; and
- Any costs for the management of research relating to the clinical trial or study.

Benefits for Covered Services in connection with a clinical trial or study are payable under this Plan to the same extent as any other Illness or Injury. Since there are no allowables for clinical trials, the CO-OP medical team will determine allowable rates based on the closest reasonable allowable for similar services. However, the coverage described above is not required to be covered if any such medical treatment is provided by the sponsor of the clinical trial or study free of charge to the Member.

Covered Services available for the clinical trial or study will be provided by a Plan Provider. If the Member must utilize a Non-Plan Provider, then the Non-Plan Provider shall be reimbursed at the same rate authorized to Plan Providers of similar services and the Non-Plan Provider shall accept the CO-OP's rate of reimbursement as payment in full.

The CO-OP will require a copy of the clinical trial or study certification approval, the Member's signed statement of consent, and any other materials related to the scope of the clinical trial or study relevant to the coverage of medical treatment.

In addition, if a Member participates in an approved clinical trial with respect to the treatment of cancer or another life-threatening disease or condition, the CO-OP will not deny (or limit or impose additional conditions on) the coverage of routine patient costs for items and services furnished in connection with participation in the trial and will not discriminate against the Member on the basis of the individual's participation in the trial. An "approved clinical trial" means a phase I, II, III or IV clinical trial that is conducted in relation to the prevention, detection, or treatment of cancer or other life-threatening disease or condition, and is either (i) a federally

funded or approved study or investigation, (ii) a study or investigation conducted under an investigational new drug application reviewed by the Food and Drug Administration, or (iii) a study or investigation that is a drug trial exempt from having such an investigational new drug application.

A Member is eligible to participate in an approved clinical trial according to the trial protocol with respect to the treatment of cancer or another life-threatening disease or condition; if either: (1) the referring health care professional is a Plan Provider and has concluded that the individual's participation in such trial would be appropriate; or (2) the Member provides medical and scientific information establishing that the individual's participation in such trial would be appropriate.

For questions about the coverage for clinical trials provision, including complaints regarding compliance with the statutory provision by health insurance issuers, contact the Nevada Division of Insurance at 1-888-872-3234, or the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, Center for Consumer Information and Insurance Oversight at 1-888-393-2789.

## **6.26 Medical Supplies**

Medical Supplies are routine supplies that are prescribed by a physician and customarily used during the course of treatment for an Illness or Injury. Medical Supplies include, but are not limited to the following:

- Catheter and catheter supplies – Foley catheters, drainage bags, irrigation trays;
- Colostomy bags (and other ostomy supplies);
- Dressing/wound care-sterile dressings, ace bandages, sterile gauze and toppers, Kling and Kerlix rolls, Telfa pads, eye pads, incontinent pads, lambs wool pads, sterile solutions, ointments, sterile applicators, sterile gloves;
- Elastic stockings;
- Enemas and douches;
- IV supplies;
- Sheets and bags;
- Splints and slings;
- Surgical face masks;
- Syringes and needles; and
- One Wig because of hair loss due to chemotherapy or radiation treatment for cancer.

## **6.27 Post-Cataract Surgical Services**

Covered Services include Medically Necessary services provided for the initial prescription for corrective lenses (eyeglasses or contact lenses) and frames or intra-ocular lens implants for Post-Cataract Surgical Services.

Contact lenses will be covered if a Member's visual acuity cannot be corrected to 20/70 in the better eye except for the use of contact lenses.

## **6.28 Hearing Aids**

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

Benefits are available for one purchase of a prescribed, CO-OP formulary approved hearing aid device from a Plan Preferred Provider. For these purposes a "Plan Preferred Provider" means a preferred hearing aid supplier as designated by the CO-OP. For a list of Plan Preferred Providers, contact the CO-OP.

Benefits are provided for the purchase of the hearing aid and for charges for associated fitting and testing. Repairs or replacements are covered once every three (3) years.

Benefits under this section do not include bone anchored hearing aids. Bone anchored hearing aids are a Covered Service for which benefits are available under the applicable medical/surgical Covered Services categories in the CO-OP EOC, only for Members who have either of the following:

- Craniofacial anomalies whose abnormal or absent ear canals preclude the use of a wearable hearing aid; or
- Hearing loss of sufficient severity that it would not be adequately remedied by a wearable hearing aid.

## **6.29 Infertility Services**

Covered Services include limited diagnostic and therapeutic infertility services determined to be Medically Necessary that are performed by a Plan Preferred Provider and Prior Authorized by the CO-OP's Care Management Program. For these purposes a "Plan Preferred Provider" means a preferred OB/GYN Provider as designated by the CO-OP. Not all Plan Providers who perform OB/GYN services qualify as Plan Preferred Providers. For a list of Plan Preferred Providers, contact the CO-OP.

Covered Services do not include those services specifically excluded herein, but do include limited:

- Laboratory studies;
- Diagnostic procedures; and
- Up to six (6) ovulation cycles per Member per lifetime.

### **6.30 Autism Spectrum Disorder**

Covered Services include Medically Necessary services that are generally recognized and accepted procedures for screening, diagnosing and treating Autism Spectrum Disorders for Members under the age of 18 or, if enrolled in high school, until such Member reaches the age of 22. Covered Services must be provided by a duly licensed physician, psychologist or Behavior Analyst (including an Assistant Behavior Analyst and/or Certified Autism Behavior Interventionist) and are subject to the CO-OP Cares Assistance Program. With the exception of the specific limitation on benefits for Applied Behavior Analysis (“ABA”) as outlined in Attachment A Benefit Schedule, benefits for all Covered Services for the treatment of Autism Spectrum Disorders are payable to the same extent as other Covered Services and Covered Drugs under the Plan.

Covered Services for the treatment of Autism Spectrum Disorder do not include services provided by:

- An early intervention agency or school for services delivered through early intervention, or
- School services.

### **6.31 Prenatal and Postnatal Care**

Prenatal and postnatal services for females are covered by the Plan with no cost-sharing when provided by Plan Providers. Standard cost-sharing applies to the use of Non-Plan Providers. Coverage is provided for a standard manual or standard electric breast pump, plus necessary breast pump supplies. Coverage is available at no cost from in-network PPO providers only. Standard cost-sharing applies to the use of non-PPO providers.

## **SECTION 7. EXCLUSIONS**

This section tells you what services or supplies are excluded from coverage under this Plan.

- 7.1** Services or supplies for which coverage is not specifically provided in this EOC, complications resulting from non-Covered Services, or services which are not Medically Necessary, whether or not recommended or provided by a Provider.
- 7.2** Services that require Prior Authorization by the CO-OP’s Care Management Program that are provided without such Prior Authorization.
- 7.3** Medical care received outside the CO-OP’s Service Area without Prior Authorization from the CO-OP’s Care Management Program if the need for such services could reasonably have been foreseen prior to leaving the CO-OP’s Service Area.
- 7.4** Any charges for non-Emergency Services provided outside the United States.

- 7.5** Any services provided before the Effective Date or after the termination of this Plan. This includes admission to an Inpatient facility when the admission began before the Effective Date or extended beyond the termination date of the Plan.
- 7.6** Personal comfort, hygiene or convenience items such as a hospital television, telephone, or private room when not Medically Necessary. Housekeeping or meal services as part of Home Healthcare. Modifications to a place of residence, including equipment to accommodate physical handicaps or disabilities.
- 7.7** Dental or orthodontic splints or dental prostheses, or any treatment on or to teeth, gums, or jaws and other services customarily provided by a dentist. Treatment of pain or infection known or thought to be due to a dental condition and in close proximity to the teeth or jaw; surgical correction of malocclusion; maxillofacial orthognathic surgery, oral surgery (except as provided under the Covered Services Section), orthodontia treatment, pre-prosthetic surgery and any procedure involving osteotomy of the jaw, including outpatient Hospital or ambulatory surgical services, anesthesia and related costs when determined by the CO-OP to relate to a dental condition.

Charges for dental services in connection with temporomandibular joint dysfunction are also not covered unless they are determined to be Medically Necessary. Such dental-related services are subject to the limitation shown in the Attachment A Benefit Schedule.

- 7.8** Except for reconstructive surgery following a mastectomy, cosmetic procedures to improve appearance without restoring a physical bodily function. Cosmetic procedures include:
- Surgery for sagging or extra skin;
  - Any augmentation or reduction procedures;
  - Rhinoplasty and associated surgery; and
  - Any procedures utilizing an implant which does not alter physiologic functions unless Medically Necessary.

Psychological factors (example: for self-image, difficult social or peer relations) do not constitute restoring a physical bodily function and are not relevant to such determinations.

- 7.9** The following infertility services and supplies are excluded, in addition to any other infertility services or supplies determined by the CO-OP not to be Medically Necessary:
- Advanced reproductive techniques such as embryo transplants, in vitro fertilization, GIFT and ZIFT procedures, assisted hatching, intracytoplasmic sperm injection, egg retrieval via laparoscope or needle aspiration, sperm preparation, specialized sperm retrieval techniques, sperm washing except prior to artificial insemination if required;
  - Home pregnancy or ovulation tests;
  - Sonohysterography;

- Monitoring of ovarian response to stimulants;
- CT or MRI of sella turcica unless elevated prolactin level;
- Evaluation for sterilization reversal;
- Laparoscopy;
- Ovarian wedge resection;
- Removal of fibroids, uterine septae and polyps;
- Open or laparoscopic resection, fulguration, or removal of endometrial implants;
- Surgical lysis of adhesions;
- Surgical tube reconstruction.

**7.10** Reversal of surgically performed sterilization.

**7.11** Elective abortions.

**7.12** Amniocentesis, except when Medically Necessary under the guidelines of the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology.

**7.13** Any services or supplies rendered in connection with Member acting as or utilizing the services of a surrogate mother.

**7.14** Third-party physical exams for employment, licensing, insurance, school, camp, sports or adoption purposes. Immunizations related to foreign travel. Expenses for medical reports, including presentation and preparation. Exams or treatment ordered by a court, or in connection with legal proceedings are not covered.

**7.15** Except as provided in the Covered Services Gastric Restrictive Surgical Services section or for obesity screening and other Preventive Services, weight reduction procedures are excluded. Also excluded are any weight loss programs, whether or not recommended, provided or prescribed by a Physician or other medical Practitioner.

**7.16** Except as provided in the Covered Services Organ and Tissue Transplant Surgical Services section, any human or animal transplant (organ, tissue, skin, blood, blood transfusions of bone marrow), whether human-to-human or involving a non-human device, artificial organs, or prostheses.

- Any and all services or supplies, treatments, laboratory tests or x-rays received by the donor in connection with the transplant (including donor search, donor transportation, testing, registry and retrieval/harvesting costs) and costs related to cadaver or animal retrieval or maintenance of a donor for such retrieval.
- Any and all Hospital, Physician, laboratory or x-ray services in any way related to any excluded transplant service, procedure or treatment.



- 7.17** Institutional care which is determined by the CO-OP's Care Management Program to be for the primary purpose of controlling Member's environment and Custodial Care, domiciliary care, convalescent care (other than Skilled Nursing Care) or rest cures.
- 7.18** Vision exams to determine refractive errors of vision and eyeglasses or contact lenses other than as specifically covered in this EOC. Coverage is provided for vision exams only when required to diagnose an Illness or Injury.
- 7.19** Any prescription corrective lenses (eyeglasses or contact lenses) or frames following Post-Cataract Surgical Service which include, but are not limited to the following:
- Coated lenses;
  - Cosmetic contact lenses;
  - Costs for lenses and frames in excess of the Plan allowance;
  - No-line bifocal or trifocal lenses;
  - Oversize lenses;
  - Plastic multi-focal lenses;
  - Tinted or photochromic lenses;
  - Two (2) pairs of lenses and frames in lieu of bifocal lenses and frames; or
  - All prescription sunglasses.
- 7.20** Coverage is provided for hearing exams only when required to diagnose an Illness or Injury.
- Bone anchored hearing aids are excluded except when either of the following applies:
    - For Members with craniofacial anomalies whose abnormal or absent ear canals preclude the use of a wearable hearing aid; or
    - For Members with hearing loss of sufficient severity that it would not be adequately remedied by a wearable hearing aid.

Also excluded is more than one bone anchored hearing aid per Member who meets the above coverage criteria during the entire period of time the Member is enrolled under the Plan, as well as repairs and/or replacements for a bone anchored hearing aid for Members who meet the above coverage criteria, other than for malfunctions.

- 7.21** Ecological or environmental medicine. Use of chelation, orthomolecular substances; use of substances of animal, vegetable, chemical or mineral origin not specifically approved by the FDA as effective for treatment; electrodiagnosis; Hahnemannian dilution and succussion; magnetically energized geometric patterns; replacement of metal dental fillings; laetrile or gerovital.

- 7.22** Pain management invasive procedures as defined by the CO-OP's protocols for chronic, intractable pain unless Prior Authorized by the CO-OP and provided by a pain management Specialist. Any Prior Authorized pain management procedures will be subject to the applicable facility and professional Copayments and/or Coinsurance amount as set forth in Attachment A, Benefit Schedule.
- 7.23** Hypnosis.
- 7.24** Treatment of an Illness or Injury caused by or arising out of a riot, declared or undeclared war or act of war, insurrection, rebellion, armed invasion or aggression.
- 7.25** Treatment of an occupational Illness or Injury which is any Illness or Injury arising out of or in the course of employment for pay or profit.
- 7.26** Travel and accommodations, whether or not recommended or prescribed by a Provider, other than as specifically covered in this Plan.
- 7.27** Outpatient Prescription Drugs, nutritional supplements, vitamins, herbal medicines, appetite suppressants, Specialty drugs, and other over-the-counter drugs, except as specifically covered in the Prescription Drug benefit description. This includes drugs and supplies for a patient's use after discharge from a Hospital. Drugs and medicines approved by the FDA for experimental or investigational use or any drug that has been approved by the FDA for less than six (6) months unless Prior Authorized by the CO-OP.
- 7.28** Care for conditions that federal, state or local law requires to be treated in a public facility.
- 7.29** Any equipment or supplies that condition the air. Arch supports, support stockings, special shoe accessories or corrective shoes unless they are an integral part of a lower-body brace. Heating pads, hot water bottles, and other primarily nonmedical equipment.
- 7.30** Any service or supply in connection with routine foot care, including the removal of warts, corns, or calluses, the cutting and trimming of toenails, or foot care for flat feet, fallen arches and chronic foot strain, in the absence of severe systemic disease.
- 7.31** Special formulas, food supplements other than as specifically covered in this EOC or special diets on an outpatient basis.
- 7.32** Services, supplies or accommodations provided without cost to the Member or for which the Member is not legally required to pay.
- 7.33** Milieu therapy, biofeedback, behavior modification, sensitivity training, hydrotherapy, electrohypnosis, electrosleep therapy, electronarcosis, narcosynthesis, rolffing, residential treatment, vocational rehabilitation and wilderness programs.
- 7.34** Experimental or investigational treatment or devices as determined by the CO-OP.

- 7.35** Sports medicine treatment plans intended to primarily improve athletic ability.
- 7.36** Radial keratotomy or any surgical procedure for the improvement of vision when vision can be made adequate through the use of glasses or contact lenses.
- 7.37** Any services given by a Provider to himself or to members of his family.
- 7.38** Ambulance services when a Member could be safely transported by other means. Air Ambulance services when a Member could be safely transported by ground Ambulance or other means.
- 7.39** Late discharge billing and charges resulting from a canceled appointment or procedure.
- 7.40** Telemetry readings, EKG interpretations when billed separately from the EKG procedure. Arterial blood gas interpretations when billed separately from the procedure.
- 7.41** Services of more than one (1) assistant surgeon at one (1) operative session, unless approved in advance by the CO-OP or its Medical Director. Service of an assistant surgeon when the Hospital provides or makes available qualified staff personnel (including Physicians in training status) as surgical assistants. Services of an assistant surgeon provided solely to meet a Hospital's institutional requirements when the complexity of the surgery does not warrant an assistant surgeon.
- 7.42** Autologous blood donations.
- 7.43** Healthcare services or supplies to which a contributing cause was the Member's commission of or attempt to commit a felony or to which a contributing cause was the insured's being engaged in an illegal occupation.
- 7.44** Lost wages for any reason. Compensation for time spent seeking services or Coverage for services.
- 7.45** All shipping, delivery, handling or postage expenses, except as incidentally provided without a separate charge, in connection with Covered Services or supplies. Interest or finance expenses except as specifically required by law.

## **SECTION 8. LIMITATIONS**

This section tells you when the CO-OP's duty to provide or arrange for services is limited.

### **8.1 Liability**

The CO-OP will not be liable for any delay or failure to provide or arrange for Covered Services if the delay or failure is caused by the following:

- Natural disaster.
- War.

- Riot.
- Civil insurrection.
- Epidemic.
- Or any other emergency beyond the CO-OP’s control.

In the event of one of these types of emergencies, the CO-OP and its Plan Providers will provide the Covered Services shown in this EOC to the extent practical according to their best judgment.

**8.2 Calendar Year Maximum Benefit Limitations**

Please see Attachment A Benefit Schedule for Calendar Year maximums applicable to certain benefits. No dollar maximums shall apply to any benefit to the extent such benefit constitutes an Essential Health Benefit.

**8.3 Annual Out-of-Pocket Maximums**

Please see Attachment A Benefit Schedule for the annual Out-of-Pocket Maximums that apply separately to Plan Provider and Non-Plan Provider benefits.

**8.4 Scope of Practice.**

A Member will be covered for services rendered due to an Injury or Illness that is within the authorized scope of practice of a licensed allied practitioner listed below so long as the practitioner is licensed pursuant to the applicable licensing laws of the Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS).

<u>Licensed Allied Practitioners</u>	<u>Nevada Licensing Laws</u>
Licensed Chiropractor	Chapter 634 of the NRS
Licensed Psychologist	Chapter 641 of the NRS
Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist	Chapter 641A of the NRS
Licensed Associate in Social Work	Chapter 641B of the NRS
Licensed Social Worker	Chapter 641B of the NRS
Licensed Independent Social Worker	Chapter 641B of the NRS
Licensed Clinical Social Worker	Chapter 641B of the NRS
Licensed Podiatrist	Chapter 635 of the NRS
Licensed Acupuncturist	Chapter 634A of the NRS

A Member will be covered for the services provided by a registered nurse for services that are within the authorized scope of practice of a registered nurse who is authorized pursuant to Chapter 32 of the NRS to perform additional acts in an Emergency or under other special conditions as prescribed by the state board of nursing. However, the Plan will not cover services by any such a registered nurse if they duplicate services provided by another Provider.

## **SECTION 9. COORDINATION OF BENEFITS (COB)**

This section tells you how other health insurance you may have affects your coverage under this Plan.

### **9.1 The Purpose of COB**

Coordination of Benefits (COB) is intended to help contain the cost of providing healthcare coverage. When an individual person has dual coverage through the CO-OP and another healthcare plan, the COB guidelines outlined in this Section apply. The COB guidelines explain how, in a dual healthcare coverage situation, benefits are coordinated or shared by each plan. In no event will the Plan pay more for benefits provided to an individual with dual coverage than it would have paid in the absence of such dual coverage.

### **9.2 Benefits Subject to COB**

All of the healthcare benefits provided under this EOC are subject to this Section. The Member agrees to permit the CO-OP to coordinate its obligations under this EOC with payments under any other valid coverage.

### **9.3 Definitions**

Some words in this Section have a special meaning to meet the needs of this Section. These words and their meaning when used are:

(a) “**Plan**” will mean an entity providing Group healthcare benefits or services by any of the following methods:

1. Insurance or any other arrangement for coverage for individuals whether on an insured or uninsured basis, including the following:
  - a. Hospital indemnity benefits with regard to the amount in excess of \$30 per day.
  - b. Hospital reimbursement type plans which permit the insured person to elect indemnity benefits at the time of claim.
2. Service plan contracts, group practice, individual practice and other prepayment coverage.

3. Any coverage for students that is sponsored by, or provided through, school or other educational institutions, other than accident coverage for grammar school or high school students that the parent pays the entire premium.

4. Any coverage under labor management trustee plans, union welfare plans, employer organization plans, employee benefit plans, or employee benefit organization plans.

5. Coverage under a governmental program, including Medicare and workers' compensation plans.

The term "Plan" will be construed separately with respect to each policy, contract or other arrangement for benefits or services and separately with respect to that portion of any such policy, contract or other arrangement which reserves the right to take the benefits or services of other Plans into consideration in determining its benefits and that portion which does not.

(b) "**Allowable Expense**" means the Allowable Expense for Medically Necessary Covered Services. When a Plan provides benefits in the form of services rather than cash payments, the reasonable cash value of each service rendered shall be an Allowable Expense and a benefit paid.

(c) "**Claim Determination Period**" means the Calendar Year.

(d) "**Primary Plan**" means a Plan that, in accordance with the rules regarding the order of benefits determination, provides benefits or benefit payments without considering any other Plan.

(e) "**Secondary Plan**" means a Plan that in accordance with the rules regarding the order of benefit determination, may reduce its benefits or benefit payments and/or recover from the Primary Plan benefit payments.

#### **9.4 When COB Applies**

COB applies when a Member covered under this Plan is also entitled to receive payment for or provision of some or all of the same Covered Services from another Plan.

#### **9.5 Determination Rules**

The rules establishing the order of benefit determination are:

(a) **Non-Dependent or Dependent.** A Plan that covers the person as a Subscriber is primary to a Plan that covers the person as a Dependent.

(b) **Active/Inactive Subscriber.** A Plan that covers a person as a Subscriber who is neither laid-off nor retired (or that Subscriber's Dependents) is primary to a Plan that covers that person as a laid-off or retired Subscriber (or that Subscriber's Dependents). If the other Plan does not have this rule, and if as a result, the Plans do not agree on the order of benefits, this rule (d) is ignored.

(c) **Longer/Shorter Length of Coverage.** If none of the above rules determines the order of benefits, the Plan that covered the person for a longer period of time is primary to the Plan which covered that person for the shorter time period.

Two consecutive Plans shall be treated as one Plan if:

1. That person was eligible under the second Plan within 24 hours after the termination of the first Plan; and
2. There was a change in the amount or scope of a Plan's benefits or there was a change in the entity paying, providing or administering Plan benefits; or
3. There was a change from one type of Plan to another (e.g., single employer to multiple employer Plan).

(d) **If No COB Provision.** If another Plan does not contain a provision coordinating its benefits with those of this Plan, the benefits of such other Plan will be considered primary.

## **9.6 How COB Works**

Plans use COB to decide which healthcare coverage programs should be the Primary Plan for the Covered Service. If the Primary Plan payment is less than the charge for the Covered Service, then the Secondary Plan will apply its Allowable Expense to the unpaid balance. Benefits payable under another Plan include the benefits that would have been payable if the Member had filed a claim for them.

## **9.7 Right to Receive and Release Information**

In order to decide if this COB Section (or any other Plan's COB Section) applies to a claim, the CO-OP (without the consent of or notice to any person) has the right to the following:

- (a) Release to any person, insurance company or organization, the necessary claim information.
- (b) Receive from any person, insurance company or organization, the necessary claim information.
- (c) Require any person claiming benefits under this Plan to give the CO-OP any information needed by the CO-OP to coordinate those benefits.

## **9.8 Facility of Payment**

If another Plan makes a payment that should have been made by the CO-OP, then the CO-OP has the right to pay the other Plan any amount necessary to satisfy the CO-OP's obligation. Any amount paid shall be deemed to be benefits paid under this Plan, and to the extent of such payments, the CO-OP shall be fully discharged from liability under this Plan.

## **9.9 Right to Recover Payment**

If the amount of benefit payment exceeds the amount needed to satisfy the CO-OP's obligation under this section, the CO-OP has the right to recover the excess amount from one or more of the following:

- (a) Any persons to or for whom such payments were made.
- (b) Any group insurance companies or service plans.
- (c) Any other organizations.

## **9.10 Failure to Cooperate**

If a Member fails to cooperate with the CO-OP's administration of this section, the Member may be responsible for the expenses for the services rendered and if legal action is taken, a court could make the Member responsible for any legal expense incurred by the CO-OP to enforce its rights under this section.

Member cooperation includes the completion of the necessary paperwork that would enable the CO-OP to collect payment from the Primary Plan for services. Any benefits paid to the Member in excess of actual expenses must be refunded to the CO-OP.

## **9.11 Medicare**

This provision describes how the CO-OP coordinates and pays benefits when a Member is also enrolled in Medicare and duplication of Coverage occurs. If a Member is not enrolled in Medicare or receiving benefits, there is no duplication of Coverage and the CO-OP does not have to coordinate with Medicare.

The benefits under this Evidence of Coverage are not intended to duplicate any benefits to which Members are entitled under Medicare. All sums payable under such programs for services provided shall be payable to and retained by the CO-OP. Each Member shall complete and submit to the CO-OP such consents, releases, assignments and other documents as may be requested by the CO-OP in order to obtain or assure reimbursement under Medicare or any other government program for which Members are eligible. In cases where Medicare or another government program has primary responsibility, Medicare benefits will be taken into account for any Member who is enrolled for Medicare. This will be done before the benefits under this Health Plan are calculated.

Charges for services used to satisfy a Member's Medicare Part B deductible will be applied in the order received by the CO-OP. Two or more charges for services received at the same time will be applied starting with the largest first.

Any rules for coordination of benefits will be applied after the CO-OP's benefits have been calculated under the rules in this provision. Allowable Expenses will be reduced by any Medicare benefits available for those expenses.



This provision will apply to the maximum extent permitted by federal or state law. The CO-OP will not reduce the benefits due any Member because of a Member's eligibility for Medicare where federal law requires that the CO-OP determine its benefits for that Member without regard to the benefits available under Medicare.

## **9.12 Workers' compensation**

The benefits which a Member is entitled to receive under this Evidence of Coverage are not designed to duplicate any benefits to which the Member is entitled under workers' compensation law. The CO-OP is entitled to reimbursement for any services that have been reimbursed under a workers' compensation claim.

1. Member is required to file for workers' compensation when an employment related accident, illness or injury occurs.

2. If Member's workers' compensation carrier denies a claim, Member may submit the claim to the CO-OP with a copy of the denial for consideration under this Evidence of Coverage. All plan provisions of this Evidence of Coverage will apply in the consideration process for payment under this plan.

3. Workers' compensation claims that are not a benefit under this Evidence of Coverage are not payable by the CO-OP.

4. Any benefits payable are subject to all provisions of this Evidence of Coverage, including but not limited to the Precertification requirements.

## **SECTION 10. SUBROGATION**

If a Member's Illness or Injury is caused by a third party, and the Member has the right to recover damages from that third party, the CO-OP will provide or make payment for Covered Services related to such Illness or Injury. Acceptance of such Covered Services or payment shall constitute consent to the provisions of this section.

### **10.1 Member Reimbursement Obligation**

If a Member receives payment for medical services and supplies from a third party through a suit or settlement, the Member will be obligated to reimburse the CO-OP for the actual cost incurred by the CO-OP for benefits provided under this Plan for such services and supplies, but no more than the amount the Member recovers.

### **10.2 Right of Recovery**

The CO-OP shall place a lien on all funds recovered by the Member up to the actual cost incurred by the CO-OP for the services and supplies provided to the Member. The CO-OP may give notice of that lien to any party who may have contributed to the loss.

The CO-OP has the right to be subrogated to the Member's rights to the extent of the benefits payable for Covered Services received under this Plan. This includes the CO-OP's right to bring suit against a third party in the Member's name.

### **10.3 Member Cooperation**

The Member must take such action, furnish such information and assistance, and execute such instruments as the CO-OP may require to facilitate enforcement of its rights under this provision. The Member shall take no action prejudicing the rights and interests of the CO-OP under this provision.

Any Member who fails to cooperate in the CO-OP's administration of this section shall be responsible for the actual cost of the services rendered in connection with the Illness or Injury caused by a third party.

## **SECTION 11. GENERAL PROVISIONS**

### **11.1 Relationship of Parties**

The relationship between the CO-OP and Plan Providers is an independent contractor relationship. Plan Providers are not agents or employees of the CO-OP; nor is the CO-OP, or any employee of the CO-OP, an employee or agent of a Plan Provider. The CO-OP is not liable for any claim or demand on account of damages as a result of, or in any manner connected with, any Injury suffered by a Member while receiving care from any Plan Provider or in any Plan Provider's facility. The CO-OP is not bound by statements or promises made by its Plan Providers.

### **11.2 Entire Agreement**

This EOC, including Attachment A Benefit Schedule and any other Attachments, Endorsements, Riders or Amendments to it, the Member's Enrollment Form, health statements, Member Identification Card, and all other applications received by the CO-OP constitutes the entire agreement between the Member and the CO-OP and as of its Effective Date, replaces all other agreements between the parties. The CO-OP will furnish to the Group for delivery to each Member a statement in summary form of the essential features of the Member's coverage and to whom benefits thereunder are payable.

### **11.3 Nondiscrimination**

The CO-OP will not refuse to insure, refuse to enroll, refuse to continue insurance, refuse to renew insurance, cancel insurance, or limit the amount, duration or scope of Coverage or benefits available to an individual in a manner arbitrarily discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, disability, age, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, diagnosis or medical condition. This EOC provides Coverage for all Essential Health Benefits deemed Medically Necessary for a Member, without arbitrary discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, disability, age, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, diagnosis or medical condition. If you believe the CO-OP has discriminated against you on the basis of any of these factors, you may file a complaint with the Office of Civil Rights at the Department of Health and Human Services.

For more information, see the Office of Civil Rights website at <http://www.hhs.gov/ocr/civilrights/complaints/index.html>.

#### **11.4 Contestability**

Any and all statements made to the CO-OP by the Group and any Subscriber, will, in the absence of fraud, be considered representations and not warranties. Also, no statement, unless it is contained in a written application for coverage, shall be used in defense to a claim under this Plan.

#### **11.5 Authority to Change the Form or Content of this Plan**

No agent or employee of the CO-OP is authorized to change the form or content of this Plan or waive any of its provisions. Such changes can be made only through an amendment authorized and signed by an officer of the CO-OP.

#### **11.6 Identification Card**

Cards issued by the CO-OP to Members are for identification only. Possession of a CO-OP identification card does not give the holder any right to services or other benefits under this Plan.

To be entitled to such services or benefits, the holder of the card must in fact be a Member and all applicable premiums must actually have been paid. Any person not entitled to receive services or other benefits will be liable for the actual cost of such services or benefits.

#### **11.7 Notice**

Any notice under this Plan may be given by United States mail, first class, postage prepaid, addressed as follows:

Nevada Health CO-OP  
3900 Meadows Lane, Suite 214  
Las Vegas, Nevada 89107

Notice to a Member will be sent to the Member's last known address.

#### **11.8 Interpretation of the EOC**

The laws of Nevada shall be applied to interpretation of this EOC except to the extent federal law preempts such State laws.

## **11.9 Assignment**

This Plan is not assignable by the Group without the written consent of the CO-OP. The coverage and any benefits under this Plan are not assignable by any Member without the written consent of the CO-OP.

## **11.10 Modifications**

The Group makes the CO-OP coverage available under this Plan to Eligible Employees. However, the Plan is subject to amendment, modification or termination with sixty (60) days written notice to the Group without the consent or concurrence of the Members. By electing medical coverage with the CO-OP or accepting benefits under this Plan, all Members legally capable of contracting, and the legal representatives of all Members incapable of contracting, agree to all terms and provisions.

## **11.11 Clerical Error**

Clerical error in keeping any record pertaining to the coverage will not invalidate coverage in force or continue coverage terminated.

## **11.12 Policies and Procedures**

The CO-OP may adopt reasonable policies, procedures, rules and interpretations to promote the orderly and efficient administration of this Plan with which Members shall comply. These policies and procedures are maintained by the CO-OP at its offices. Such policies and procedures may have bearing on whether a medical service and/or supply is covered.

## **11.13 New Technology**

The CO-OP periodically reviews new procedures, medications, treatments, and devices and new ways to use current procedures, medications, treatments, and devices to determine whether or not to update Covered Services to reflect new technology. Providers and Members may ask the CO-OP to cover new technology by submitting a written request to the CO-OP's New Technology Committee. When the CO-OP receives such a request, the CO-OP's New Technology Committee conducts a thorough investigation of the procedure, medication, treatment, or device. The CO-OP's New Technology Committee will research current related medical literature and medical practice and thoroughly discuss the findings in order to make a decision on the coverage request.

## **11.14 Overpayments**

The CO-OP has the right to correct and/or collect benefit payments for healthcare services made in error. Hospitals, Physicians, Providers, and/or Members have the responsibility to return any overpayments or incorrect payments to the CO-OP. The CO-OP has the right to offset any such overpayment against any future payments.

### **11.15 Cost Containment Features**

This Plan contains at least the following cost containment provisions including, but not limited to:

- (a) Preventive healthcare benefits.
- (b) The Care Management Program.
- (c) Benefit limitations on certain services.
- (d) Member Copayments, Deductibles and Coinsurance.

### **11.16 Release of Records**

Each Member authorizes the Physician, Hospital, Skilled Nursing Facility or any other Provider of healthcare to permit the examination and copying of the Member's medical records, as requested by the CO-OP.

Information from medical records and information received from Physicians or Hospitals incident to the Physician/Patient relationship or Hospital/Patient relationship shall be kept confidential and except for use in connection with government requirements established by law or the administration of this Plan, records may not be disclosed to any unrelated third party without the Member's consent.

### **11.17 Reimbursement for Claims**

Non-Plan Providers may require immediate payment for their services and supplies. If the Member receives a bill for Covered Services from a Non-Plan Provider, the Member may request that the CO-OP pay the Provider directly by sending the bill, with copies of all medical records and a signed completed Non-Plan Provider Claim Form, to the CO-OP Claims Department. Non-Plan Provider Claim Forms can be obtained by contacting the CO-OP Care Department at (702) 823-2667 or (855) 606-2667.

The CO-OP shall approve or deny a claim within thirty (30) days after receipt of the claim. If the claim is approved, the claim shall be paid within thirty (30) days from the date it was approved. If the approved claim is not paid within that thirty (30) day period, the CO-OP shall pay interest on the claim at the rate set forth by applicable Nevada law. The interest will be calculated from thirty (30) days after the date on which the claim is approved until the date upon which the claim is paid.

The CO-OP may request additional information to determine whether to approve or deny the claim. The CO-OP shall notify the Provider of its request for additional information within twenty (20) days after receipt of the claim. The CO-OP will notify the Provider of the healthcare services of all the specific reasons for the delay in approving or denying the claim. The CO-OP shall approve or deny the claim within thirty (30) days after receiving the additional information. If the claim is approved, the CO-OP shall pay the claim within thirty (30) days after it receives the

additional information. If the approved claim is not paid within that time period, the CO-OP shall pay interest on the claim in the manner set forth above.

If the CO-OP denies the claim, notice to the Member will include the reasons for the rejection and the Members right to file a written complaint as set forth in the Appeals Procedures Section herein.

#### **11.18 Timely Filing Requirement**

All claims must be submitted to the CO-OP within sixty (60) days from the date expenses were incurred, unless it shall be shown not to have been reasonably possible to give notice within the time limit, and that notice was furnished as soon as was reasonably possible. If Member authorizes payment directly to the Provider, a check will be mailed to that Provider. A check will be mailed to the Member directly if payment directly to the Provider is not authorized. The Member will receive an explanation of how the payment was determined.

No payments shall be made under this Plan with respect to any claim, including additions or corrections to a claim which has already been submitted, that is not received by the CO-OP within twelve (12) months after the date Covered Services were provided. In no event will the CO-OP pay more than the CO-OP's Allowable Expense for such services.

#### **11.19 Gender References**

Whenever a masculine pronoun is used in this EOC, it also includes the feminine pronoun.

#### **11.20 Legal Proceedings**

No action of law or equity shall be brought to recover on the Plan prior to the expiration of sixty (60) days after proof of claim has been filed in accordance with the requirements of the Plan. No such action shall be brought at any time unless brought within the time limit allowed by the laws of the jurisdiction of issue.

If the laws of the jurisdiction of issue do not designate the maximum length of time in which such action may be brought, no action may be brought after the expiration of three (3) years from the time proof of loss is required by the Plan.

#### **11.21 Availability of Providers**

The CO-OP does not guarantee the continued availability of any specific Plan Provider.

#### **11.22 Authorized Representative**

A Member may elect to designate an "Authorized Representative" to act on their behalf to pursue a Claim for Benefits or the appeal of an Adverse Benefit Determination. The term Member also includes the Member's Authorized Representative, where applicable and appropriate. To designate an Authorized Representative, a written notice, signed and dated by the Member, is required. The notice must include the full name of the Authorized Representative and must

indicate specifically for which Claim for Benefits or appeal the authorization is valid. The notice should be sent to:

Nevada Health CO-OP  
3900 Meadows Lane, Suite 214  
Las Vegas, Nevada 89107

Any correspondence from the CO-OP regarding the specified Claim for Benefits or appeal will be provided to both the Member and his Authorized Representative.

In case of an Urgent Care Claim, a healthcare professional with knowledge of the Member's medical condition shall be permitted to act as an Authorized Representative of the Member without designation by the Member.

### **11.23 Failure to Obtain Prior Authorization**

If a Physician or Member fails to follow the Plan's procedures for filing a request for Prior Authorization (Pre-Service Claim), the Member shall be notified of the failure and the proper procedures to be followed in order to obtain Prior Authorization provided the Member's request for Prior Authorization is received by an employee or department of the Plan customarily responsible for handling benefit matters and the original request specifically named the Member, a specific medical condition or symptom, and a specific treatment, service or product for which approval is requested. The Member notification of correct Prior Authorization procedures from the Plan shall be provided as soon as possible, but not later than five (5) days (twenty-four (24) hours in the case of an Urgent Care Claim) following the Plan's receipt of the Member's original request. Notification by the CO-OP may be oral unless specifically requested in writing by the Member.

### **11.24 Timing of Notification of Benefit Determination**

**Urgent Care Claim.** If a Member has a claim for Urgent care and provides sufficient information to determine whether benefits are covered, the Plan will make a decision on the Claim as soon as possible and not later than 72 hours after the Plan receives the Claim. If a Member has an Urgent Care Claim and does not provide sufficient information to determine whether benefits are covered, the Member will be told within 24 hours what additional information is needed to decide the Claim. The Member will then have at least 48 hours to provide the additional information.

The Plan will notify the Member of its decision as soon as possible and within 48 hours after (1) all necessary information is provided, or (2) the 48 hours the Member has in which to provide the necessary information ends, whichever is sooner.

In general, an "Urgent Care Claim" is a Claim for which using the usual Claim determination period could seriously jeopardize the life or health of the claimant.

**Concurrent Care Claim.** If the CO-OP has approved an ongoing course of treatment to be provided over a period of time or number of treatments and reduces or terminates coverage of such course of treatment (other than by Plan amendment or termination) before the end of such

period of time or number of treatments, the CO-OP will notify the Member at a time sufficiently in advance of the reduction or termination to allow the Member to appeal and obtain a determination before the benefit is reduced or terminated. Subject to the following paragraph, such request may be treated as a new Claim for Benefits and decided within the timeframes applicable to either a Pre-Service Claim or a Post-Service Claim, as appropriate; provided, however, any appeal of such a determination must be made within a reasonable time and may not be afforded the full 180 day period as described in the Appeals Procedures Section herein.

Any request by a Member to extend the course of treatment beyond the period of time or number of treatments for an Urgent Care Claim shall be decided as soon as possible. The CO-OP shall notify the Member within twenty-four (24) hours after receipt of the Claim for Benefits by the Plan, provided that the request is received at least twenty-four (24) hours prior to the expiration of the authorized period of time or number of treatments. If the request is not made at least twenty-four (24) hours prior to the expiration of the authorized period of time or number of treatments, the request will be treated as an Urgent Care Claim.

**Pre-Service Claim.** If a Member makes a Claim for benefits before receiving the benefits, and it is neither an Urgent Care Claim or a Concurrent Care Claim, the Claim will be decided within a reasonable time no longer than 15 days after receipt of the Claim. However, an additional 15 days may be needed if there are special circumstances beyond the Plan's control. If so, the Member will be given notice of the special circumstances before the end of the first 15 days and told whether additional information is needed to decide the claim. The Member will have at least 45 days to provide the additional information. Keep in mind that only where Prior Authorization is required will such a request prior to receiving benefits be an official Claim.

The Plan will notify the Member if a request for Prior Authorization is not sufficient to be a Claim as soon as possible, but in any event not later than five (5) days (24 hours in a case of an Urgent Care Claim), and tell the Member how to submit a proper claim for prior approval of treatment.

**Post-Service Claims.** If a Member makes a Claim for benefits after receiving the treatment, and it is neither an Urgent Care Claim or a Concurrent Care Claim, the Claim will be decided within a reasonable time, no longer than 30 days after receipt of the Claim. However, an additional 15 days may be needed if there are special circumstances beyond the Plan's control. If so, the Member will be given notice of the special circumstances before the end of the first 30 days and told whether additional information is needed to decide the Claim. The Member will have at least 45 days to provide the additional information.

## **11.25 Notification of an Adverse Benefit Determination**

If you receive an Adverse Benefit Determination, you will be provided in writing information sufficient to identify the claim involved and informed in writing of the following:

- The specific reason or reasons for upholding the Adverse Benefit Determination;
- The date of service;
- The name of the health care provider;



- The claim amount;
- Notification that you may request, and the Plan will provide upon request, the diagnosis code and treatment code along with the corresponding meaning of such codes;
- The reason for the Adverse Benefit Determination, including any denial code, corresponding meaning of such code and a description of the Plan's standard, if any, that was used in denying the claim, and, for a final Adverse Benefit Determination Notice, a discussion of the Plan's decision;
- Reference to the specific Plan provisions on which the determination is based;
- A description of any additional material or information necessary for the Claim for Benefits to be approved, modified or reversed, and an explanation of why such material or information is necessary;
- If the denial relates to a claim involving urgent care, a description of the expedited review process applicable to such claim;
- A description of available internal appeals and external review processes, including information regarding how to initiate an appeal;
- A statement of the Member's right to bring a civil action under ERISA Section 502(a) following an appeal of an Adverse Benefit Determination, if applicable;
- A statement that any internal rule, guideline, protocol or other similar criteria that was relied on in making the determination is available free of charge upon the Member's request; and
- If the Adverse Benefit Determination is based on Medical Necessity or experimental treatment or similar exclusion or limit, either an explanation of the scientific or clinical judgment or a statement that such explanation will be provided free of charge.
- Information regarding the availability of, and contact information for, any applicable office of health insurance consumer assistance or ombudsman available to assist with internal claims and appeals and external review processes.

## **SECTION 12. APPEALS PROCEDURES**

The CO-OP Appeals Procedures are available to you in the event you are dissatisfied with some aspect of the Plan administration or you wish to appeal an Adverse Benefit Determination. This procedure does not apply to any problem of misunderstanding or misinformation that can be promptly resolved by the Plan supplying the Member with the appropriate information.

The Member must exhaust the mandatory level of appeal before bringing a claim in court for a Claim of Benefits.

Concerns about medical services are best handled at the medical service site level before being brought to the CO-OP. If a Member contacts the CO-OP regarding an issue related to the

medical service site and has not attempted to work with the site staff, the Member may be directed to that site to try to solve the problem there, if the issue is not a Claim for Benefits.

Certain retroactive terminations of coverage, whether or not there is an adverse effect on any particular benefit at the time are also subject to these procedures. Medical coverage for you will continue pending the outcome of an internal appeal. This means that the Plan will not terminate or reduce any ongoing course of treatment without providing advance notice and the opportunity to review.

Please see the Glossary Terms Section herein for a description of the terms used in this section.

The following Appeals Procedures will be followed if the medical service site matter cannot be resolved at the site or if the concern involves the Adverse Benefit Determination of a Claim for Benefits. All Appeals will be adjudicated in a manner designed to ensure independence and impartiality on the part of the persons making the decision.

**Informal Review:** An Adverse Benefit Determination or medical site service complaint/concern which is directed to the CO-OP Care Department via phone or in person. If an Informal Review is resolved to the satisfaction of the Member, the matter ends. The Informal Review is voluntary.

**Formal Appeal:** An appeal of an Adverse Benefit Determination filed in writing which the CO-OP's Advocacy Department investigates. If a Formal Appeal is resolved to the satisfaction of the Member, the appeal is closed. The Formal Appeal is mandatory if the Member is not satisfied with the initial determination and the Member wishes to appeal such determination.

**Advocacy Committee:** A committee in which the majority of those individuals who are voting members must be members of a CO-OP Health Benefit Plan.

**CO-OP Care Crew Member:** An employee of the CO-OP that is assigned to assist the Member or the Member's Authorized Representative in filing a grievance with the CO-OP or appealing an Adverse Benefit Determination.

## 12.1 Informal Review

A Member who has received an Adverse Benefit Determination of a Claim for Benefits may request an Informal Review. All Informal Reviews must be made to the CO-OP Care Department within 180 days of the Adverse Benefit Determination. Informal Reviews not filed in a timely manner will be deemed waived. The Informal Review is a **voluntary** level of appeal.

Upon the initiation of an Informal Review, a Member must provide CO-OP Care Department with at least the following information:

- The Member's name (or name of Member and Member's Authorized representative), address, and telephone number;
- The Member's CO-OP membership number; and

- A brief statement of the nature of the matter, the reason(s) for the appeal, and why the Member feels that the Adverse Benefit Determination was wrong.

A CO-OP Care Crew Member will inform the Member that upon review and investigation of the relevant information, the CO-OP will make a determination of the Informal Review. The determination will be made as soon as reasonably possible but will not exceed thirty (30) days unless more time is required for fact-finding. If the determination of the Informal Review is not acceptable to the Member and the Member wishes to pursue the matter further, the Member may file a Formal Appeal.

## **12.2 Formal Appeal**

When an Informal Review is not resolved in a manner that is satisfactory to the Member or when the Member chooses not to file an Informal Review and the Member wishes to pursue the matter further, the Member must file a Formal Appeal. The Formal Appeal must be submitted in writing to the CO-OP's Advocacy Department within 180 days of an Adverse Benefit Determination. Such 180 days will run concurrently with the 180 day time period applicable to an Informal Review as set forth in Section 10.1. Formal Appeals not filed in a timely manner will be deemed waived with respect to the Adverse Benefit Determination to which they relate.

The Formal Appeal shall contain at least the following information:

- The Member's name (or name of Member and Member's Authorized Representative), address, and telephone number;
- The Member's CO-OP membership number; and
- A brief statement of the nature of the matter, the reason(s) for the appeal, and why the Member feels that the Adverse Benefit Determination was wrong.

Additionally, the Member may submit any supporting medical records, Physician's letters, or other information that explains why the CO-OP should approve the Claim for Benefits. The Member can request the assistance of an Advocacy Department Representative at any time during this process. You may obtain copies of any related Plan records. You have the right to review your file and present evidence as part of the review. No deference will be given to the initial Claim denial. Your appeal will be decided by an individual(s) who did not take part in the Claim denial and who is not subordinate of such a person. The Advocacy Department Representative will ensure that there is no conflict of interest with regard to the individual making the decision.

If your Claim involves a medical judgment, a health care professional trained in the relevant field will be consulted; one who did not take part in the Claim denial and who is not the subordinate of such a person. You may also request the names of medical professionals who gave advice on your Claim denial.

The Formal Appeals should be sent or faxed to the following:

Nevada Health CO-OP  
3900 Meadows Lane, Suite 214  
Las Vegas, Nevada 89107  
Fax: (702) 802-4601

The Advocacy Committee shall:

- Consider the Appeal;
- Obtain additional information from the Member and/or staff as it deems appropriate; and
- Make a decision and communicate its decision to the Member within thirty (30) days following the CO-OP's receipt of the request for a Formal Appeal

This period may be extended one (1) time by the CO-OP for up to fifteen (15) days, provided that the extension is necessary due to matters beyond the control of the CO-OP and the CO-OP notifies the Member prior to the expiration of the initial thirty (30) day period of the circumstances requiring the extension and the date by which the CO-OP expects to render a decision. If the extension is necessary due to a failure of the Member to submit the information necessary to decide the claim, the notice of extension shall specifically describe the required information and the Member shall be afforded at least forty-five (45) days from receipt of the notice to provide the information.

If the Formal Appeal results in an Adverse Benefit Determination, the Member will be informed in writing of the following:

- The specific reason or reasons for upholding the Adverse Benefit Determination;
- Reference to the specific Plan provisions on which the determination is based;
- Any new or additional rationale and/or evidence considered, relied on, or generated by the Plan (or at the direction of the Plan) in connection with your claim. You will receive this rationale and/or evidence sufficiently in advance of the date on which the notice of the adverse benefit determination is required in order to give you a reasonable opportunity to respond prior to that date;
- A statement that the Member is entitled to receive, upon request and free of charge, reasonable access to, and copies of, all documents, records, and other information relevant to the Member's Claim for Benefits;
- If any internal rule, guideline, protocol or other similar criterion was used in the appeal denial, you will be told about it and may have a copy of it.
- A statement describing any voluntary appeal procedures offered by the CO-OP and the Member's right to receive additional information describing such procedures;

- A statement of the Member’s right to bring a civil action under ERISA Section 502(a) following an Adverse Benefit Determination, if applicable;
- If the Adverse Benefit Determination is based on Medical Necessity or experimental treatment or similar exclusion or limit, either an explanation of the scientific or clinical judgment or a statement that such explanation will be provided free of charge as well as information regarding the Member’s right to request an External Review by the State of Nevada’s Office for Consumer Health Assistance (OCHA).
- A statement describing the Member’s External Appeals Rights, if applicable, or judicial review.

If you are not satisfied with the decision made on your appeal, you may file a lawsuit in federal court against the Plan. You will have 90 days after completing the appeals process, including any applicable external review, and being denied to file suit, after which your Claim will be waived. Your rights under the Plan may not be assigned.

Limited extensions may be required if additional information is required in order for the CO-OP to reach a resolution.

### **12.3 Expedited Appeal**

The Member can ask (either orally or in writing) for an Expedited Appeal of an Adverse Benefit Determination for a Pre-Service Claim that involves an Urgent Care Claim if the Member or his Physician believe that the health of the Member could be seriously harmed by waiting for a routine appeal decision. Expedited Appeals are not available for appeals regarding denied claims for benefit payment (Post-Service Claim) or for Pre-Service Claims that are not Urgent Care Claims. Expedited Appeals must be decided no later than seventy-two (72) hours after receipt of the appeal, provided all necessary information has been submitted to the CO-OP. If the initial notification was oral, the CO-OP shall provide a written or electronic explanation to the Member within three (3) days of the oral notification.

If insufficient information is received, the CO-OP shall notify the Member as soon as possible, but no later than twenty-four (24) hours after receipt of the claim of the specific information necessary to complete the claim. The Member will be afforded a reasonable amount of time, taking into account the circumstances, but not less than forty-eight (48) hours, to provide the specified information. The CO-OP shall notify the Member of the benefit determination as soon as possible, but in no case later than forty-eight (48) hours after the earlier of:

- The CO-OP’s receipt of the specified information, or
- The end of the period afforded the Member to provide the specified information.

If the Member’s Physician or attending provider requests an Expedited Appeal, or supports a Member’s request for an Expedited Appeal, and indicates that waiting for a routine appeal could seriously harm the health of the Member or subject the Member to unmanageable severe pain that cannot be adequately managed without care or treatment that is the subject of the Claim for Benefits, the CO-OP will automatically grant an Expedited Appeal.

If a request for an Expedited Appeal is submitted without support of the Member's Physician or attending provider, the CO-OP shall decide whether the Member's health requires an Expedited Appeal. If an Expedited Appeal is not granted, the CO-OP will provide a decision within thirty (30) days, subject to the routine appeals process for Pre-Service Claims.

#### **12.4 Arbitration of Disputes of an Independent Medical Review**

If the Member is dissatisfied with the findings of an Independent Medical Review, the Member shall have the right to have the dispute submitted to binding arbitration before an arbiter under the commercial arbitration rules applied by the American Arbitration Association.

The arbiter will be selected by mutual agreement of the CO-OP and the Member. The cost and expense of the arbitration shall be paid by the CO-OP. The decision of the arbiter shall be binding upon the Member and the CO-OP.

#### **12.5 External Review**

The CO-OP offers to the Member or the Member's Authorized Representative the right to an External Review of an Adverse Benefit Determination. For the purposes of this section, a Member's Authorized Representative is person to whom a Member has given express written consent to represent the Member in an External Review of an Adverse Benefit Determination; or a person authorized by law to provide substituted consent for a Member; or a family member of a Member or the Member's treating provider only when the Member is unable to provide consent.

Adverse Benefit Determinations eligible for External Review set forth in this section are only those relating to a rescission of coverage or Medical Necessity, appropriateness of service, healthcare service, healthcare setting, or level of care or effectiveness of a healthcare service. The CO-OP will provide the Member notice of such an Adverse Benefit Determination which will include the following statement:

The CO-OP has denied your request for the provision or payment of a requested healthcare service or course of treatment. You may have the right to have our decision reviewed by health care professionals who have no association with us if our decision involved making a judgment as to the Medical Necessity, appropriateness, health care setting, level of care or effectiveness of the health care service or treatment you requested by submitting a request for External Review to the Office for Consumer Health Assistance.

Additionally, as per applicable law and regulations, the notice will provide the Member the information outlined in Section 12.2 as well as the following:

- The telephone number for the Office for Consumer Health Assistance for Nevada.
- The right to receive correspondence in a culturally and linguistically appropriate manner.

The notice to the Member or the Member's Authorized Representative will also include a HIPAA compliant authorization form by which the Member or the Member's Authorized Representative can authorize the CO-OP and the Member's Physician to disclose protected health information ("PHI"), including medical records, that are pertinent to the External Review, and any other forms as required by Nevada law or regulation.

The Member or the Member's Authorized Representative may submit a request directly to OCHA for an External Review of an Adverse Benefit Determination by an Independent Review Organization ("IRO") within four (4) months of the Member or the Member's Authorized Representative receiving notice of such determination. The IRO must be certified by the Nevada Division of Insurance. Requests for an External Review must be made in writing and submitted to OCHA at the address below and should include the signed HIPAA authorization form, authorizing the release of your medical records. Your written request should include:

- a. A specific request for an external review;
- b. Your name, address, and member ID number;
- c. Your designated representative's name and address, when applicable;
- d. The service that was denied; and
- e. Any new, relevant information that was not provided during the internal appeal.

The entire External Review process and any associated medical records are confidential.

Office for Consumer Health Assistance  
555 East Washington Avenue #4800  
Las Vegas NV 89101  
(702) 486-3587  
(888) 333-1597

The determination of an IRO concerning an External Review in favor of the Member of an Adverse Benefit Determination is final, conclusive and binding. Upon receipt of the notice of a decision by the IRO reversing an Adverse Benefit Determination, the CO-OP shall immediately approve coverage of the recommended or requested health care service or treatment that was the subject of the Adverse Benefit Determination. The cost of conducting an External Review of an Adverse Benefit Determination will be paid by the CO-OP.

#### **12.5.a Standard External Review**

The Member may submit a request for an External Review of an Adverse Benefit Determination under this section only after the Member has exhausted all applicable internal CO-OP Appeals Procedures provided under this Plan and if the CO-OP fails to issue a written decision to the Member within thirty (30) days after the date the Appeal was filed, and the Member or Member's Authorized Representative did not request or agree to a delay or, if the CO-OP agrees to permit the Member to submit the Adverse Benefit Determination to OCHA without requiring the Member to exhaust all internal CO-OP Appeals Procedures. The Member may request an

external review only after completing the Plan's internal claims and appeals procedures, unless the Plan fails to strictly adhere to all of the requirements of the internal claims and appeals process with respect to the Member's medical claim. In such case, the Member is deemed to have exhausted the internal claims and appeals process and the Member may seek an external review or pursue legal remedies under ERISA or under State law, as applicable. However, this will not apply if the error was de minimis, if the error does not cause harm to the claimant, if the error was due to good cause or to matters beyond the Plan's control, if it occurs in context of good faith exchange of information, or if the error does not reflect a pattern or practice of noncompliance. In that case, the Member may resubmit his or her claim for internal review and the Participant may ask the Plan to explain why the error is minor and why it meets this exception.

Within five (5) days after OCHA receives a request for External Review, OCHA shall notify the Member, the Member's Authorized Representative and the CO-OP that such request has been received and filed. As soon as practical, OCHA shall assign an IRO to review the case.

Within five (5) days after receiving notification specifying the assigned IRO from OCHA, the CO-OP shall provide to the selected IRO all documents and materials relating to the Adverse Benefit Determination, including, without limitation:

- Any medical records of the Member relating to the Adverse Benefit Determination;
- A copy of the provisions of the healthcare Plan upon which the Adverse Benefit Determination was based;
- Any documents used and the reason(s) given by the CO-OP's Care Management Program for the Adverse Benefit Determination; and
- If applicable, a list that specifies each Provider who provided healthcare to the Member and the corresponding medical records from the Provider relating to the Adverse Benefit Determination.

Within five (5) days after the IRO receives the required documentation from the CO-OP, they shall notify the Member or the Member's Authorized Representative, if any additional information is required to conduct the review. If additional information is required, it must be provided to the IRO within five (5) days after receiving the request. The IRO will forward a copy of the additional information to the CO-OP within one (1) business day after receipt.

The IRO shall approve, modify, or reverse the Adverse Benefit Determination within fifteen (15) days after it receives the information required to make such a determination. The IRO shall submit a copy of its determination, including the basis thereof, to the:

- Member;
- Member's Physician;
- Member's Authorized Representative, if any; and
- The CO-OP.



### **12.5.b Expedited External Review**

A request for an Expedited External Review may be submitted to OCHA after it receives proof from the Member's Provider that the Adverse Benefit Determination concerns:

- An inpatient admission;
- Availability of inpatient care;
- Continued stay or health care service for Emergency Services while still admitted to an inpatient facility; or
- Failure to proceed in an expedited manner may jeopardize the life or health of the Member.

The OCHA shall approve or deny this request for Expedited External Review within seventy-two (72) hours after receipt of the above required proof. If OCHA approves the request, it shall assign the request to an IRO no later than one (1) business day after approving the request. The CO-OP will supply all relevant medical documents and information used to establish the Adverse Benefit Determination to the IRO within twenty-four (24) hours after receiving notice from the OCHA.

The IRO shall complete its Expedited External Review within forty-eight (48) hours after initially being assigned the case unless the Member or the Member's Authorized Representative and the CO-OP agree to a longer time period.

The IRO shall notify the following parties no later than twenty-four (24) hours after completing its Expedited External Review:

- Member;
- Member's Physician or attending provider;
- Member's Authorized Representative, if any; and
- The CO-OP.

The IRO shall then submit a written copy of its determination within forty-eight (48) hours to the applicable parties listed above.

### **12.6 Request for an External Review Due to Denial of Experimental or Investigational Healthcare Service or Treatment.**

A Standard or Expedited External Review of an Adverse Benefit Determination due to a requested or recommended healthcare service or treatment being deemed experimental or investigational, is available in limited circumstances as outlined in the following sections.

### **12.6.a Standard External Review**

The Member or Member's Authorized Representative may within four (4) months after receiving notice of an Adverse Benefit Determination subject to this section, submit a request to the OCHA for an External Review.

OCHA will notify the CO-OP and/or any other interested parties within one (1) business day after the receipt of the request for External Review. Within five (5) business days after the CO-OP receives such notice and, subject to applicable Nevada law and regulation and pursuant to this section, the CO-OP will make a preliminary determination of whether the case is complete and eligible for External Review.

Within one (1) business day of making such a determination, the CO-OP will notify in writing, the Member or the Member's Authorized Representative and OCHA, accordingly. If the CO-OP determines that the case is incomplete and/or ineligible, the CO-OP will notify the Member in writing of such determination. Such notice shall include the required additional information or materials needed to make the request complete and, if applicable, state the reasons for ineligibility and also state that such determination may be appealed to OCHA. Upon appeal, OCHA may overturn the CO-OP's determination that a request for External Review of an Adverse Benefit Determination is ineligible, and submit the request to External Review, subject to all of the terms and provisions of this Plan and applicable Nevada law and regulation.

Within one (1) business day after receiving the confirmation of eligibility for External Review from the CO-OP, OCHA will assign the IRO accordingly and notify in writing the Member or the Member's Authorized Representative and the CO-OP that the request is complete and eligible for External Review and provide the name of the assigned IRO. The CO-OP, within five (5) days after receipt of such notice from the OCHA, will supply all relevant medical documents and information used to establish the Adverse Benefit Determination to the assigned IRO who will select and assign one or more clinical reviewers to the External Review.

The IRO shall approve, modify, or reverse the Adverse Benefit Determination pursuant to this section within twenty (20) days after it receives the information required to make such a determination.

The Independent Review Organization shall submit a copy of its determination, including the basis thereof, to the:

- Member;
- Member's Physician;
- Member's Authorized Representative, if any; and
- The CO-OP.

### **12.6.b Expedited External Review**

The Member or the Member's Authorized Representative may request in writing an internal Expedited Appeal by the CO-OP and an Expedited External Review from OCHA

simultaneously if the Adverse Benefit Determination of the requested or recommended service or treatment is determined by the CO-OP to be experimental or investigational, and, if the treating provider certifies, in writing, that such service or treatment would be less effective if not promptly initiated.

An oral request for an Expedited External Review may be submitted directly to the OCHA upon the written submission of proof from the Member's Provider to OCHA that such service or treatment would be significantly less effective if not promptly initiated. Upon receipt of such request and proof, the OCHA shall immediately notify the CO-OP accordingly.

The CO-OP will immediately determine if the request meets the requirements for Expedited External Review pursuant to this section and notify the Member or the Member's Authorized Representative and the OCHA of the determination. If the CO-OP determines the request to be ineligible, the Member will be notified that the request may be appealed to OCHA.

If OCHA approves the request for Expedited External Review, it shall immediately assign the request to an IRO and notify the CO-OP. The IRO has one (1) business day to select one or more clinical reviewers. The CO-OP must submit the documentation used to support the Adverse Benefit Determination to the IRO within five (5) business days. If the CO-OP fails to provide the information within the specified time, the IRO may terminate the External Review and reverse the Adverse Benefit Determination.

The Member or Member's Authorized Representative may, within five (5) business days after receiving notice of the assigned IRO, submit any additional information in writing to the IRO. Any information submitted by the Member or the Member's Authorized Representative after five (5) business days to the IRO may be considered as well. Any information received by the Member or the Member's Authorized Representative must be submitted to the CO-OP by the IRO within one (1) business day.

The clinical reviewers have no more than five (5) days to provide an opinion to the IRO. The IRO has forty-eight (48) hours to review the opinion of the clinical reviewers and make a determination.

The IRO shall notify the following parties no later than twenty-four (24) hours after completing its External Review:

- Member;
- Member's Physician;
- Member's Authorized Representative, if any; and
- The CO-OP.

The IRO shall then submit a written copy of its determination within forty-eight (48) hours to the applicable parties listed above.

## 12.7 Office for Consumer Health Assistance

- (702) 486-3587 in the Las Vegas area
- 1-888-333-1597 outside the Las Vegas area (toll free)

## SECTION 13. GLOSSARY

**13.1** “**Adverse Benefit Determination**” means a rescission of coverage; a decision by the CO-OP to deny, reduce, terminate, fail to provide, or make payment for a benefit, including a denial, reduction termination, or failure to provide, or make a payment for a benefit that is based on: an individual’s eligibility; a determination that a benefit is not a Covered Service; the limitation on an otherwise Covered Service; or a determination that a benefit is experimental, investigational, or not Medically Necessary or appropriate. A denial of coverage in an initial eligibility determination for individual coverage is an Adverse Benefit Determination.

External Review is only available for a Final Adverse Benefit Determination based on Medical Necessity, appropriateness, health care setting, level of care, or effectiveness of a Covered Service. An Adverse Benefit Determination is final if the Member has exhausted all complaint and Appeal Procedures set forth herein for the review of such Adverse Benefit Determination.

**13.2** “**Allowable Expenses**” means the maximum amount the CO-OP will pay for a particular Covered Service as determined by the CO-OP in accordance with the CO-OP’s Reimbursement Schedule. Allowable Expenses are subject to Deductibles, Copayments, Coinsurance, and Plan limits. The Plan pays no more than the Allowable Expense or the actual billed charges, whichever is less. However, the amount actually paid by the Plan may be a percentage of the Allowable Expense. The Plan has the sole, complete and final authority and discretion in determining Allowable Expense. Allowable Expense is determined according to the following method:

(a) Plan Provider Services: Except as may be otherwise specified in the Plan, to the extent benefits are paid pursuant to an agreement or contract between the Plan and a Provider, the Allowable Expense is the rate, amount, or schedule stated in such agreement or contract.

(b) Non-Plan Provider Services: Except as may be otherwise specified in the Plan, for covered services and supplies provided by a Non-Plan Provider, the Allowable Expense is (1) the negotiated rate between the Plan and the Provider, or (2) the Plan’s rate or schedule, or percentage thereof, for such Covered Services or supplies, whichever is less, as determined in the sole, exclusive, and final judgment of the Plan, or (3) such other rate, amount, schedule or percentage that is the lowest “reasonable amount” that complies with the requirements of Section 2719A(b) of the Public Health Service Act, as amended, and related federal guidance, as determined in the sole, exclusive and final judgment of the Plan.

**13.3** “**Ambulance**” means a vehicle licensed to provide Ambulance services.

**13.4** “**Ambulatory Surgical Facility**” means a facility that:

- Is licensed by the state where it is located.
  - Is equipped and operated mainly to provide for surgeries or obstetrical deliveries.
  - Allows patients to leave the facility the same day the surgery or delivery occurs.
- 13.5** “**Applied Behavior Analysis**” or “**ABA**” means the design, implementation and evaluation of environmental modifications using behavioral stimuli and consequences to produce socially significant improvement in human behavior, including, but not limited to, the use of direct observation, measurement and functional analysis of the relations between environment and behavior.
- 13.6** “**Authorized Representative**” means a person designated by the Member to act on his behalf in pursuing a Claim for Benefits, to file an appeal of an Adverse Benefit Determination, or in obtaining an External Review of an Adverse Benefit Determination. The designation must be in writing unless the claim or appeal involves an Urgent Care Claim and a healthcare professional with knowledge of the Member’s medical condition is seeking to act on the Member’s behalf as his Authorized Representative.
- 13.7** “**Autism Spectrum Disorders**” means a neurobiological medical condition including, but not limited to, autistic disorder, Asperger’s Disorder and Pervasive Developmental Disorder not otherwise specified.
- 13.8** “**Benefit Schedule**” means the brief summary of benefits, limitations and Copayments given to the Subscriber by the CO-OP. It is Attachment A to this EOC.
- 13.9** “**Calendar Year**” means January 1 through December 31 of the same year.
- 13.10** “**Care Management Program**” means the process that determines Medical Necessity and directs care to the most appropriate setting to provide quality care in a cost-effective manner, including Prior Authorization of certain services.
- 13.11** “**Certified Autism Behavior Interventionist**” means a person who is certified as an Autism Behavior Interventionist by the Board of Psychological Examiners and who provides Behavior Therapy under the supervision of:
1. A licensed psychologist;
  2. A Licensed Behavior Analyst; or
  3. A Licensed Assistant Behavior Analyst.
- 13.12** “**Claim for Benefits**” means a request for a Plan benefit or benefits made by a Member in accordance with the Plan’s Appeals Procedures, including any Pre-Service Claims (requests for Prior Authorization) and Post-Service Claims (requests for benefit payment).

**13.13** “**COBRA**” means the Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1985 as amended.

**13.14** “**CO-OP Reimbursement Schedule**” means the schedule showing the amount the CO-OP will pay for Allowable Expenses. It is based on:

- The amount most consistently paid to the Provider; or
- The amount paid to other Providers with the same or similar qualifications; or
- The relative value and worth of the service compared to other services which the CO-OP determines to be similar in complexity and nature with reference to other industry and governmental sources.

For Non-Plan Provider Emergency Services, the CO-OP will pay the greater of: (1) the amount it has negotiated with Plan Providers for the Emergency Services received (and if there is more than one amount, the median of the amounts); (2) 100% of the Allowable Expense for Emergency Services provided by a Non-Plan Provider under your Plan; (3) or the amount that would be paid for the Emergency Services under Medicare.

**13.15** “**Coinsurance**” means the percent of an Allowable Expense, after the Calendar Year Deductible, that the Member must pay for Covered Services. Coinsurance amounts are shown in Attachment A Benefits Schedule.

**13.16** “**Contract Year**” means the twelve (12) months beginning with and following the Effective Date of the GEA.

**13.17** “**Contracting Pharmacy**” means a pharmacy that has a contract with the Plan to provide Drug services to Members.

**13.18** “**Copayment**” means the amount the Member pays when a Covered Service is received. Copayment amounts are shown in Attachment A Benefits Schedule.

**13.19** “**Covered Services**” means the health services, supplies and accommodations for which the CO-OP pays benefits under this Plan.

**13.20** “**Covered Transplant Procedure**” means any Medically Necessary, human-to-human, organ or tissue transplants performed upon a Member who satisfies medical criteria developed by the CO-OP for receiving transplant services.

**13.21** “**Custodial Care**” means care that mainly provides room and board (meals) for a physically or mentally disabled person. Such care does not reduce the disability so that the person can live outside a Hospital or nursing home. Examples of Custodial Care include:

- Non-Skilled Nursing Care.
- Training or assistance in personal hygiene.
- Other forms of self-care.

- Supervisory care by a Physician in a custodial facility to meet regulatory requirements.
- 13.22** “**Drug**” means any article that may be lawfully dispensed, as provided under the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act, only upon written or oral prescription of a physician or healthcare practitioner licensed by law to administer it.
- 13.23** “**Durable Medical Equipment**” or “**DME**” means medical equipment that:
- Can withstand repeated use;
  - Is used primarily and customarily for a medical purpose rather than convenience or comfort.
- 13.24** “**Effective Date**” means the initial date on which Members are covered for services under the CO-OP Plan provided any applicable premiums have been received and accepted by the CO-OP.
- 13.25** “**Eligible Employee**” means a person who meets the requirements for a Subscriber set forth in Section 1.
- 13.26** “**Emergency Services**” means Covered Services provided after the sudden onset of a medical condition with symptoms severe enough to cause a prudent person to believe that lack of immediate medical attention could result in serious:
- Jeopardy to his health;
  - Jeopardy to the health of an unborn child;
  - Impairment of a bodily function; or
  - Dysfunction of any bodily organ or part.
- 13.27** “**Enrollment Date**” means the first day of coverage under this Plan, or, if there is a Waiting Period, the first day of the Waiting Period. If an individual receiving benefits under the employer’s Health Benefit Plan changes benefit packages, the individual’s Enrollment Date does not change.
- 13.28** “**ERISA**” means Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, as amended, including regulations implementing the Act.
- 13.29** “**Essential Benefits**” include the following: ambulatory services; Emergency Services; hospitalization; maternity and newborn care; mental health and substance abuse disorder services (including behavioral health treatment); prescription drugs; rehabilitative and habilitative services and devices; laboratory services; preventive and wellness services and chronic disease management; and pediatric services; including oral and vision care. Such benefits shall be consistent with those set forth under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010 and any regulations issued pursuant thereto.

- 13.30** “**Evidence of Coverage**” or “**EOC**” means this document, including Attachment A Benefit Schedule and any other Attachments, Endorsements, Riders or Amendments to it, the Member’s Enrollment Form, health statements, Member Identification Card, and all other applications received by the CO-OP.
- 13.31** “**Expedited Appeal**” means if a Member appeals a decision regarding a denied request for Prior Authorization (Pre-Service Claim) for an Urgent Care Claim, the Member or Member’s Authorized Representative can request an Expedited Appeal, either orally or in writing. Decisions regarding an Expedited Appeal are generally made within seventy-two (72) hours from the Plan’s receipt of the request.
- 13.32** “**External Review**” means an independent review of an Adverse Benefit Determination conducted by an Independent Review Organization. External Review is only available for a Final Adverse Benefit Determination based on Medical Necessity, appropriateness, health care setting, level of care, or effectiveness of a Covered Service.
- 13.33** “**Final Adverse Benefit Determination**” means the upholding of an Adverse Benefit Determination at the conclusion of the internal appeals process or an Adverse Benefit Determination in which the internal appeals process has been deemed exhausted.
- 13.34** “**Genetic Disease Testing**” means the analysis of human DNA, chromosomes, proteins or other gene products to determine the presence of disease related genotypes, mutations, phenotypes or karyotypes for clinical purposes. Such purposes include those tests meeting criteria for the medically accepted standard of care for the prediction of disease risks, identification of carriers, monitoring, diagnosis or prognosis, but do not include tests conducted purely for research.
- 13.35** “**Group**” an employer or legal entity that has completed and signed the Group Enrollment Agreement and the Attachment A to the Group Enrollment Agreement (Group Application) with CO-OP for CO-OP to provide Covered Services.
- 13.36** “**Group Enrollment Agreement**” or “**GEA**” means the agreement signed by the CO-OP and the Group that states the conditions for coverage, eligibility and enrollment requirements and premiums.
- 13.37** “**Health Benefit Plan**” means a policy, contract, certificate or agreement offered by a carrier or similar agreement offered by an employer or other legal entity, to provide for, arrange for payment of, pay for or reimburse any of the costs of healthcare services. This term includes Short-Term and catastrophic health insurance policies, and a policy that pays on a cost-incurred basis. Health Benefit Plans do not include:
- Coverage for accident only, dental only, vision only, disability income insurance, long-term care only insurance, hospital indemnity coverage or other fixed indemnity coverage, limited benefit coverage, specific disease/Illness coverage, credit-only insurance;
  - Coverage issued as a supplement to liability insurance;



- Liability insurance, including general liability insurance and automobile liability insurance;
- Workers' compensation insurance;
- Coverage for medical payments under a policy of automobile insurance;
- Coverage for on-site medical clinics; or
- Medicare supplemental health insurance.

**13.38** “**Health Maintenance Organization**” or “**HMO**” means an organization that is formed in accordance with state law to provide managed healthcare services.

**13.39** “**Home Healthcare**” means healthcare services given by a Home Healthcare agency under a Physician’s orders in the person’s home. It is care given to persons who are homebound for medical reasons and physically not able to obtain necessary medical care on an outpatient basis. A Home Healthcare agency must be licensed by the state where it is located.

**13.40** “**Hospice**” means an establishment licensed by the state where it is located that furnishes a centrally administered program of palliative and supportive services. Such services are provided by a team of healthcare Providers and directed by a Physician. Services include physical, psychological, custodial and spiritual care for patients who are terminally ill and their families. For the purposes of this benefit only, “family” includes the immediate family, the person who primarily cared for the patient and other persons with significant personal ties to the patient, whether or not related by blood.

**13.41** “**Hospice Care Services**” means acute care provided by a Hospice if the Member has less than six (6) months to live as certified by the treating Physician, and the Member is not receiving or intending to receive any curative treatment. Care may be provided in the home, at a residential facility or at a medical facility at any time of the day or night. These services include bereavement care provided to the patient’s family after the patient dies.

**13.42** “**Hospital**” means a facility that:

is licensed by the state where it is located and is Medicare-certified;

- Provides 24-hour nursing services by registered nurses (RNs) on duty or call; and
- Provides services under the supervision of a staff of one or more Physicians to diagnose and treat ill or injured bed patients hospitalized for surgical, medical or psychiatric conditions.

Hospital does not include:

- Residential or nonresidential treatment facilities;
- Health resorts;

- Nursing homes;
- Christian Science sanatoria;
- Institutions for exceptional children;
- Skilled Nursing Facilities, places that are primarily for the care of convalescents;
- Clinics;
- Physician offices;
- Private homes; or
- Ambulatory Surgical Facilities.

**13.43** “**Hospitalist Program**” means the program that provides Hospital inpatient Physician services to Members. The Hospitalist Program utilizes licensed non-specialist Hospital-based Physicians who have directly contracted with the Plan or with the Health Services Coalition on behalf of the Plan. Use of designated Hospitalist Program physicians for inpatient care is required for all Members. Members receiving care through the Hospitalist Program will have no out of pocket expenses such as Deductibles, Coinsurance and Copayments for the covered services by designated Hospitalist Program physicians. Physician care by specialists such as OB/GYN and pediatricians will continue to be covered and paid as normal under the Plan rules, since specialists are not part of the Hospitalist Program.

**13.44** “**Illness**” means an abnormal state of health resulting from disease, sickness or malfunction of the body; or a congenital malformation, which causes functional impairment. For purposes of this EOC, Illness also includes sterilization or circumcision. Illness does not include any state of mental health or mental disorder other than Mental Illness as it is defined in this EOC.

**13.45** “**Initial Enrollment Period**” means the period of time during which an eligible person may enroll under this Plan, as shown in the GEA signed by the Group.

**13.46** “**Independent Medical Review**” means an independent evaluation of the medical or chiropractic care of a Member that must include a physical examination of the Member unless he is deceased, and a personal review of all x-rays and reports by a certified Physician or Chiropractor who is formally educated in the applicable medical field.

**13.47** “**Independent Review Organization**” means an entity that:

- Conducts an independent External Review of an Adverse Benefit Determination; and
- Is certified by the Nevada Commissioner of Insurance

**13.48** “**Injury**” means physical damage to the body inflicted by a foreign object, force, temperature, or corrosive chemical.

**13.49** “**Inpatient**” means being confined in a Hospital or Skilled Nursing Facility as a registered bed patient under a Physician’s order.

**13.50** “**Licensed Assistant Behavior Analyst**” means a person who holds current certification or meets the standards to be certified as a board certified Assistant Behavior Analyst issued by the Behavior Analyst Certification Board, Inc., or any successor in interest to that organization, who is licensed as an Assistant Behavior Analyst by the Board of Psychological Examiners and who provides Behavioral Therapy under the supervision of a Licensed Behavior Analyst or psychologist.

**13.51** “**Licensed Behavior Analyst**” means a person who holds current certification or meets the standards to be certified as a board certified Behavior Analyst or a board certified Assistant Behavior Analyst issued by the Behavior Analyst Certification Board, Inc., or any successor in interest to that organization and whom the Board of Psychological Examiners licenses as a Behavior Analyst.

**13.52** “**Manual Manipulation**” means the diagnosis, treatment or maintenance by a Practitioner for the treatment of:

- Musculoskeletal strain surrounding vertebra, spine, broken neck; or
- Subluxation of vertebra.

Manual Manipulation does not include diagnosis or treatment requiring general anesthesia, surgery or Hospital confinement.

**13.53** “**Medical Director**” means a Physician named by the CO-OP to review use of health services by Members.

**13.54** “**Medically Necessary**” means health care services or products that a prudent physician would provide to a patient for the purpose of preventing, diagnosing, treating or rehabilitating an illness, injury, disease or its associated symptoms, impairments or functional limitations in a manner that is:

- In accordance with generally accepted standards of medical practice;
- Clinically appropriate in terms of type, frequency, extent, site and duration;
- Not primarily for the convenience of the patient, physician, or other health care provider; and
- Not generally regarded as experimental, investigational, or unproven by any government agency having appropriate jurisdiction, including, but not limited to, the Food and Drug Administration or the Office of Health Technology Assessment, the organized medical community in the United States, or in accordance with the standards and procedures utilized by the Plan to determine whether such treatments, procedures, services or supplies are experimental or investigational, the terms of which are adopted and incorporated herein.

In determining whether a service or supply is Medically Necessary, the CO-OP may give consideration to any or all of the following:

- The likelihood of a certain service or supply producing a significant positive outcome;
- Reports in peer-review literature;
- Evidence based reports and guidelines published by nationally recognized professional organizations that include supporting scientific data;
- Professional standards of safety and effectiveness that are generally recognized in the United States for diagnosis, care or treatment;
- The opinions of independent expert Physicians in the health specialty involved when such opinions are based on broad professional consensus; or
- Other relevant information obtained by the CO-OP.

When applied to Inpatient services, “Medically Necessary” further means that the Member’s condition requires treatment in a Hospital rather than in any other setting. Services and accommodations will not automatically be considered Medically Necessary simply because they were prescribed by a Physician.

**13.55** “**Medicare**” means Medicare Part A and Medicare Part B healthcare benefits that a Member is receiving under Title XVIII of the Social Security Act of 1965 as amended.

**13.56** “**Member**” means a person who meets the eligibility requirements of Section 1, who has enrolled under this Plan and for whom premiums have been received and accepted by the CO-OP.

**13.57** “**Mental Illness**” means a pathological state of mind producing clinically significant psychological or physiological symptoms together with impairment in one or more major areas of functioning where improvement can reasonably be anticipated with therapy. Mental Illness does not include any Severe Mental Illness as defined in the EOC and otherwise covered under the Severe Mental Illness Covered Services section, or any of the following when they represent the primary need for therapy:

- Marital or family problems;
- Social, occupational, or religious maladjustment;
- Behavior disorders;
- Impulse control disorders;
- Learning disabilities;
- Mental retardation;
- Chronic organic brain syndrome;
- Personality disorder; or

- Transsexualism, psychosexual identity disorder, psychosexual dysfunction of gender dysphoria.
- 13.58** “**Non-Plan Provider**” means a Provider who does not have an independent contractor agreement with the CO-OP.
- 13.59** “**Occupational Illness or Injury**” means any Illness or Injury arising out of or in the course of employment for pay or profit.
- 13.60** “**Open Enrollment Period**” means an annual thirty-one (31) day period of time during which Eligible Employees may enroll under this Plan.
- 13.61** “**Orthotic Devices**” means an apparatus used to support, align, prevent or correct deformities or to improve the function of movable parts of the body.
- 13.62** “**Physician**” means anyone qualified and licensed to practice medicine and surgery by the state where the practice is located who has the degree of Doctor of Medicine (MD) or Doctor of Osteopathy (DO). Physician also means Doctor of Dentistry, a Doctor of Podiatric Medicine or a Chiropractor when they are acting within the scope of their license.
- 13.63** “**Placed (or Placement) for Adoption**” means the assumption and retention of a legal obligation for total or partial support of a child by a person with whom the child has been placed in anticipation of the child’s adoption. The child’s Placement for Adoption with such person ends upon the termination of such legal obligation.
- 13.64** “**Plan**” means this Evidence of Coverage (EOC), including the Attachment A Benefit Schedule and any other Attachments, Endorsements, Riders or Amendments to it, the Member’s Enrollment Form, health statements, the Member Identification Card, and all other applications received by the CO-OP.
- 13.65** “**Plan Provider**” means a Provider who has an independent contractor agreement with the CO-OP to provide certain Covered Services to Members. A Plan Provider’s agreement with the CO-OP may terminate, and a Member will be required to select another Plan Provider in order to continue receiving Plan Provider benefits.
- 13.66** “**Post-Service Claim**” means any Claim for Benefits under a Health Benefit Plan regarding payment of benefits that is not considered a Pre-Service Claim or an Urgent Care Claim.
- 13.67** “**Practitioner**” means any person(s) qualified and licensed to practice the healing arts when they are acting within the scope of their license.
- 13.68** “**Prescription Drug**” means any required by federal law or regulation to be dispensed only by a prescription including finished dosage forms and active ingredients subject to the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act.

- 13.69** “**Pre-Service Claim**” means any Claim for Benefits under a Health Benefit Plan with respect to which the terms of the Plan condition receipt of the benefit, in whole or in part, on approval of the benefit in advance of obtaining medical care.
- 13.70** “**Prior Authorization**” or “**Prior Authorized**” means a system that requires a Provider to get approval from the CO-OP before providing non-emergency healthcare services to a Member for those services to be considered Covered Services. Prior Authorization is not an agreement to pay for a service.
- 13.71** “**Procurement**” means obtaining Medically Necessary human organs or tissue for a Covered Transplant Procedure as determined by the CO-OP and includes donor search, testing, removal, preservation and transportation of the donated organ or tissue. Procurement will also apply to medically appropriate donor testing services including, but not limited to, HLA typing, subject to any maximum procurement benefit amount. Procurement does not include maintenance of a donor while the Member is awaiting the transplant.
- 13.72** “**Prosthetic Device**” means a non-experimental device that replaces all or part of an internal or external body organ or replaces all or part of the function of a permanently inoperative or malfunctioning internal or external organ.
- 13.73** “**Provider**” means a
- Hospital,
  - Skilled Nursing Facility,
  - Urgent Care Facility,
  - Ambulatory Surgical Facility,
  - Physician,
  - Practitioner,
  - Dentist,
  - Podiatrist, or
  - Other person or organization licensed by the state where his practice is located to provide medical or surgical services, supplies, and accommodations acting within the scope of his license.
- 13.74** “**Referral**” means a recommendation for a Member to receive a service or care from another Provider or facility.
- 13.75** “**Retrospective**” or “**Retrospectively**” means a review of an event after it has taken place.
- 13.76** “**Rider**” means a provision added to the Agreement or the EOC to expand benefits or coverage.

- 13.77** “**Service Area**” means the geographic area serviced by the CO-OP as authorized by the State of Nevada, and designated by the CO-OP for the provision of Covered Services. These areas may change from time to time as designated by the CO-OP.
- 13.78** “**Severe Mental Illness**” means any of the following Mental Illnesses that are biologically based and for which diagnostic criteria are prescribed in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorder (DSM), published by the American Psychiatric Association:
- Schizophrenia
  - Schizoaffective disorder
  - Bipolar disorder
  - Major depressive disorders
  - Panic disorder
  - Obsessive-compulsive disorder.
- 13.79** “**Short-Term**” means the time required for treatment of a condition that, in the judgment of the CO-OP, is subject to significant improvement within sixty (60) consecutive calendar days from the first day of treatment.
- 13.80** “**Short-Term Habilitation and Rehabilitation**” means Inpatient or outpatient habilitation services and rehabilitation services which are provided within the applicable number of visits as set forth in the Plan’s Attachment A Benefit Schedule. This includes speech therapy, occupational therapy and physical therapy.
- 13.81** “**Skilled Nursing Care**” means services requiring the skill, training or supervision of licensed nursing personnel.
- 13.82** “**Skilled Nursing Facility**” means a facility or distinct part of a facility that is licensed by the state where it is located to provide Skilled Nursing Care instead of Hospitalization and that has an attending medical staff consisting of one or more Physicians.
- 13.83** “**Special Enrollee**” means an Eligible Employee or Eligible Family Member who applies for coverage during a Special Enrollment Period following a Special Enrollment Event.
- 13.84** “**Special Enrollment Event**” means the occurrence of one of the events described below which allows an Eligible Employee to enroll under this Plan during a Special Enrollment Period, as follows:

**Special Enrollment Event Upon Loss of Coverage Under Another Health Benefit Plan.** In the event of a loss of coverage under a Health Benefit Plan that is not COBRA continuation coverage, except where the loss of coverage is due to failure of the Eligible

Employee to pay premiums on a timely basis or termination of employment for cause. Loss of coverage under a Health Benefit Plan can be the result of:

- Legal separation, divorce, cessation of Dependent status, death, termination of employment (not for cause) or a reduction in hours of employment;
- Meeting or exceeding a lifetime Health Benefit Plan limit on all benefits under such coverage;
- Termination of employer contributions for the Eligible Employee;
- Exhaustion of COBRA continuation coverage.

**Special Enrollment Event Due to Medicaid.** Each Eligible Employee who is eligible for coverage under the Plan, but not enrolled, may later enroll for coverage under the terms of the Plan upon the occurrence of either of the following Special Enrollment Events Due to Medicaid:

- the Eligible Employee is covered under a Medicaid plan under Title XIX of the Social Security Act and (a) coverage of the Eligible Employee under such a plan is terminated as a result of loss of eligibility for such coverage and (b) the Eligible Employee requests coverage under the Plan no later than 60 days after the date such coverage terminates; or
- the Eligible Employee becomes eligible for assistance, with respect to group health coverage under the Plan, under a Medicaid plan (including under any waiver or demonstration project conducted under or in relation to such a plan) and the Eligible Employee requests coverage under the group health coverage under the Plan no later than 60 days after the date the Employee is determined to be eligible for such assistance.

**Note:** Voluntary cancellation of healthcare coverage is not considered a Special Enrollment Event.

**13.85** “**Special Enrollment Period**” means, with respect to a Special Enrollment Event Upon Loss of Coverage Under Another Health Benefit Plan, the thirty-one (31)-day period following a Special Enrollment Event during which an Eligible Employee can enroll under this Plan as follows:

1. the Eligible Employee had coverage under any Health Benefit Plan; and
2. a Special Enrollment Event has occurred.

“**Special Enrollment Period**” means, with respect to a Special Enrollment Event Due to Medicaid, the sixty (60)-day period following a Special Enrollment Event during which an Eligible Employee can enroll under this Plan.

**13.86** “**Specialist Physician**” or “**Specialist**” means a Plan Provider who has an independent contractor agreement with the CO-OP to assume responsibility for the delivery of specialty medical services to Members. These specialty medical services include any Physician services not related to the ongoing primary care of a patient. A Plan



Specialist Physician's agreement with the CO-OP may terminate. In the event that a Member's Plan Specialist Physician's agreement terminates, another Plan Specialist Physician will be selected for the Member if those services are still required.

- 13.87** “**Specialty Drugs**” are high-cost oral, injectable, infused or inhaled Covered Drugs as identified by the CO-OP that are either self-administered or administered by a healthcare Provider and used or obtained in either an outpatient or home setting.
- 13.88** “**Subrogation**” means the CO-OP's right to bring a lawsuit in the Member's name against any party whom the Member could have sued for reimbursement of covered medical expenses.
- 13.89** “**Subscriber**” means an individual who meets the eligibility requirements of this EOC and who has enrolled under this Plan, and for whom premiums have been received and accepted by the CO-OP.
- 13.90** “**Totally Disabled**” means the continuing inability of a Subscriber to substantially perform duties related to his employment or to work for pay, profit or gain at any job for which he is suited by reason of education, training or experience because of Illness or Injury; or
- 13.91** “**Transplant Benefit Period**” means the period beginning with the date the Member receives a written Referral from the CO-OP for care in a Transplant Facility and ending on the first of the following to occur:
- (a) The date 365 days after the date of the transplant; or
  - (b) The date when the Member is no longer covered under this Plan, whichever is earlier.
- 13.92** “**Transplant Facility**” means a Hospital that has an independent contractor agreement or other contractual relationship with the CO-OP to provide Covered Services related to a Covered Transplant Procedure as defined in this EOC. Non-Plan Hospitals do not have agreements with the CO-OP to provide such services.
- 13.93** “**Urgent Care Claim**” means a Claim for Benefits that is treated in an expedited manner because the application of the time periods for making determinations that are not Urgent Care Claims could seriously jeopardize the Member's life, health or the ability to regain maximum function by waiting for a routine appeal decision. An Urgent Care Claim also means a Claim for Benefits that, in the opinion of a physician with knowledge of the Member's medical conditions, would subject the Member to severe pain that cannot be adequately managed without the care or the treatment that is the subject of the claim. If an original request for Prior Authorization of an Urgent Care service was denied, the Member could request an Expedited Appeal for the Urgent Care Claim.
- 13.94** “**Urgent Care Facility**” means a facility equipped and operated mainly to give immediate treatment for an acute Illness or Injury.

**13.95** “**Urgently Needed Services**” means Covered Services needed to prevent a serious deterioration in a Member’s health. While not as immediate as Emergency Services, these services cannot be delayed until the Member can see a Plan Provider.

**13.96** “**Waiting Period**” means the period of time established by the Group that must pass before coverage for an Eligible Employee can become effective. If an Eligible Employee enrolls as a Special Enrollee, any period before such Special Enrollment is not a Waiting Period.

## **SECTION 14. OTHER NOTICES**

### **14.1 Mothers and Newborns**

Health insurance issuers generally may not, under Federal law, restrict benefits for any Hospital length of stay in connection with childbirth for the mother or newborn child to less than 48 hours following a vaginal delivery, or less than 96 hours following a cesarean section. However, Federal law generally does not prohibit the mother’s or newborn’s attending provider, after consulting with the mother, from discharging the mother or her newborn earlier than 48 hours (or 96 hours as applicable). In any case, plans and issuers may not, under Federal law, require that a provider obtain authorization from the Plan or the insurance issuer for prescribing a length of stay not in excess of 48 hours (or 96 hours).

### **14.2 Women’s Cancer Rights**

A Federal law called the Women’s Health and Cancer Rights Act of 1998 became effective for this Plan on September 1, 1999. Under this law, group health plans, insurers, and HMOs that provide medical and surgical benefits in connection with a mastectomy must provide benefits for certain reconstructive surgery. In the case of a participant or Beneficiary who is receiving benefits under the plan in connection with a mastectomy and who elects breast reconstruction, the law requires coverage in a manner determined in consultation with the attending Physician and the patient, for:

- Reconstruction of the breast on which the mastectomy was performed;
- Surgery and reconstruction of the other breast to produce a symmetrical appearance; and
- Prostheses and treatment of physical complications at all stages of the mastectomy, including lymphedemas.

If you have any questions about Plan coverage of mastectomies or reconstructive surgery, please call (702) 823-2667 or (855) 606-2667.

### **14.3 Mental Health Parity**

This Plan complies with federal law, which generally does not permit annual or lifetime dollar limits for mental health benefits to be lower than those that apply to medical benefits. Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act of 2008 (MHPAEA) requires that the financial

requirements for Coinsurance and Copayments as well as other quantitative and qualitative limits for mental health and substance use disorder conditions must be no more restrictive than those requirements for substantially all medical/surgical benefits. MHPAEA requires specific testing to be applied to classifications of benefits to determine the impact of these financial requirements on mental health and substance use disorder benefits. Based upon the results of that testing, it is possible that Coinsurance or Copayments that apply to mental health conditions and substance use disorder conditions in your benefit plan may be reduced.

#### **14.4 Genetic Information and Non-Discrimination Act of 2008**

Genetic Information and Non-Discrimination Act of 2008 ("GINA") prohibits the Plan from:

(a) adjusting premiums or contribution amounts for the group as a whole on the basis of Genetic Information (as defined below);

(b) requesting or requiring an individual or a family member to undergo a genetic test. However, subject to certain conditions, the Plan may request that an individual voluntarily undergo a genetic test as part of a research study as long as the results are not used for underwriting purposes.

(c) requesting, requiring or purchasing Genetic Information for underwriting purposes (which includes eligibility rules or determinations, computation of premium or contribution amounts, and other activities related to the creation, renewal or replacement of coverage);

(d) requesting, requiring or purchasing Genetic Information with respect to any individual prior to such individual's enrollment under the Plan or coverage. However, if the Plan obtains Genetic Information incidental to the collection of other information prior to enrollment, it will not be in violation of GINA as long as it is not used for underwriting purposes.

GINA allows the group health Plan to obtain and use the results of genetic tests for purposes of making payment determinations.

Under GINA, the term "Genetic Information" includes:

- Information about an individual or his/her family member's genetic tests (defined as analyses of the individual's DNA, RNA, chromosomes, proteins, or metabolites that detect genotypes, mutations or chromosomal changes);
- The manifestation of a Disease or disorder in the family members of the individual. Family members are broadly defined under GINA to include individuals who are Dependents, as well as any other first, second, third or fourth degree relative. Further, Genetic Information includes that information of any fetus or embryo carried by a pregnant woman; and
- Information obtained through genetic services (that is genetic tests, Genetic Counseling or genetic education) or participation in clinical research that includes genetic services.

However, Genetic Information does not include the sex or age of an individual.

## **14.5 Pregnancy Discrimination Act**

Most employers must provide coverage for pregnancy expenses in the same manner as coverage is provided for any other illness. This requirement applies to pregnancy expenses of an Employee or a covered spouse of an Employee.

## **14.6 Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993**

The Family Medical Leave Act of 1993 (FMLA) requires that some employers give their employees up to twelve (12) weeks of unpaid job-protected leave during any twelve (12) month period for certain family and medical reasons. While you are on FMLA leave, you may keep your health care coverage (medical, including prescription drugs).

As of January 16, 2009, the FMLA was amended to permit a spouse, son, daughter, parent or next of kin to take up to 26 weeks of leave to care for a member of the Armed Forces, including a member of the National Guard or Reserves, who is undergoing medical treatment, recuperation, therapy, in outpatient status, or is otherwise on a temporary disability retired list, for a serious Injury or Illness. An employee is permitted to take FMLA leave for any “qualifying exigency” (as defined by the Secretary of Labor) arising out of the fact that the spouse, son, daughter, or parent of the employee on active duty (or has been notified of an impending call or order to active duty) in the Armed Forces in support of a contingency operation. To find out more about Family or Medical Leave and the terms on which you may be entitled to it, contact your employer.

If you are taking FMLA leave that has been approved by your employer, your employer is responsible for making contributions to the Plan, as if you are working, in order to maintain your eligibility. While you are on FMLA leave, your employer will continue to pay its portion of the costs, and you are still required to pay your part of the costs (if any). If you are not getting a paycheck while you are on FMLA leave, you must make arrangements with your employer to ensure payments to the Plan are made on your behalf. If your employer does not make payments on your behalf when they are due, the Plan can cancel your coverage. In order to cancel your coverage, the payment must be at least 30 days late. Additionally, the Plan must provide you a written notice that your coverage is being cancelled.

If you did not continue your health care coverage when you were on leave, when you return to work your benefits will be reinstated as though you had worked through your entire leave period. FMLA leave will not cause you to lose any benefits you have accumulated up to the date of your leave. If you do not return to work after taking FMLA leave:

(a) Your coverage will end on the date you give notice that you are not returning to work;

(b) You will be required to repay your employer the cost of the coverage you had when you were on leave (unless you do not return to work because of a serious medical condition that is beyond your control);

(c) You will be able to keep your health care coverage for a limited period of time under COBRA.

For more information on your employer's FMLA and other leave policies, please call your employer.

## **14.7 TRICARE**

Generally, TRICARE is intended to be the secondary payer to health benefits, insurance, and third-party plans. When TRICARE is secondary, a benefit may not be paid under TRICARE if a person is enrolled in, or covered by, any other insurance, medical service, or health plan, including any plan offered by a third-party payer, to the extent that the benefit is also a benefit under the other plan. Employers are prohibited from offering TRICARE beneficiaries financial or other benefits as incentives not to enroll in, or to terminate enrollment in, a group health plan that is, or would be, primary to TRICARE, including this Plan.

## **SECTION 15. ERISA RIGHTS**

ERISA provides that all Covered Persons are entitled to:

Receive Information About Your Plan and Benefits. Examine, without charge, at the Plan Administrator's office and at other specified locations, such as worksites and union halls (if any), all documents governing the Plan, including insurance contracts, collective bargaining agreements (if any), and copies of the latest annual report (Form 5500 Series) filed by the Plan with the U.S. Department of Labor and available at the Public Disclosure Room of the Employee Benefits Security Administration.

Obtain, upon written request to the Plan Administrator, copies of documents governing the operation of the Plan, including insurance contracts and collective bargaining agreements (if any), and copies of the latest annual report (Form 5500 Series) and updated summary plan description. The Plan Administrator may make a reasonable charge for the copies.

Continue Group Health Plan Coverage. Continue health care coverage for yourself if there is a loss of coverage under the Plan as a result of a qualifying event. You may have to pay for such coverage. Review this Evidence of Coverage and Summary Plan Description and the documents governing the Plan on the rules governing your COBRA continuation coverage rights.

Prudent Actions by Plan Fiduciaries. In addition to creating rights for plan participants, ERISA imposes duties upon the people who are responsible for the operation of the Plan. The people who operate your Plan, called "fiduciaries" of the Plan, have a duty to do so prudently and in the interest of you and other plan participants and beneficiaries. No one, including your employer, your union (if any), or any other person, may fire you or otherwise discriminate against you in any way to prevent you from obtaining a welfare benefit or exercising your rights under ERISA.

Enforce Your Rights. If your claim for a welfare benefit is denied or ignored, in whole or in part, you have a right to know why this was done, to obtain copies of documents relating to the decision without charge, and to Appeal any denial, all within certain time schedules. Under ERISA, there are steps you can take to enforce the above rights. For instance, if you request a copy of Plan documents or the latest annual report from the Plan and do not receive them within thirty (30) days, you may file suit in a federal court. In such a case, the court may require the Plan

Administrator to provide the materials and pay you up to \$110 a day until you receive the materials, unless the materials were not sent because of reasons beyond the control of the Plan Administrator. If you have a claim for benefits which is denied or ignored, in whole or in part, you may file suit in a state or federal court. In addition, if you disagree with the Plan's decision or lack thereof concerning the qualified status of a domestic relations order or a Medical Child Support Order, you may file suit in federal court. If it should happen that Plan fiduciaries misuse the Plan's money, or if you are discriminated against for asserting your rights, you may seek assistance from the U.S. Department of Labor, or you may file suit in a federal court. The court will decide who would pay court costs and legal fees. If you are successful, the court may order the person you have sued to pay these costs and fees. If you lose, the court may order you to pay these costs and fees, for example, if it finds your claim is frivolous.

Assistance with Your Questions. If you have any questions about the Plan, you should contact the Plan Administrator. If you have any questions about this statement or about your rights under ERISA, or if you need assistance in obtaining documents from the Plan Administrator, you should contact the nearest Office of the Employee Benefits Security Administration, U.S. Department of Labor, listed in your telephone directory or the Division of Technical Assistance and Inquiries, Employee Benefits Security Administration, U.S. Department of Labor, 200 Constitution Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C., 20210. You may also obtain certain publications about your rights and responsibilities under ERISA by calling the publications hotline of the Employee Benefits Security Administration.

## **SECTION 16. GENERAL PLAN INFORMATION**

**Name of Plan:** ACME Security Health Plan

**Plan Sponsor:** ACME Security  
5841 East Charleston Blvd. Suite 230-330  
Las Vegas, NV 89142  
Phone: 702-294-1000  
Fax: 702-220-5130  
Email: fallon.acme@me.com

The Plan Sponsor retains all fiduciary responsibilities with respect to the Plan except to the extent the Plan Sponsor has delegated or allocated to other persons or entities one or more fiduciary responsibilities with respect to the Plan.

**Claims Fiduciary:** Nevada Health CO-OP is your Plan's Claims Fiduciary and has been delegated this responsibility by your Plan Sponsor. Your Claims Fiduciary has the authority to require eligible individuals to furnish it with information necessary for the proper administration of your Plan.

**Plan Sponsor ID No. (EIN):** 27-0685683

**Plan Year:** February 1 through January 31

**Plan Number:** 501

**Type of Administration:** Your Plan is fully insured. Benefits are provided under a group insurance contract entered into between your Plan Sponsor and Nevada Health CO-OP. Claims for benefits are sent to Nevada Health CO-OP. Your employer and Nevada Health CO-OP share responsibility for administering the plan.

**Nevada Health CO-OP  
3900 Meadows Lane, Suite 214  
Las Vegas, Nevada 89107**

**Plan Administrator:  
(Named Fiduciary)** **ACME Security  
5841 East Charleston Blvd. Suite 230-330  
Las Vegas, NV 89142  
Phone: 702-294-1000  
Fax: 702-220-5130  
Email/Website: fallon.acme@me.com**

**Source of Funding:** **Fully-Insured** There are no contributions to the Plan. Any required employee contributions are used to partially reimburse the Plan Sponsor for premiums under the Plan. Benefits under the Plan are funded by the payment of premium required by the group Policy.

**Plan Status:** **Non-Grandfathered**

**Applicable Law:** **ERISA and Nevada law.** When applicable, federal law and jurisdiction preempt state law and jurisdiction

**Plan Type:** **Medical  
Prescription Drug**

**Participating Employer(s):** **ACME Security  
5841 East Charleston Blvd. Suite 230-330  
Las Vegas, NV 89142**

The Plan shall take effect for each Participating Employer on the Effective Date, unless a different date is set forth above opposite such Participating Employer's name.

**Agent for Service of Process: Plan Administrator**

**Method of Calculating the Amount of Contribution:** Employee-required contributions to the Plan Sponsor are the employee's share of costs as determined by Plan Sponsor. From time to time, the Plan Sponsor will determine the required employee contributions for reimbursement to the Plan Sponsor and distribute a schedule of such required contributions to employees.

**Qualified Medical Child Support Orders:** The Plan's procedures for handling qualified medical child support orders are available without charge upon request to the Plan Administrator.

**Amendment or Termination of the Plan:** Your employer, as the Plan Sponsor, has the right to amend or terminate this Plan at any time. Note that the insurance contract, which is how benefits

under the Plan are provided, is not necessarily the same as the Plan. As a result, termination of the insurance contract does not necessarily terminate the Plan.

**Discretionary Authority:** The Plan Administrator shall have sole, full and final discretionary authority to determine all matters of fact or interpretation relative to the administration of the Plan, including questions of eligibility, interpretation of Plan provisions and the remedy of possible ambiguities, inconsistencies and/or omissions in the Plan, determination of a Member's rights and any other matter. The decisions of the Plan Administrator and any other person or group of persons to whom such discretion has been delegated shall be conclusive and binding on all persons.

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