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## SECTION I

### Definitions

Defined terms will appear capitalized throughout this Certificate.

**Acute:** The onset of disease or injury, or a change in the Member's condition that would require prompt medical attention.

**Allowed Amount:** The maximum amount on which Our payment is based for Covered Services. See the Cost-Sharing Expenses and Allowed Amount section of this Certificate for a description of how the Allowed Amount is calculated. If Your Non-Participating Provider charges more than the Allowed Amount, You will have to pay the difference between the Allowed Amount and the Provider's charge, in addition to any Cost-Sharing requirements.

**Ambulatory Surgical Center:** A Facility currently licensed by the appropriate state regulatory agency for the provision of surgical and related medical services on an outpatient basis.

**Appeal:** A request for Us to review a Utilization Review decision or a Grievance again.

**Balance Billing:** When a Non-Participating Provider bills You for the difference between the Non-Participating Provider's charge and the Allowed Amount. A Participating Provider may not Balance Bill You for Covered Services.

**Certificate:** This Certificate issued by BlueShield of Northeastern New York, including the Schedule of Benefits and any attached riders.

**Child, Children:** The Subscriber's Children, including any natural, adopted or step-children, unmarried disabled Children, newborn Children, or any other Children as described in the Who is Covered section of this Certificate.

**Coinsurance:** Your share of the costs of a Covered Service, calculated as a percent of the Allowed Amount for the service that You are required to pay to a Provider. The amount can vary by the type of Covered Service.

**Copayment:** A fixed amount You pay directly to a Provider for a Covered Service when You receive the service. The amount can vary by the type of Covered Service.

**Cost-Sharing:** Amounts You must pay for Covered Services, expressed as Copayments, Deductibles and/or Coinsurance.

**Cover, Covered or Covered Services:** The Medically Necessary services paid for, arranged, or authorized for You by Us under the terms and conditions of this Certificate.

**Deductible:** The amount You owe before We begin to pay for Covered Services. The Deductible applies before any Copayments or Coinsurance are applied. The Deductible may not apply to all Covered Services. You may also have a Deductible that applies to a specific Covered Service (e.g., a Prescription Drug Deductible) that You owe before We begin to pay for a particular Covered Service.

**Dependents:** The Subscriber's Spouse and Children.

**Durable Medical Equipment ("DME"):** Equipment which is:

- Designed and intended for repeated use;
- Primarily and customarily used to serve a medical purpose;
- Generally not useful to a person in the absence of disease or injury; and
- Appropriate for use in the home.

**Emergency Condition:** A medical or behavioral condition that manifests itself by Acute symptoms of sufficient severity, including severe pain, such that a prudent layperson, possessing an average knowledge of medicine and health, could reasonably expect the absence of immediate medical attention to result in:

- Placing the health of the person afflicted with such condition or, with respect to a pregnant woman, the health of the woman or her unborn child in serious jeopardy, or in the case of a behavioral condition, placing the health of such person or others in serious jeopardy;
- Serious impairment to such person's bodily functions;
- Serious dysfunction of any bodily organ or part of such person; or
- Serious disfigurement of such person.

**Emergency Department Care:** Emergency Services You get in a Hospital emergency department.

**Emergency Services:** A medical screening examination which is within the capability of the emergency department of a Hospital, including ancillary services routinely available to the emergency department to evaluate such Emergency Condition; and within the capabilities of the staff and facilities available at the Hospital, such further medical examination and treatment as are required to stabilize the patient. "To stabilize" is to provide such medical treatment of an Emergency Condition as may be necessary to assure that, within reasonable medical probability, no material deterioration of the condition is likely to result from or occur during the transfer of the patient from a Facility, or to deliver a newborn child (including the placenta).

**Exclusions:** Health care services that We do not pay for or Cover.

**External Appeal Agent:** An entity that has been certified by the New York State Department of Financial Services to perform external appeals in accordance with New York law.

**Facility:** A Hospital; Ambulatory Surgical Center; birthing center; dialysis center; rehabilitation Facility; Skilled Nursing Facility; hospice; Home Health Agency or home care services agency certified or licensed under Article 36 of the New York Public Health Law; a comprehensive care center for eating disorders pursuant to Article 27-J of the New York Public Health Law; and a Facility defined in New York Mental Hygiene Law Sections 1.03(10) and (33), certified by the New York State Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services, or certified under Article 28 of the New York Public Health Law (or, in other states, a similarly licensed or certified Facility). If You receive treatment for substance use disorder outside of New York State, a Facility also includes one which is accredited by the Joint Commission to provide a substance use disorder treatment program.

**Grievance:** A complaint that You communicate to Us that does not involve a Utilization Review determination.

**Group:** The employer or party that has entered into an agreement with Us as a contractholder.

**Habilitation Services:** Health care services that help a person keep, learn or improve skills and functioning for daily living. Habilitative Services include the management of limitations and disabilities, including services or programs that help maintain or prevent deterioration in physical, cognitive, or behavioral function. These services consist of physical therapy, occupational therapy and speech therapy.

**Health Care Professional:** An appropriately licensed, registered or certified Physician; dentist; optometrist; chiropractor; psychologist; social worker; podiatrist; physical therapist; occupational therapist; midwife; speech-language pathologist; audiologist; pharmacist; behavior analyst; or any other licensed, registered or certified Health Care Professional under Title 8 of the New York Education Law (or other comparable state law, if applicable) that the New York Insurance Law requires to be recognized who charges and bills patients for Covered Services. The Health Care Professional's services must be rendered within the lawful scope of practice for that type of Provider in order to be covered under this Certificate.

**Home Health Agency:** An organization currently certified or licensed by the State of New York or the state in which it operates and renders home health care services.

**Hospice Care:** Care to provide comfort and support for persons in the last stages of a terminal illness and their families that are provided by a hospice organization certified pursuant to Article 40 of the New York Public Health Law or under a similar certification process required by the state in which the hospice organization is located.

**Hospital:** A short term, acute, general Hospital, which:

- Is primarily engaged in providing, by or under the continuous supervision of Physicians, to patients, diagnostic services and therapeutic services for diagnosis, treatment and care of injured or sick persons;
- Has organized departments of medicine and major surgery;
- Has a requirement that every patient must be under the care of a Physician or dentist;
- Provides 24-hour nursing service by or under the supervision of a registered professional nurse (R.N.);
- If located in New York State, has in effect a Hospitalization review plan applicable to all patients which meets at least the standards set forth in 42 U.S.C. Section 1395x(k);
- Is duly licensed by the agency responsible for licensing such Hospitals; and
- Is not, other than incidentally, a place of rest, a place primarily for the treatment of tuberculosis, a place for the aged, a place for drug addicts, alcoholics, or a place for convalescent, custodial, educational, or rehabilitary care. Hospital does not mean health resorts, spas, or infirmaries at schools or camps.

**Hospitalization:** Care in a Hospital that requires admission as an inpatient and usually requires an overnight stay.

**Hospital Outpatient Care:** Care in a Hospital that usually doesn't require an overnight stay.

**In-Network Coinsurance:** Your share of the costs of a Covered Service, calculated as a percent of the Allowed Amount for the Covered Service that You are required to pay to a Participating Provider. The amount can vary by the type of Covered Service.

**In-Network Copayment:** A fixed amount You pay directly to a Participating Provider for a Covered Service when You receive the service. The amount can vary by the type of Covered Service.

**In-Network Deductible:** The amount You owe before We begin to pay for Covered Services received from Participating Providers. The In-Network Deductible applies before any Copayments or Coinsurance are applied. The In-Network Deductible may not apply to all Covered Services. You may also have an In-Network Deductible that applies to a specific Covered Service (e.g., a Prescription Drug Deductible) that You owe before We begin to pay for a particular Covered Service.

**In-Network Out-of-Pocket Limit:** The most You pay during a Plan Year in Cost-Sharing before We begin to pay 100% of the Allowed Amount for Covered Services received from Participating Providers. This limit never includes Your Premium or services We do not Cover.

**Medically Necessary:** See the How Your Coverage Works section of this Certificate for the definition.

**Medicare:** Title XVIII of the Social Security Act, as amended.



**Member:** The Subscriber or a covered Dependent for whom required Premiums have been paid. Whenever a Member is required to provide a notice pursuant to a Grievance or emergency department visit or admission, “Member” also means the Member’s designee.

**Non-Participating Provider:** A Provider who doesn’t have a contract with Us to provide services to You. You will pay more to see a Non-Participating Provider.

**Out-of-Network Coinsurance:** Your share of the costs of a Covered Service calculated as a percent of the Allowed Amount for the service that You are required to pay to a Non-Participating Provider. The amount can vary by the type of Covered Service.

**Out-of-Network Copayment:** A fixed amount You pay directly to a Non-Participating Provider for a Covered Service when You receive the service. The amount can vary by the type of Covered Service.

**Out-of-Network Deductible:** The amount You owe before We begin to pay for Covered Services received from Non-Participating Providers. The Out-of-Network Deductible applies before any Copayments or Coinsurance are applied. The Out-of-Network Deductible may not apply to all Covered Services. You may also have an Out-of-Network Deductible that applies to a specific Covered Service (e.g., a Prescription Drug Deductible) that You owe before We begin to pay for a particular Covered Service.

**Out-of-Network Out-of-Pocket Limit:** The most You pay during a Plan Year in Cost-Sharing before We begin to pay 100% of the Allowed Amount for Covered Services received from Non-Participating Providers. This limit never includes Your Premium, Balance Billing charges or services We do not Cover. You are also responsible for all differences, if any, between the Allowed Amount and the Non-Participating Provider's charge for out-of-network services regardless of whether the Out-of-Pocket Limit has been met.

**Out-of-Pocket Limit:** The most You pay during a Plan Year in Cost-Sharing before We begin to pay 100% of the Allowed Amount for Covered Services. This limit never includes Your Premium, Balance Billing charges or the cost of health care services We do not Cover.

**Participating Provider:** A Provider who has a contract with Us to provide services to You. A list of Participating Providers and their locations is available on Our website at [www.bsny.com](http://www.bsny.com) or upon Your request to Us. The list will be revised from time to time by Us.

**Physician or Physician Services:** Health care services a licensed medical Physician (M.D. – Medical Doctor or D.O. – Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine) provides or coordinates.

**Plan Year:** The 12-month period beginning on the effective date of the Certificate or any anniversary date thereafter, during which the Certificate is in effect.

**Preauthorization:** A decision by Us prior to Your receipt of a Covered Service, procedure, treatment plan, device, or Prescription Drug that the Covered Service, procedure, treatment plan, device or Prescription Drug is Medically Necessary. We indicate which Covered Services require Preauthorization in the Schedule of Benefits section of this Certificate.

**Premium:** The amount that must be paid for Your health insurance coverage.

**Prescription Drugs:** A medication, product or device that has been approved by the Food and Drug Administration (“FDA”) and that can, under federal or state law, be dispensed only pursuant to a prescription order or refill. A Prescription Drug includes a medication that, due to its characteristics, is appropriate for self administration or administration by a non-skilled caregiver.

**Primary Care Physician (“PCP”):** A participating Physician who typically is an internal medicine, family practice or pediatric Physician and who directly provides or coordinates a range of health care services for You.

**Provider:** A Physician, Health Care Professional or Facility licensed, registered, certified or accredited as required by state law. A Provider also includes a vendor or dispenser of diabetic equipment and supplies, durable medical equipment, medical supplies, or any other equipment or supplies that are Covered under this Certificate is licensed, registered, certified or accredited as required by state law.

**Referral:** An authorization given to one Participating Provider from another Participating Provider (usually from a PCP to a Participating Specialist) in order to arrange for additional care for a Member. A Referral can be transmitted electronically or by Your Provider completing a paper Referral form. Except as provided in the Access to Care and Transitional Care section of this Certificate or as otherwise authorized by Us, a Referral will not be made to a Non-Participating Provider.

**Rehabilitation Services:** Health care services that help a person keep, get back, or improve skills and functioning for daily living that have been lost or impaired because a person was sick, hurt, or disabled. These services consist of physical therapy, occupational therapy, and speech therapy in an inpatient and/or outpatient setting.

**Schedule of Benefits:** The section of this Certificate that describes the Copayments, Deductibles, Coinsurance, Out-of-Pocket Limits, Preauthorization requirements, Referral requirements, and other limits on Covered Services.

**Service Area:** The geographical area, designated by Us and approved by the State of New York, in which We provide coverage. Our Service Area consists of: Albany, Clinton, Columbia, Essex, Fulton, Greene, Montgomery, Rensselaer, Saratoga, Schenectady, Schoharie, Warren, and Washington..

**Skilled Nursing Facility:** An institution or a distinct part of an institution that is: currently licensed or approved under state or local law; primarily engaged in providing skilled nursing care and related services as a Skilled Nursing Facility, extended care

Facility, or nursing care Facility approved by the Joint Commission, or the Bureau of Hospitals of the American Osteopathic Association, or as a Skilled Nursing Facility under Medicare; or as otherwise determined by Us to meet the standards of any of these authorities.

**Specialist:** A Physician who focuses on a specific area of medicine or a group of patients to diagnose, manage, prevent or treat certain types of symptoms and conditions.

**Spouse:** The person to whom the Subscriber is legally married, including a same sex Spouse Spouse also includes a domestic partner.

**Subscriber:** The person to whom this Certificate is issued.

**UCR (Usual, Customary and Reasonable):** The cost of a medical service in a geographic area based on what Providers in the area usually charge for the same or similar medical service.

**Urgent Care:** Medical care for an illness, injury or condition serious enough that a reasonable person would seek care right away, but not so severe as to require Emergency Department Care. Urgent Care may be rendered in a Physician's office or Urgent Care Center.

**Urgent Care Center:** A licensed Facility (other than a Hospital) that provides Urgent Care.

**Us, We, Our:** BlueShield of Northeastern New York and anyone to whom We legally delegate performance, on Our behalf, under this Certificate.

**Utilization Review:** The review to determine whether services are or were Medically Necessary or experimental or investigational (i.e., treatment for a rare disease or a clinical trial).

**You, Your:** The Member.

## SECTION II

### How Your Coverage Works

#### A. Your Coverage Under this Certificate.

Your employer (referred to as the “Group”) has purchased a Group HMO Contract from Us. We will provide the benefits described in this Certificate to covered Members of the Group, that is, to employees of the Group and their covered Dependents. However, this Certificate is not a contract between You and Us. You should keep this Certificate with Your other important papers so that it is available for Your future reference.

#### B. Covered Services.

You will receive Covered Services under the terms and conditions of this Certificate; only when the Covered Service is:

- Medically Necessary;
- Provided by a Participating Provider for in-network coverage;
- Listed as a Covered Service;
- Not in excess of any benefit limitations described in the Schedule of Benefits section of this Certificate; and
- Received while Your Certificate is in force.

#### C. Participating Providers.

To find out if a Provider is a Participating Provider:

- Check Your Provider directory, available at Your request;
- Call the number on Your ID card; or
- Visit Our website at [www.bsneny.com](http://www.bsneny.com).

#### D. The Role of Primary Care Physicians.

This Certificate requires that You select a PCP. You do not need a written Referral from a PCP before receiving Specialist care from a Participating Provider. You may select any participating PCP who is available from the list of PCPs in the HMO Network. Each Member may select a different PCP. Children covered under this Certificate may designate a participating PCP who specializes in pediatric care. In certain circumstances, You may designate a Specialist as Your PCP. See the Access to Care and Transitional Care section of this Certificate for more information about designating a Specialist.

1. **Services Not Requiring a Referral from Your PCP.** Your PCP is responsible for determining the most appropriate treatment for Your health care needs. You do not need a Referral from Your PCP to a Participating Provider for the following services:

- Primary and preventive obstetric and gynecologic services including annual examinations, care resulting from such annual examinations, treatment of Acute gynecologic conditions, or for any care related to a

- pregnancy from a qualified Participating Provider of such services;
- Emergency Services;
- Pre-Hospital Emergency Medical Services and emergency ambulance transportation;
- Maternal depression screening;
- All other services from Participating Providers.

However, the Participating Provider must discuss the services and treatment plan with Your PCP; agree to follow Our policies and procedures including any procedures regarding Referrals or Preauthorization for services other than obstetric and gynecologic services rendered by such Participating Provider; and agree to provide services pursuant to a treatment plan (if any) approved by Us. See the Schedule of Benefits section of this Certificate for the services that require a Referral.

You may need to request Preauthorization before You receive certain services. See the Schedule of Benefits section of this Certificate for the services that require Preauthorization.

- 2. Access to Providers and Changing Providers.** Sometimes Providers in Our Provider directory are not available. Prior to notifying Us of the PCP You selected, You should call the PCP to make sure he or she is a Participating Provider and is accepting new patients.

To see a Provider, call his or her office and tell the Provider that You are a <sup>21</sup> BlueShield of Northeastern New York Member, and explain the reason for Your visit. Have Your ID card available. The Provider's office may ask You for Your Group or Member ID number. When You go to the Provider's office, bring Your ID card with You.

You may change Your PCP by calling the number on the back of Your ID card. This can be done only once in any 30 day period.

#### **E. Out-of-Network Services.**

We Cover the services of Non-Participating Providers. However, some services are only Covered when You go to a Participating Provider. See the Schedule of Benefits section of this Certificate for the Non-Participating Provider services that are Covered. In any case where benefits are limited to a certain number of days or visits, such limits apply in the aggregate to in-network and out-of-network services.

#### **F. Services Subject to Preauthorization.**

Our Preauthorization is required before You receive certain Covered Services. Your Participating Provider is responsible for requesting Preauthorization for in-network services and You are responsible for requesting Preauthorization for the out-of-network services listed in the Schedule of Benefits section of this Certificate.

### **G. Preauthorization Procedure.**

If You seek coverage for services that require Preauthorization, Your Provider must call Us at the number on your ID Card.

- At least two (2) weeks prior to a planned admission or surgery when Your Provider recommends inpatient Hospitalization. If that is not possible, then as soon as reasonably possible during regular business hours prior to the admission.
- At least two (2) weeks prior to ambulatory surgery or any ambulatory care procedure when Your Provider recommends the surgery or procedure be performed in an ambulatory surgical unit of a Hospital or in an Ambulatory Surgical Center. If that is not possible, then as soon as reasonably possible during regular business hours prior to the surgery or procedure.
- Within the first three (3) months of a pregnancy, or as soon as reasonably possible and again within 48 hours after the actual delivery date if Your Hospital stay is expected to extend beyond 48 hours for a vaginal birth or 96 hours for cesarean birth.
- Before air ambulance services are rendered for a non-Emergency Condition.

After receiving a request for approval, We will review the reasons for Your planned treatment and determine if benefits are available. Criteria will be based on multiple sources which may include medical policy, clinical guidelines, and pharmacy and therapeutic guidelines.

### **H. Medical Management.**

The benefits available to You under this Certificate are subject to pre-service, concurrent and retrospective reviews to determine when services should be Covered by Us. The purpose of these reviews is to promote the delivery of cost-effective medical care by reviewing the use of procedures and, where appropriate, the setting or place the services are performed. Covered Services must be Medically Necessary for benefits to be provided.

### **I. Medical Necessity.**

We Cover benefits described in this Certificate as long as the health care service, procedure, treatment, test, device, Prescription Drug or supply (collectively, "service") is Medically Necessary. The fact that a Provider has furnished, prescribed, ordered, recommended, or approved the service does not make it Medically Necessary or mean that We have to Cover it.

We may base Our decision on a review of:

- Your medical records;
- Our medical policies and clinical guidelines;
- Medical opinions of a professional society, peer review committee or other groups of Physicians;
- Reports in peer-reviewed medical literature;
- Reports and guidelines published by nationally-recognized health care organizations that include supporting scientific data;
- Professional standards of safety and effectiveness, which are generally- recognized in the United States for diagnosis, care, or

treatment;

- The opinion of Health Care Professionals in the generally-recognized health specialty involved;
- The opinion of the attending Providers, which have credence but do not overrule contrary opinions.

Services will be deemed Medically Necessary only if:

- They are clinically appropriate in terms of type, frequency, extent, site, and duration, and considered effective for Your illness, injury, or disease;
- They are provided in accordance with generally-accepted standards of medical practice;
- They are not primarily for the convenience of You, Your family, or Your Provider;
- They are not more costly than an alternative service or sequence of services, that is at least as likely to produce equivalent therapeutic or diagnostic results;
- When setting or place of service is part of the review, services that can be safely provided to You in a lower cost setting will not be Medically Necessary if they are performed in a higher cost setting. For example We will not provide coverage for an inpatient admission for surgery if the surgery could have been performed on an outpatient basis.

See the Utilization Review and External Appeal sections of this Certificate for Your right to an internal Appeal and external appeal of Our determination that a service is not Medically Necessary.

#### **J. Protection from Surprise Bills.**

1. A surprise bill is a bill You receive for Covered Services in the following circumstances:
  - For services performed by a non-participating Physician at a participating Hospital or Ambulatory Surgical Center, when:
    - A participating Physician is unavailable at the time the health care services are performed;
    - A non-participating Physician performs services without Your knowledge; or
    - Unforeseen medical issues or services arise at the time the health care services are performed.

A surprise bill does not include a bill for health care services when a participating Physician is available and You elected to receive services from a non-participating Physician.

- You were referred by a participating Physician to a Non-Participating Provider without Your explicit written consent acknowledging that the referral is to a Non-Participating Provider and it may result in costs not covered by Us. For a surprise bill, a referral to a Non-Participating Provider means:
  - Covered Services are performed by a Non-Participating Provider in the participating Physician's office or practice during the same visit;
  - The participating Physician sends a specimen taken from You in the

- participating Physician's office to a non-participating laboratory or pathologist; or
- For any other Covered Services performed by a Non-Participating Provider at the participating Physician's request, when Referrals are required under Your Certificate.

You will be held harmless for any Non-Participating Provider charges for the surprise bill that exceed Your In-Network Copayment, Deductible or Coinsurance if You assign benefits to the Non-Participating Provider in writing. In such cases, the Non-Participating Provider may only bill You for Your In-Network Copayment, Deductible or Coinsurance.

The assignment of benefits form for surprise bills is available at [www.dfs.ny.gov](http://www.dfs.ny.gov) or You can visit Our website at [www.bsneny](http://www.bsneny) for a copy of the form. You need to mail a copy of the assignment of benefits form to Us at the address on Our website and to Your Provider.

**2. Independent Dispute Resolution Process.** Either We or a Provider may submit a dispute involving a surprise bill to an independent dispute resolution entity (IDRE) assigned by the state. Disputes are submitted by completing the IDRE application form, which can be found at [www.dfs.ny.gov](http://www.dfs.ny.gov). The IDRE will determine whether Our payment or the Provider's charge is reasonable within 30 days of receiving the dispute.

**K. Delivery of Covered Services Using Telehealth.**

If Your Participating Provider offers Covered Services using telehealth, We will not deny the Covered Services because they are delivered using telehealth. Covered Services delivered using telehealth may be subject to utilization review and quality assurance requirements and other terms and conditions of the Certificate that are at least as favorable as those requirements for the same service when not delivered using telehealth. "Telehealth" means the use of electronic information and communication technologies by a Participating Provider to deliver Covered Services to You while Your location is different than Your Provider's location.

**L. Case Management.**

Case management helps coordinate services for Members with health care needs due to serious, complex, and/or chronic health conditions. Our programs coordinate benefits and educate Members who agree to take part in the case management program to help meet their health-related needs.

Our case management programs are confidential and voluntary. These programs are given at no extra cost to You and do not change Covered Services. If You meet program criteria and agree to take part, We will help You meet Your identified health care needs. This is reached through contact and team work with You and/or Your authorized representative, treating Physician(s), and other Providers. In addition, We may assist in coordinating care with existing community-based programs and services to meet Your needs, which may



include giving You information about external agencies and community-based programs and services.

In certain cases of severe or chronic illness or injury, We may provide benefits for alternate care through Our case management program that is not listed as a Covered Service. We may also extend Covered Services beyond the benefit maximums of this Certificate. We will make Our decision on a case-by-case basis if We determine the alternate or extended benefit is in the best interest of You and Us.

Nothing in this provision shall prevent You from appealing Our decision. A decision to provide extended benefits or approve alternate care in one case does not obligate Us to provide the same benefits again to You or to any other Member. We reserve the right, at any time, to alter or stop providing extended benefits or approving alternate care. In such case, We will notify You or Your representative in writing.

#### **M. Important Telephone Numbers and Addresses.**

- **CLAIMS**

BlueShield of Northeastern New York PO BOX 80, Buffalo, NY 14240  
(Submit claim forms to this address.)

- **COMPLAINTS, GRIEVANCES AND UTILIZATION REVIEW APPEALS**  
Call the number on the back of Your ID card

- **ASSIGNMENT OF BENEFITS FORM**  
Please use the address on your ID card

- **MEMBER SERVICES**  
Call the number on the back of Your ID card  
(Member Services Representatives are available)

- **PREAUTHORIZATION**  
Call the number on the back of Your ID card

- **BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES**  
Call the number on the back of Your ID card

- **OUR WEBSITE**  
[www.bsneny.com](http://www.bsneny.com)

## SECTION III

### Access to Care and Transitional Care

#### **A. Referral to a Non-Participating Provider.**

If We determine that We do not have a Participating Provider that has the appropriate training and experience to treat Your condition, We will approve a Referral to an appropriate Non-Participating Provider. Your Participating Provider must request prior approval of the Referral to a specific Non-Participating Provider. Approvals of Referrals to Non-Participating Providers will not be made for the convenience of You or another treating Provider and may not necessarily be to the specific Non-Participating Provider You requested. If We approve the Referral, all services performed by the Non- Participating Provider are subject to a treatment plan approved by Us in consultation with Your PCP, the Non-Participating Provider and You. Covered Services rendered by the Non-Participating Provider will be paid as if they were provided by a Participating Provider. You will be responsible only for any applicable in-network Cost-Sharing. In the event a Referral is not approved, any services rendered by a Non-Participating Provider will be Covered as an out-of-network benefit if available.

#### **B. When a Specialist Can Be Your Primary Care Physician.**

If You have a life-threatening condition or disease or a degenerative and disabling condition or disease that requires specialty care over a long period of time, You may ask that a Specialist who is a Participating Provider be Your PCP. We will consult with the Specialist and Your PCP and decide whether the Specialist should be Your PCP. Any Referral will be pursuant to a treatment plan approved by Us in consultation with Your PCP, the Specialist and You. We will not approve a non-participating Specialist unless We determine that We do not have an appropriate Provider in Our network. If We approve a non-participating Specialist, Covered Services rendered by the non- participating Specialist pursuant to the approved treatment plan will be paid as if they were provided by a Participating Provider. You will only be responsible for any applicable in-network Cost-Sharing.

#### **C. Standing Referral to a Participating Specialist.**

If You need ongoing specialty care, You may receive a “standing Referral” to a Specialist who is a Participating Provider. This means that You will not need a new Referral from Your PCP every time You need to see that Specialist. We will consult with the Specialist and Your PCP and decide whether You should have a standing Referral. Any Referral will be pursuant to a treatment plan approved by Us in consultation with Your PCP, the Specialist and You. The treatment plan may limit the number of visits, or the period during which the visits are authorized and may require the Specialist to provide Your PCP with regular updates on the specialty care provided as well as all necessary medical information. We will not approve a standing Referral to a non-participating Specialist unless We determine that We do not have an appropriate Provider in Our Network. If We approve a standing Referral to a non-participating Specialist, Covered Services rendered by the non-participating Specialist pursuant to the approved treatment plan will be paid as if

they were provided by a Participating Provider. You will be responsible only for any applicable in-network Cost-Sharing.

**D. Specialty Care Center.**

If You have a life-threatening condition or disease or a degenerative and disabling condition or disease that requires specialty care over a long period of time, You may request a Referral to a specialty care center with expertise in treating Your condition or disease. A specialty care center is a center that has an accreditation or designation from a state agency, the federal government or a national health organization as having special expertise to treat Your disease or condition. We will consult with Your PCP, Your Specialist, and the specialty care center to decide whether to approve such a Referral. Any Referral will be pursuant to a treatment plan developed by the specialty care center, and approved by Us in consultation with Your PCP or Specialist and You. We will not approve a Referral to a non-participating specialty care center unless We determine that We do not have an appropriate specialty care center in Our network. If We approve a Referral to a non-participating specialty care center, Covered Services rendered by the non-participating specialty care center pursuant to the approved treatment plan will be paid as if they were provided by a participating specialty care center. You will be responsible only for any applicable in-network Cost-Sharing.

**E. When Your Provider Leaves the Network.**

If You are in an ongoing course of treatment when Your Provider leaves Our network, then You may be able to continue to receive Covered Services for the ongoing treatment from the former Participating Provider for up to 90 days from the date Your Provider's contractual obligation to provide services to You terminates. If You are pregnant and in Your second or third trimester, You may be able to continue care with a former Participating Provider through delivery and any postpartum care directly related to the delivery.

In order for You to continue to receive Covered Services for up to 90 days or through a pregnancy with a former Participating Provider, the Provider must agree to accept as payment the negotiated fee that was in effect just prior to the termination of our relationship with the Provider. The Provider must also agree to provide Us necessary medical information related to Your care and adhere to our policies and procedures, including those for assuring quality of care, obtaining Preauthorization, Referrals, and a treatment plan approved by Us. If the Provider agrees to these conditions, You will receive the Covered Services as if they were being provided by a Participating Provider. You will be responsible only for any applicable in-network Cost-Sharing. Please note that if the Provider was terminated by Us due to fraud, imminent harm to patients or final disciplinary action by a state board or agency that impairs the Provider's ability to practice, continued treatment with that Provider is not available.

**F. New Members In a Course of Treatment.**

If You are in an ongoing course of treatment with a Non-Participating Provider when Your coverage under this Certificate becomes effective, You may be able to receive

Covered Services for the ongoing treatment from the Non-Participating Provider for up to 60 days from the effective date of Your coverage under this Certificate. This course of treatment must be for a life-threatening disease or condition or a degenerative and disabling condition or disease. You may also continue care with a Non-Participating Provider if You are in the second or third trimester of a pregnancy when Your coverage under this Certificate becomes effective. You may continue care through delivery and any post-partum services directly related to the delivery.

In order for You to continue to receive Covered Services for up to 60 days or through pregnancy, the Non-Participating Provider must agree to accept as payment Our fees for such services. The Provider must also agree to provide Us necessary medical information related to Your care and to adhere to Our policies and procedures including those for assuring quality of care, obtaining Preauthorization, Referrals, and a treatment plan approved by Us. If the Provider agrees to these conditions, You will receive the Covered Services as if they were being provided by a Participating Provider. You will be responsible only for any applicable in-network Cost-Sharing.

## SECTION IV

### Cost-Sharing Expenses and Allowed Amount

#### A. Deductible

Except where stated otherwise, You must pay the amount in the Schedule of Benefits section of this Certificate for Covered out-of-network Services during each Plan Year before We provide coverage. If You have other than individual coverage, the individual Deductible applies to each person covered under this Certificate. Once a person within a family meets the individual Deductible, no further Deductible is required for the person that has met the individual Deductible for that Plan Year. However, after Deductible payments for persons covered under this Certificate collectively total the family Deductible amount in the Schedule of Benefits section of this Certificate in a Plan Year, no further Deductible will be required for any person covered under this Certificate for that Plan Year.

Cost-Sharing for in-network services does not apply toward Your Out-of-Network Deductible. **Any charges of a Non-Participating Provider that are in excess of the Allowed Amount do not apply toward the Deductible.**

There is no Deductible for Covered in-network Services under this Certificate during each Plan Year.

#### B. Copayments.

Except where stated otherwise, You must pay the Copayments, or fixed amounts, in the Schedule of Benefits section of this Certificate for Covered in-network and out-of-network Services after you have satisfied the Deductible as described above. However, when the Allowed Amount for a service is less than the Copayment, You are responsible for the lesser amount.

#### C. Coinsurance.

Except where stated otherwise, You must pay a percentage of the Allowed Amount for Covered Services after you have satisfied the Deductible as described above. We will pay the remaining percentage of the Allowed Amount as Your in-network or out-of-network benefit as shown in the Schedule of Benefits section of this Certificate. **You must also pay any charges of a Non- Participating Provider that are in excess of the Allowed Amount.**

#### D. Primary Care Allowance.

We Cover Services provided in an office setting for diagnostic evaluation and treatment in full for each Member until the allowance described in the Schedule of Benefits section of this Certificate is exhausted for a Plan Year. Once the allowance is exhausted, the Cost-Sharing in the Schedule of Benefits section of this Certificate will apply. Services included in the allowance are those provided by Your Primary Care Physician.

Preventive services required to be Covered at no Cost-Sharing do not count toward the allowance.

### **E. In-Network Out-of-Pocket Limit.**

When You have met Your In-Network Out-of-Pocket Limit in payment of In-Network Copayments, Deductibles and Coinsurance for a Plan Year in the Schedule of Benefits section of this Certificate, We will provide coverage for 100% of the Allowed Amount for Covered in-network Services for the remainder of that Plan Year. If You have other than individual coverage once a person within a family meets the individual In-Network Out-of-Pocket Limit in the Schedule of Benefits section of this Certificate, We will provide coverage for 100% of the Allowed Amount for the rest of that Plan Year for that person. If other than individual coverage applies, when persons in the same family covered under this Certificate have collectively met the family In-Network Out-of-Pocket Limit in payment of In-Network Copayments, Deductibles and Coinsurance for a Plan Year in the Schedule of Benefits section of this Certificate, We will provide coverage for 100% of the Allowed Amount for the rest of that Plan Year for the entire family.

Cost-Sharing for out-of-network services, except for Emergency Services does not apply toward Your In-Network Out-of-Pocket Limit.

### **F. Out-of-Network Out-of-Pocket Limit.**

This Certificate has a separate Out-of-Network Out-of-Pocket Limit in the Schedule of Benefits section of this Certificate for out-of-network benefits. When You have met Your Out-of-Network Out-of-Pocket Limit in payment of Out-of-Network Copayments, Deductibles and Coinsurance for a Plan Year in the Schedule of Benefits section of this Certificate, We will provide coverage for 100% of the Allowed Amount for Covered out-of-network Services for the remainder of that Plan Year. If You have other than individual coverage, once a person within a family meets the individual Out-of-Network Out-of-Pocket Limit, We will provide coverage for 100% of the Allowed Amount for Covered out-of-network Services for the rest of that Plan Year for that person. If other than individual coverage applies, when persons in the same family covered under this Certificate have collectively met the family Out-of-Network Out-of-Pocket Limit in payment of Out-of-Network Copayments, Deductibles and Coinsurance for a Plan Year in the Schedule of Benefits section of this Certificate, We will provide coverage for 100% of the Allowed Amount for Covered out-of-network Services for the rest of that Plan Year. **Any charges of a Non-Participating Provider that are in excess of the Allowed Amount do not apply toward Your Out-of-Network Out-of-Pocket Limit.**

Cost-Sharing for in-network services does not apply toward Your Out-of-Network Out-of-Pocket Limit.

### **G. Your Additional Payments for Out-of-Network Benefits.**

When You receive Covered Services from a Non-Participating Provider, in addition to the applicable Copayments, Deductibles and Coinsurance described in the Schedule of Benefits section of this Certificate, You must also pay the amount, if any, by which the Non-Participating Provider's actual charge exceeds Our Allowed Amount. This means that the total of Our coverage and any Cost-Sharing amounts You pay under Your applicable Copayment, Deductible and Coinsurance may be less than the Non-

Participating Provider's actual charge.

#### **H. Allowed Amount.**

"Allowed Amount" means the maximum amount We will pay for the services or supplies Covered under this Certificate, before any applicable Copayment, Deductible and Coinsurance amounts are subtracted. We determine Our Allowed Amount as follows:

The Allowed Amount for Participating Providers will be the amount We have negotiated with the Participating Provider.

The Allowed Amount for Non-Participating Providers will be determined as follows:

**1. Facilities in Our Service Area.**

For Facilities in Our Service Area, the Allowed Amount will be an amount based on Our Participating Provider fee schedule or rate.

**2. For All Other Providers in Our Service Area.**

For all other Providers in Our Service Area, the Allowed Amount will be an amount based on Our Participating Provider fee schedule or rate.

**Our Allowed Amount is not based on UCR. The Non-Participating Provider's actual charge may exceed Our Allowed Amount. You must pay the difference between Our Allowed Amount and the Non- Participating Provider's charge. Contact Us at the number on Your ID card or visit Our website at [www.bsny.com](http://www.bsny.com) for information on Your financial responsibility when You receive services from a Non-Participating Provider.**

We reserve the right to negotiate a lower rate with Non-Participating Providers or to pay a host plan's rate, if lower.

See the Emergency Services and Urgent Care section of this Certificate for the Allowed Amount for Emergency Services rendered by Non- Participating Providers. See the Ambulance and Pre-Hospital Emergency Medical Services section of this Certificate for the Allowed Amount for Pre- Hospital Emergency Medical Services rendered by Non-Participating Providers.

### **Inter-Plan Arrangements Disclosure**

#### **I. Out-of-Area Services**

We have a variety of relationships with other Blue Cross and/or Blue Shield Licensees referred to generally as "Inter-Plan Arrangements." These Inter-Plan Arrangements operate under rules and procedures issued by the Blue Cross Blue Shield Association ("Association"). Whenever members access healthcare services outside the geographic area we serve, the claim for those services may be processed through one of these Inter-Plan Arrangements. The Inter- Plan Arrangements are described generally below.

Typically, when accessing care outside the geographic area we serve, members obtain care from healthcare providers that have a contractual agreement (“participating providers”) with the local Blue Cross and/or Blue Shield Licensee in that other geographic area (“Host Blue”). In some instances, members may obtain care from providers in the Host Blue. We remain responsible for fulfilling our contractual obligations to you. Our payment practices in both instances are described below.

We cover only limited healthcare services received outside of our service area. As used in this section “Out-of-Area Covered Healthcare Services” include urgent and emergent care obtained outside the geographic area we serve. Any other services will not be covered when processed through any Inter-Plan Arrangements unless authorized by the member’s primary care physician (“PCP”).

#### *Inter-Plan Arrangements Eligibility – Claim Types*

All claim types are eligible to be processed through Inter-Plan Arrangements, as described above, except for all Dental Care Benefits except when paid as medical claims, and those Prescription Drug Benefits or Vision Care Benefits that may be administered by a third party contracted by us to provide the specific service or services.

#### **A. BlueCross BlueShield Global Core**

The BCBS Global Core is an Inter-Plan Arrangement. Under this Arrangement, when members access Out-of-Area Covered Healthcare Services within the geographic area served by a Host Blue we serve, the Host Blue will be responsible for contracting and handling all interactions with its participating providers.

The financial terms of the BlueCard Program are described generally below.

#### **Liability Calculation Method Per Claim**

Unless subject to a fixed dollar copayment, the calculation of the member liability on claims for Out-of-Area Covered Healthcare Services processed through the BlueCard Program will be based on the lower of the provider's billed covered charges or the negotiated price made available to us by the Host Blue.

Host Blues determine a negotiated price, which is reflected in the terms of each Host Blue’s healthcare provider contracts. The negotiated price made available to us by the Host Blue may be represented by one of the following:

- (i) An actual price. An actual price is a negotiated rate of payment in effect at the time a claim is processed without any other increases or decreases, or
- (ii) An estimated price. An estimated price is a negotiated rate of payment in effect at the time a claim is processed, reduced or increased by a percentage to take into account certain payments negotiated with the provider and other claim- and non-claim-related transactions. Such transactions may include, but are not



limited to, anti-fraud and abuse recoveries, provider refunds not applied on a claim- specific basis, retrospective settlements and performance-related bonuses or incentives; or

(iii) An average price. An average price is a percentage of billed covered charges in effect at the time a claim is processed representing the aggregate payments negotiated by the Host Blue with all of its providers or a similar classification of its providers and other claim- and non- claim-related transactions. Such transactions may include the same ones as noted above for an estimated price.

The Host Blue determines whether or not it will use an actual price, an estimated price or an average price. The use of estimated or average pricing may result in a difference (positive or negative) between the price you pay on a specific claim and the actual amount the Host Blue pays to the provider. However, the BlueCard Program requires that the amount paid by the member is a final price; no future price adjustment will result in increases or decreases to the pricing of past claims.

In some instances federal or state laws or regulations may impose a surcharge, tax or other fee that applies to insured accounts. If applicable, we will include any such surcharge, tax or other fee in your premium.

### **Return of Overpayments**

Recoveries from a Host Blue or its participating providers and nonparticipating providers can arise in several ways, including, but not limited to, anti-fraud and abuse recoveries, healthcare provider/hospital bill audits, credit balance audits, utilization review refunds and unsolicited refunds. Recovery amounts determined in the ways noted above will be applied in general, on a claim-by claim or prospective basis. In some cases, the Host Blue will engage a third party to assist in identification or collection of recovery amounts. The fees of such a third party may be charged to you as a percentage of the recovery.

## **B. Non-Participating Healthcare Providers Outside Our Service Area**

### **i. Member Liability Calculation**

When Out-of-Area Covered Healthcare Services are provided outside of our service area by nonparticipating providers, the amount(s) a member pays for such services will generally be based on either the Host Blue's nonparticipating provider local payment or the pricing arrangements required by applicable state law. In these situations, the member may be responsible for the difference between the amount that the nonparticipating provider bills and the payment we will make for the Out-of-Area Covered Services as set forth in this paragraph. Payments for out-of-network emergency services will be governed by applicable federal and state law.

### **ii. Exceptions**

In some exception cases, we may pay claims from nonparticipating providers for Out-of-Area Covered Healthcare Services based on the provider's billed charge. This may occur in situations where a member did not have reasonable access to a participating

provider, as determined by us or by applicable state law. In other exception cases, we may pay such a claim based on the payment we would make if we were paying a nonparticipating provider for the same covered healthcare services inside of our service area, as described elsewhere in this agreement. This may occur where the Host Blue's corresponding payment would be more than our in-service area non-participating provider payment. We may choose to negotiate a payment with such a provider on an exception basis.

Unless otherwise stated, in any of these situations, the member may be responsible for the difference between the amount that the nonparticipating provider bills and the payment we will make for the covered services as set forth in this paragraph.

### **C. BlueCross BlueShield Global Core**

- **General Information**

If members are outside the United States, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands (hereinafter: "BlueCard service area"), they may be able to take advantage of the BCBS Global Core when accessing Covered Services. The BCBS Global Core is unlike the BlueCard Program available in the BlueCard Program in certain ways. For instance, although the BCBS Global Core assists members with accessing a network of inpatient, outpatient and professional providers, the network is not served by a Host Blue. As such, when members receive care from providers outside the BlueCard service area, the members will typically have to pay the providers and submit the claims themselves to obtain reimbursement for these services.

- **Inpatient Services**

In most cases, if members contact the BlueCard Worldwide Service Center for assistance, hospitals will not require members to pay for covered inpatient hospital services, except for their cost-share amounts. In such cases, the BlueCard Worldwide Program contracting hospital will submit member claims to the BlueCard Worldwide Service Center to initiate claims processing. However, if the member paid in full at the time of service, the member must submit a claim to obtain reimbursement for Covered Services. **Members must contact us to obtain precertification for non-emergency inpatient services.**

- **Outpatient Services**

Physicians, urgent care centers and other outpatient providers located outside the BlueCard service area will typically require members to pay in full at the time of service. Members must submit a claim to obtain reimbursement for Covered Services.

#### **Submitting a BCBS Global Core Claim**

When members pay for Covered Services outside the BlueCard service area, they must submit a claim to obtain reimbursement. For institutional and professional claims, members should complete BCBS Global Core claim form and send the claim form with

the provider's itemized bill(s) to the service center (the address is on the form) to initiate claims processing. The claim form is available from us, the service center or online at [www.bcbsglobalcore.com](http://www.bcbsglobalcore.com). If members need assistance with their claim submissions, they should call the service center at 1.800.810.BLUE (2583) or call collect at 1.804.673.1177, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

## SECTION V

### Who is Covered

#### **A. Who is Covered Under this Certificate.**

You, the Subscriber to whom this Certificate is issued, are covered under this Certificate. You must live, work, or reside in Our Service Area to be covered under this Certificate. Members of Your family may also be covered depending on the type of coverage You selected.

#### **B. Types of Coverage.**

We offer the following types of coverage:

- 1. Individual.** If You selected individual coverage, then You are covered.
- 2. Individual and Spouse.** If You selected individual and Spouse coverage, then You and Your Spouse are covered.
- 3. Parent and Child/Children.** If You selected parent and child/children coverage, then You and Your Child or Children, as described below, are covered.
- 4. Family.** If You selected family coverage, then You and Your Spouse and Your Child or Children, as described below, are covered.

#### **C. Children Covered Under this Certificate.**

If You selected parent and child/children or family coverage, Children covered under this Certificate include Your natural Children, legally adopted Children, step Children, and Children for whom You are the proposed adoptive parent without regard to financial dependence, residency with You, student status or employment. A proposed adopted Child is eligible for coverage on the same basis as a natural Child during any waiting period prior to the finalization of the Child's adoption. Coverage lasts until the end of the month in which the Child turns 26 years of age. Coverage also includes Children for whom You are a legal guardian if the Children are chiefly dependent upon You for support and You have been appointed the legal guardian by a court order. Foster Children and grandchildren are not Covered.

Any unmarried dependent Child, regardless of age, who is incapable of self-sustaining employment by reason of mental illness, developmental disability, mental retardation (as defined in the New York Mental Hygiene Law), or physical handicap and who became so incapable prior to attainment of the age at which the Child's coverage would otherwise terminate and who is chiefly dependent upon You for support and maintenance, will remain covered while Your insurance remains in force and Your Child remains in such condition. You have 31 days from the date of Your Child's attainment of the termination age to submit an application to request that the Child be included in Your coverage and proof of the Child's incapacity. We have the right to check whether a Child is and continues to qualify under this section.

We have the right to request and be furnished with such proof as may be needed to determine eligibility status of a prospective or covered Subscriber and all other prospective or covered Members in relation to eligibility for coverage under this Certificate at any time.

#### **D. When Coverage Begins.**

Coverage under this Certificate will begin as follows:

1. If You, the Subscriber, elect coverage before becoming eligible, or within 30 days of becoming eligible for other than a special enrollment period, coverage begins on the date You become eligible, or on the date determined by Your Group. Groups cannot impose waiting periods that exceed 90 days.
2. If You, the Subscriber, do not elect coverage upon becoming eligible or within 30 days of becoming eligible for other than a special enrollment period, You must wait until the Group's next open enrollment period to enroll, except as provided below.
3. If You, the Subscriber, marry while covered, and We receive notice of such marriage within 30 days thereafter, coverage for Your Spouse and Child starts on the first day of the month following such marriage. If We do not receive notice within 30 days of the marriage, You must wait until the Group's next open enrollment period to add Your Spouse or Child.
4. If You, the Subscriber, have a newborn or adopted newborn Child and We; receive notice of such birth within 30 days thereafter, coverage for Your newborn starts at the moment of birth; otherwise, coverage begins on the date on which We receive notice. Your adopted newborn Child will be covered from the moment of birth if You take physical custody of the infant as soon as the infant is released from the Hospital after birth and You file a petition pursuant to Section 115-c of the New York Domestic Relations Law within 30 days of the infant's birth; and provided further that no notice of revocation to the adoption has been filed pursuant to Section 115-b of the New York Domestic Relations Law, and consent to the adoption has not been revoked. However, We will not provide Hospital benefits for the adopted newborn's initial Hospital stay if one of the infant's natural parents has coverage for the newborn's initial Hospital stay. If You have individual or individual and Spouse coverage, You must also notify Us of Your desire to switch to parent and child/children or family coverage and pay any additional premium within 30 days of the birth or adoption in order for coverage to start at the moment of birth. Otherwise, coverage begins on the date on which We receive notice and the premium payment.

#### **E. Special Enrollment Periods.**

You, Your Spouse or Child can also enroll for coverage within 30 days of the loss of coverage in another group health plan if coverage was terminated because You, Your Spouse or Child are no longer eligible for coverage under the other group health plan due to:

1. Termination of employment;
2. Termination of the other group health plan;

3. Death of the Spouse;
4. Legal separation, divorce or annulment;
5. Reduction of hours of employment;
6. Employer contributions toward the group health plan were terminated for You or Your Dependents' coverage; or
7. A Child no longer qualifies for coverage as a Child under the other group health plan.

You, Your Spouse or Child can also enroll 30 days from exhaustion of Your COBRA or continuation coverage or if You gain a Dependent or become a Dependent through marriage, birth, adoption, or placement for adoption.

We must receive notice and premium payment within 30 days of the loss of coverage. The effective date of Your coverage will depend on when We receive Your application. If Your application is received between the first and fifteenth day of the month, Your coverage will begin on the first day of the following month. If Your application is received between the sixteenth day and the last day of the month, Your coverage will begin on the first day of the second month.

In addition, You, Your Spouse or Child, can also enroll for coverage within 60 days of the occurrence of one of the following events:

1. You or Your Spouse or Child loses eligibility for Medicaid or a Child Health Plus health plan; or
2. You or Your Spouse or Child becomes eligible for Medicaid or a Child Health Plus health plan.

We must receive notice and premium payment within 60 days of one of these events. The effective date of Your coverage will depend on when We receive Your application. If Your application is received between the first and fifteenth day of the month, Your coverage will begin on the first day of the following month. If Your application is received between the sixteenth day and the last day of the month, Your coverage will begin on the first day of the second month.

#### **F. Domestic Partner Coverage.**

This Certificate covers domestic partners of Subscribers as Spouses. If You selected family coverage, Children covered under this Certificate also include the Children of Your domestic partner. Proof of the domestic partnership and financial interdependence must be submitted in the form of:

1. Registration as a domestic partnership indicating that neither individual has been registered as a member of another domestic partnership within the last six (6) months, where such registry exists; or
2. For partners residing where registration does not exist, by an alternative affidavit of domestic partnership.
  - a. The affidavit must be notarized and must contain the following:
    - The partners are both eighteen years of age or older and are mentally competent to consent to contract;

- The partners are not related by blood in a manner that would bar marriage under laws of the State of New York;
  - The partners have been living together on a continuous basis prior to the date of the application;
  - Neither individual has been registered as a member of another domestic partnership within the last six (6) months; and
- b. Proof of cohabitation (e.g., a driver's license, tax return or other sufficient proof); and
- c. Proof that the partners are financially interdependent. Two or more of the following are collectively sufficient to establish financial interdependence:
- A joint bank account;
  - A joint credit card or charge card;
  - Joint obligation on a loan;
  - Status as an authorized signatory on the partner's bank account, credit card or charge card;
  - Joint ownership of holdings or investments;
  - Joint ownership of residence;
  - Joint ownership of real estate other than residence;
  - Listing of both partners as tenants on the lease of the shared residence;
  - Shared rental payments of residence (need not be shared 50/50);
  - Listing of both partners as tenants on a lease, or shared rental payments, for property other than residence;
  - A common household and shared household expenses, e.g., grocery bills, utility bills, telephone bills, etc. (need not be shared 50/50);
  - Shared household budget for purposes of receiving government benefits;
  - Status of one as representative payee for the other's government benefits;
  - Joint ownership of major items of personal property (e.g., appliances, furniture);
  - Joint ownership of a motor vehicle;
  - Joint responsibility for child care (e.g., school documents, guardianship);
  - Shared child-care expenses, e.g., babysitting, day care, school bills (need not be shared 50/50);
  - Execution of wills naming each other as executor and/or beneficiary;
  - Designation as beneficiary under the other's life insurance policy;
  - Designation as beneficiary under the other's retirement benefits account;
  - Mutual grant of durable power of attorney;
  - Mutual grant of authority to make health care decisions (e.g., health care power of attorney);
  - Affidavit by creditor or other individual able to testify to partners' financial interdependence; or
  - Other item(s) of proof sufficient to establish economic interdependency

under the circumstances of the particular case.



## SECTION VI

### Preventive Care

Please refer to the Schedule of Benefits section of this Certificate for Cost-Sharing requirements, day or visit limits, and any Preauthorization or Referral requirements that apply to these benefits.

#### **Preventive Care.**

We Cover the following services for the purpose of promoting good health and early detection of disease. Preventive services are not subject to Cost-Sharing (Copayments, Deductibles or Coinsurance) when performed by a Participating Provider and provided in accordance with the comprehensive guidelines supported by the Health Resources and Services Administration (“HRSA”), or if the items or services have an “A” or “B” rating from the United States Preventive Services Task Force (“USPSTF”), or if the immunizations are recommended by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (“ACIP”). However, Cost-Sharing may apply to services provided during the same visit as the preventive services. Also, if a preventive service is provided during an office visit wherein the preventive service is not the primary purpose of the visit, the Cost-Sharing amount that would otherwise apply to the office visit will still apply. You may contact Us at the number on Your ID card or visit Our website at [www.bsny.com](http://www.bsny.com) for a copy of the comprehensive guidelines supported by HRSA, items or services with an “A” or “B” rating from USPSTF, and immunizations recommended by ACIP.

- A. Well-Baby and Well-Child Care.** We Cover well-baby and well-child care which consists of routine physical examinations including vision screenings and hearing screenings, developmental assessment, anticipatory guidance, and laboratory tests ordered at the time of the visit as recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics. We also Cover preventive care and screenings as provided for in the comprehensive guidelines supported by HRSA and items or services with an “A” or “B” rating from USPSTF. If the schedule of well-child visits referenced above permits one well-child visit per calendar year, We will not deny a well-child visit if 365 days have not passed since the previous well-child visit. Immunizations and boosters as required by ACIP are also Covered. This benefit is provided to Members from birth through attainment of age 19 and is not subject to Copayments, Deductibles or Coinsurance when provided by a Participating Provider.
  
- B. Adult Annual Physical Examinations.** We Cover adult annual physical examinations and preventive care and screenings as provided for in the comprehensive guidelines supported by HRSA and items or services with an “A” or “B” rating from USPSTF.

Examples of items or services with an “A” or “B” rating from USPSTF include, but are not limited to, blood pressure screening for adults, lung cancer screening, colorectal cancer screening, alcohol misuse screening, depression screening, and diabetes screening. A complete list of the Covered preventive Services is available on Our website at [www.bsneny.com](http://www.bsneny.com), or will be mailed to You upon request.

You are eligible for a physical examination once every calendar Year, regardless of whether or not 365 days have passed since the previous physical examination visit. Vision screenings do not include refractions.

This benefit is not subject to Copayments, Deductibles or Coinsurance when provided in accordance with the comprehensive guidelines supported by HRSA and items or services with an “A” or “B” rating from USPSTF and when provided by a Participating Provider.

**C. Adult Immunizations.** We Cover adult immunizations as recommended by ACIP. This benefit is not subject to Copayments, Deductibles or Coinsurance when provided in accordance with the recommendations of ACIP and when provided by a Participating Provider.

**D. Well-Woman Examinations.** We Cover well-woman examinations which consist of a routine gynecological examination, breast examination and annual Pap smear, including laboratory and diagnostic services in connection with evaluating the Pap smear. We also Cover preventive care and screenings as provided for in the comprehensive guidelines supported by HRSA and items or services with an “A” or “B” rating from USPSTF. A complete list of the Covered preventive Services is available on Our website at [www.bsneny.com](http://www.bsneny.com), or will be mailed to You upon request. This benefit is not subject to Copayments, Deductibles or Coinsurance when provided in accordance with the comprehensive guidelines supported by HRSA and items or services with an “A” or “B” rating from USPSTF, which may be less frequent than described above, and when provided by a Participating Provider.

**E. Mammograms, Screening and Diagnostic Imaging for the Detection of Breast Cancer.** We Cover mammograms for the screening of breast cancer as follows:

- One baseline screening mammogram for Members age 35 through 39; and
- One baseline screening mammogram annually for Members age 40 and over.

If a Member of any age has a history of breast cancer or a first degree relative has a history of breast cancer, We Cover mammograms as recommended by the Member’s Provider. However, in no event will more than one preventive screening per Plan Year be Covered.

Mammograms for the screening of breast cancer are not subject to Copayments, Deductibles or Coinsurance when provided by a Participating Provider.

We also Cover additional screening and diagnostic imaging for the detection of breast cancer, including diagnostic mammograms, breast ultrasounds and MRIs. Screening and diagnostic imaging for the detection of breast cancer including diagnostic mammograms, breast ultrasounds and MRIs are not subject to Copayments, Deductibles or Coinsurance when provided by a Participating Provider.

**F. Family Planning and Reproductive Health Services.** We Cover family planning services which consist of FDA-approved contraceptive methods prescribed by a Provider, not otherwise Covered under the Prescription Drug Coverage section of this Certificate, counseling on use of contraceptives and related topics, and sterilization procedures for women. Such services are not subject to Copayments, Deductibles or Coinsurance when provided in accordance with the comprehensive guidelines supported by HRSA and items or services with an “A” or “B” rating from USPSTF and when provided by a Participating Provider.

We also Cover vasectomies subject to Copayments, Deductibles or Coinsurance.

We do not Cover services related to the reversal of elective sterilizations.

**G. Bone Mineral Density Measurements or Testing.** We Cover bone mineral density measurements or tests, and Prescription Drugs and devices approved by the FDA or generic equivalents as approved substitutes. Coverage of Prescription Drugs is subject to the Prescription Drug Coverage section of this Certificate. Bone mineral density measurements or tests, drugs or devices shall include those covered for individuals meeting the criteria under the federal Medicare program and those in accordance with the criteria of the National Institutes of Health. You will also qualify for Coverage of bone mineral density measurements and testing if You meet any of the following:

- Previously diagnosed as having osteoporosis or having a family history of osteoporosis;
- With symptoms or conditions indicative of the presence or significant risk of osteoporosis;
- On a prescribed drug regimen posing a significant risk of osteoporosis;
- With lifestyle factors to a degree as posing a significant risk of osteoporosis; or
- With such age, gender, and/or other physiological characteristics which pose a significant risk for osteoporosis.

We also Cover bone mineral density measurements or tests, and Prescription Drugs and devices as provided for in the comprehensive guidelines supported by HRSA and items or services with an “A” or “B” rating from USPSTF.

This benefit is not subject to Copayments, Deductibles or Coinsurance when provided in accordance with the comprehensive guidelines supported by HRSA and items or services with an “A” or “B” rating from USPSTF, which may not include all of the above services such as drugs and devices and when provided by a Participating Provider.

**H. Screening for Prostate Cancer.** We Cover an annual standard diagnostic examination including, but not limited to, a digital rectal examination and a prostate specific antigen test for men age 50 and over who are asymptomatic and for men age 40 and over with a family history of prostate cancer or other prostate cancer risk factors. We also Cover standard diagnostic testing including, but not limited to, a digital rectal examination and a prostate-specific antigen test, at any age for men having a prior history of prostate cancer.

This benefit is not subject to Copayments, Deductibles or Coinsurance when provided by a Participating Provider.

## SECTION VII

### Ambulance and Pre-Hospital Emergency Medical Services

Please refer to the Schedule of Benefits section of this Certificate for Cost-Sharing requirements, day or visit limits, and any Preauthorization or Referral requirements that apply to these benefits. Pre-Hospital Emergency Medical Services and ambulance services for the treatment of an Emergency Condition do not require Preauthorization.

#### **A. Emergency Ambulance Transportation.**

We Cover Pre-Hospital Emergency Medical Services for the treatment of an Emergency Condition when such services are provided by an ambulance service.

“Pre-Hospital Emergency Medical Services” means the prompt evaluation and treatment of an Emergency Condition and/or non-airborne transportation to a Hospital. The services must be provided by an ambulance service issued a certificate under the New York Public Health Law. We will, however, only Cover transportation to a Hospital provided by such an ambulance service when a prudent layperson, possessing an average knowledge of medicine and health, could reasonably expect the absence of such transportation to result in:

- Placing the health of the person afflicted with such condition or, with respect to a pregnant woman, the health of the woman or her unborn child in serious jeopardy, or in the case of a behavioral condition, placing the health of such person or others in serious jeopardy;
- Serious impairment to such person’s bodily functions;
- Serious dysfunction of any bodily organ or part of such person; or
- Serious disfigurement of such person.

An ambulance service may not charge or seek reimbursement from You for Pre-Hospital Emergency Medical Services except for the collection of any applicable Copayment, Deductible or Coinsurance. In the absence of negotiated rates, We will pay a Non-Participating Provider the usual and customary charge for Pre-Hospital Emergency Medical Services, which shall not be excessive or unreasonable.

We also Cover emergency ambulance transportation by a licensed ambulance service (either ground, water or air ambulance) to the nearest Hospital where Emergency Services can be performed.

We Cover Pre-Hospital Emergency Medical Services and emergency ambulance transportation worldwide.

## **B. Non-Emergency Ambulance Transportation.**

We Cover non-emergency ambulance transportation by a licensed ambulance service (either ground or air ambulance, as appropriate) between Facilities when the transport is any of the following:

- From a non-participating Hospital to a participating Hospital;
- To a Hospital that provides a higher level of care that was not available at the original Hospital; To a more cost-effective Acute care Facility; or
- From an Acute care Facility to a sub-Acute setting.

## **C. Limitations/Terms of Coverage.**

- We do not Cover travel or transportation expenses, unless connected to an Emergency Condition or due to a Facility transfer approved by Us, even though prescribed by a Physician.
- We do not Cover non-ambulance transportation such as ambulette, van or taxi cab.
- Coverage for air ambulance related to an Emergency Condition or air ambulance related to non-emergency transportation is provided when Your medical condition is such that transportation by land ambulance is not appropriate; and Your medical condition requires immediate and rapid ambulance transportation that cannot be provided by land ambulance; and one of the following is met:
  - The point of pick-up is inaccessible by land vehicle; or
  - Great distances or other obstacles (for example, heavy traffic) prevent Your timely transfer to the nearest Hospital with appropriate facilities.

## SECTION VIII

### Emergency Services and Urgent Care

Please refer to the Schedule of Benefits section of this Certificate for Cost-Sharing requirements, day or visit limits, and any Preauthorization or Referral requirements that apply to these benefits.

#### A. Emergency Services.

We Cover Emergency Services for the treatment of an Emergency Condition in a Hospital.

We define an “**Emergency Condition**” to mean: A medical or behavioral condition that manifests itself by Acute symptoms of sufficient severity, including severe pain, such that a prudent layperson, possessing an average knowledge of medicine and health, could reasonably expect the absence of immediate medical attention to result in:

- Placing the health of the person afflicted with such condition or, with respect to a pregnant woman, the health of the woman or her unborn child in serious jeopardy, or in the case of a behavioral condition, placing the health of such person or others in serious jeopardy;
- Serious impairment to such person’s bodily functions;
- Serious dysfunction of any bodily organ or part of such person; or
- Serious disfigurement of such person.

For example, an Emergency Condition may include, but is not limited to, the following conditions:

- Severe chest pain
- Severe or multiple injuries
- Severe shortness of breath
- Sudden change in mental status (e.g., disorientation)
- Severe bleeding
- Acute pain or conditions requiring immediate attention such as suspected heart attack or appendicitis
- Poisonings
- Convulsions

Coverage of Emergency Services for treatment of Your Emergency Condition will be provided regardless of whether the Provider is a Participating Provider. We will also Cover Emergency Services to treat Your Emergency Condition worldwide. However, We will Cover only those Emergency Services and supplies that are Medically Necessary and are performed to treat or stabilize Your Emergency Condition in a Hospital.

Please follow the instructions listed below regardless of whether or not You are in Our Service Area at the time Your Emergency Condition occurs:

- 1. Hospital Emergency Department Visits.** In the event that You require treatment for an Emergency Condition, seek immediate care at the nearest Hospital emergency department or call 911. Emergency Department Care does not require Preauthorization. **However, only Emergency Services for the treatment of an Emergency Condition are Covered in an emergency department.**

**We do not Cover follow-up care or routine care provided in a Hospital emergency department.**

- 2. Emergency Hospital Admissions.** In the event that You are **admitted** to the Hospital, You or someone on Your behalf must notify Us at the number on Your ID card within 48 hours of Your admission, or as soon as is reasonably possible.

We Cover inpatient Hospital services at a non-participating Hospital at the in-network Cost-Sharing for as long as Your medical condition prevents Your transfer to a participating Hospital, unless We authorize continued treatment at the non-participating Hospital. If Your medical condition permits Your transfer to a participating Hospital, We will notify You and arrange the transfer. Any inpatient Hospital services received from a non-participating Hospital after we have notified You and arranged for a transfer to a participating Hospital will be Covered at the out-of-network Cost-Sharing.

- 3. Payments Relating to Emergency Services Rendered.** The amount We pay a Non-Participating Provider for Emergency Services will be the greater of: 1) the amount We have negotiated with Participating Providers for the Emergency Service (and if more than one amount is negotiated, the median of the amounts); 2) 100% of the Allowed Amount for services provided by a Non-Participating Provider (i.e., the amount We would pay in the absence of any Cost-Sharing that would otherwise apply for services of Non-Participating Providers); or 3) the amount that would be paid under Medicare. The amounts described above exclude any Copayment or Coinsurance that applies to Emergency Services provided by a Participating Provider.

You are responsible for any in-network Copayment, Deductible or Coinsurance. You will be held harmless for any Non-Participating Provider charges that exceed Your Copayment, Deductible or Coinsurance.

## **B. Urgent Care.**

Urgent Care is medical care for an illness, injury or condition serious enough that a reasonable person would seek care right away, but not so severe as to require Emergency Department Care. **Urgent Care is Covered in or out of Our Service Area.**

- 1. In-Network.** We Cover Urgent Care from a participating Physician or a participating Urgent Care Center.



**2. Out-of-Network.** We Cover Urgent Care from a non-participating Urgent Care Center or Physician .

**If Urgent Care results in an emergency admission, please follow the instructions for emergency Hospital admissions described above.**

## SECTION IX

### Outpatient and Professional Services

Please refer to the Schedule of Benefits section of this Certificate for Cost-Sharing requirements, day or visit limits, and any Preauthorization or Referral requirements that apply to these benefits.

#### **A. Advanced Imaging Services.**

We Cover PET scans, MRI, nuclear medicine, and CAT scans.

#### **B. Allergy Testing and Treatment.**

We Cover testing and evaluations including injections, and scratch and prick tests to determine the existence of an allergy. We also Cover allergy treatment, including desensitization treatments, routine allergy injections and serums.

#### **C. Ambulatory Surgical Services Center.**

We Cover surgical procedures performed at Ambulatory Surgical Centers including services and supplies provided by the center the day the surgery is performed.

#### **D. Chemotherapy.**

We Cover chemotherapy in an outpatient Facility or in a Health Care Professional's office. Orally-administered anti-cancer drugs are Covered under the Prescription Drug Coverage section of this Certificate.

#### **E. Chiropractic Services.**

We Cover chiropractic care when performed by a Doctor of Chiropractic ("chiropractor") or a Physician in connection with the detection or correction by manual or mechanical means of structural imbalance, distortion or subluxation in the human body for the purpose of removing nerve interference and the effects thereof, where such interference is the result of or related to distortion, misalignment or subluxation of the vertebral column. This includes assessment, manipulation and any modalities. Any laboratory tests will be Covered in accordance with the terms and conditions of this Certificate.

#### **F. Clinical Trials.**

We Cover the routine patient costs for Your participation in an approved clinical trial and such coverage shall not be subject to Utilization Review if You are:

- Eligible to participate in an approved clinical trial to treat either cancer or other life-threatening disease or condition; and
- Referred by a Participating Provider who has concluded that Your participation in the approved clinical trial would be appropriate.

All other clinical trials, including when You do not have cancer or other life-threatening disease or condition, may be subject to the Utilization Review and External Appeal sections of this Certificate.

We do not Cover: the costs of the investigational drugs or devices; the costs of non-

health services required for You to receive the treatment; the costs of managing the research; or costs that would not be covered under this Certificate for non-investigational treatments provided in the clinical trial.

An “approved clinical trial” means a phase I, II III, or IV clinical trial that is:

- A federally funded or approved trial;
- Conducted under an investigational drug application reviewed by the federal Food and Drug Administration; or
- A drug trial that is exempt from having to make an investigational new drug application.

### **G. Dialysis.**

We Cover dialysis treatments of an Acute or chronic kidney ailment.

### **H. Habilitation Services.**

We Cover Habilitation Services consisting of physical therapy, speech therapy and occupational therapy in the outpatient department of a Facility or in a Health Care Professional’s office for up to 60 visits per Plan Year. The visit limit applies to all therapies combined.

### **I. Home Health Care.**

We Cover care provided in Your home by a Home Health Agency certified or licensed by the appropriate state agency. The care must be provided pursuant to Your Physician's written treatment plan and must be in lieu of Hospitalization or confinement in a Skilled Nursing Facility. Home care includes:

- Part-time or intermittent nursing care by or under the supervision of a registered professional nurse;
- Part-time or intermittent services of a home health aide;
- Physical, occupational or speech therapy provided by the Home Health Agency; and
- Medical supplies, Prescription Drugs and medications prescribed by a Physician, and laboratory services by or on behalf of the Home Health Agency to the extent such items would have been Covered during a Hospitalization or confinement in a Skilled Nursing Facility.

Home Health Care is limited to 40 visits per Plan Year. Each visit by a member of the Home Health Agency is considered one visit. Each visit of up to four hours by a home health aide is considered one visit. Any Rehabilitation or Habilitation Services received under this benefit will not reduce the amount of services available under the Rehabilitation or Habilitation Services benefits.

### **J. Infertility Treatment.**

We Cover services for the diagnosis and treatment (surgical and medical) of infertility when such infertility is the result of malformation, disease or dysfunction. Such Coverage is available as follows:

- 1. Basic Infertility Services.** Basic infertility services will be provided to a Member

who is an appropriate candidate for infertility treatment. In order to determine eligibility, We will use guidelines established by the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, the American Society for Reproductive Medicine, and the State of New York. However, Members must be between the ages of 21 and 44 (inclusive) in order to be considered a candidate for these services.

Basic infertility services include:

- Initial evaluation;
- Semen analysis;
- Laboratory evaluation;
- Evaluation of ovulatory function;
- Postcoital test;
- Endometrial biopsy;
- Pelvic ultra sound;
- Hysterosalpingogram;
- Sono-hystogram;
- Testis biopsy;
- Blood tests; and
- Medically appropriate treatment of ovulatory dysfunction.

Additional tests may be Covered if the tests are determined to be Medically Necessary.

**2. Comprehensive Infertility Services.** If the basic infertility services do not result in increased fertility, We Cover comprehensive infertility services.

Comprehensive infertility services include:

- Ovulation induction and monitoring;
- Pelvic ultra sound;
- Artificial insemination;
- Hysteroscopy;
- Laparoscopy; and
- Laparotomy.

**3. Exclusions and Limitations.** We do not Cover:

- In vitro fertilization, gamete intrafallopian tube transfers or zygote intrafallopian tube transfers;
- Costs for an ovum donor or donor sperm;
- Sperm storage costs;

- Cryopreservation and storage of embryos;
- Ovulation predictor kits;
- Reversal of tubal ligations;
- Reversal of vasectomies;
- Costs for and relating to surrogate motherhood (maternity services are Covered for Members acting as surrogate mothers);
- Cloning; or
- Medical and surgical procedures that are experimental or investigational, unless Our denial is overturned by an External Appeal Agent.

All services must be provided by Providers who are qualified to provide such services in accordance with the guidelines established and adopted by the American Society for Reproductive Medicine.

#### **K. Infusion Therapy.**

We Cover infusion therapy which is the administration of drugs using specialized delivery systems which otherwise would have required You to be hospitalized. Drugs or nutrients administered directly into the veins are considered infusion therapy. Drugs taken by mouth or self-injected are not considered infusion therapy. The services must be ordered by a Physician or other authorized Health Care Professional and provided in an office or by an agency licensed or certified to provide infusion therapy. Any visits for home infusion therapy count toward Your home health care visit limit.

#### **L. Interruption of Pregnancy.**

We Cover medically necessary abortions including abortions in cases of rape, incest or fetal malformation. We Cover elective abortions for one procedure per Member, per Plan Year.

#### **M. Laboratory Procedures, Diagnostic Testing and Radiology Services.**

We Cover x-ray, laboratory procedures and diagnostic testing, services and materials, including diagnostic x-rays, x-ray therapy, fluoroscopy, electrocardiograms, electroencephalograms, laboratory tests, and therapeutic radiology services.

#### **N. Maternity and Newborn Care.**

We Cover services for maternity care provided by a Physician or midwife, nurse practitioner, Hospital or birthing center. We Cover prenatal care (including one visit for genetic testing), postnatal care, delivery, and complications of pregnancy. In order for services of a midwife to be Covered, the midwife must be licensed pursuant to Article 140 of the New York Education Law, practicing consistent with Section 6951 of the New York Education Law and affiliated or practicing in conjunction with a Facility licensed pursuant to Article 28 of the New York Public Health Law. We will not pay for duplicative routine services provided by both a midwife and a Physician. See the Inpatient Services section of this Certificate for Coverage of inpatient maternity care.

We Cover breastfeeding support, counseling and supplies, including the cost of renting one breast pump per pregnancy for the duration of breast feeding.

**O. Office Visits.**

We Cover office visits for the diagnosis and treatment of injury, disease and medical conditions. Office visits may include house calls.

**P. Outpatient Hospital Services.**

We Cover Hospital services and supplies as described in the Inpatient Services section of this Certificate that can be provided to You while being treated in an outpatient Facility. For example, Covered Services include but are not limited to inhalation therapy, pulmonary rehabilitation, infusion therapy and cardiac rehabilitation. Unless You are receiving preadmission testing, Hospitals are not Participating Providers for outpatient laboratory procedures and tests.

**Q. Preadmission Testing.**

We Cover preadmission testing ordered by Your Physician and performed in Hospital outpatient facilities prior to a scheduled surgery in the same Hospital provided that:

- The tests are necessary for and consistent with the diagnosis and treatment of the condition for which the surgery is to be performed;
- Reservations for a Hospital bed and operating room were made prior to the performance of the tests;
- Surgery takes place within seven days of the tests; and
- The patient is physically present at the Hospital for the tests.

**R. Prescription Drugs for Use in the Office and Outpatient Facilities.**

We Cover Prescription Drugs (excluding self-injectable drugs) used by Your Provider in the Provider's office and Outpatient Facility for preventive and therapeutic purposes. This benefit applies when Your Provider orders the Prescription Drug and administers it to You. When Prescription Drugs are Covered under this benefit, they will not be Covered under the Prescription Drug Coverage section of this Certificate.

**S. Rehabilitation Services.**

We Cover Rehabilitation Services consisting of physical therapy, speech therapy and occupational therapy in the outpatient department of a Facility or in a Health Care Professional's office for up to 60 visits per per condition Plan Year. The visit limit applies to all therapies combined.

We Cover speech and physical therapy only when:

- Such therapy is related to the treatment or diagnosis of Your physical illness or injury (in the case of a covered Child, this includes a medically diagnosed congenital defect); and
- The therapy is ordered by a Physician

Covered Rehabilitation Services must begin within six months of the later to occur:

- The date of the injury or illness that caused the need for the therapy;

- The date outpatient surgical care is rendered.

In no event will the therapy continue beyond 365 days after such event.

#### **T. Second Opinions.**

- 1. Second Cancer Opinion.** We Cover a second medical opinion by an appropriate Specialist, including but not limited to a Specialist affiliated with a specialty care center, in the event of a positive or negative diagnosis of cancer or a recurrence of cancer or a recommendation of a course of treatment for cancer. You may obtain a second opinion from a Non-participating Provider on an in-network basis when Your attending Physician provides a written Referral to a Non-Participating Specialist.
- 2. Second Surgical Opinion.** We Cover a second surgical opinion by a qualified Physician on the need for surgery.
- 3. Second Opinions in Other Cases.** There may be other instances when You will disagree with a Provider's recommended course of treatment. In such cases, You may request that we designate another Provider to render a second opinion. If the first and second opinions do not agree, We will designate another Provider to render a third opinion. After completion of the second opinion process, We will approve Covered Services supported by a majority of the Providers reviewing Your case.

#### **U. Surgical Services.**

We Cover Physicians' services for surgical procedures, including operating and cutting procedures for the treatment of a sickness or injury, and closed reduction of fractures and dislocations of bones, endoscopies, incisions, or punctures of the skin on an inpatient and outpatient basis, including the services of the surgeon or Specialist, assistant (including a Physician's assistant or a nurse practitioner), and anesthetist or anesthesiologist, together with preoperative and post-operative care. Benefits are not available for anesthesia services provided as part of a surgical procedure when rendered by the surgeon or the surgeon's assistant.

Sometimes two or more surgical procedures can be performed during the same operation.

- 1. Through the Same Incision.** If Covered multiple surgical procedures are performed through the same incision, We will pay for the procedure with the highest Allowed Amount and 50% of the amount We would otherwise pay under this Certificate for the secondary procedures, except for secondary procedures that, according to nationally-recognized coding rules, are exempt from multiple surgical procedure reductions. We will not pay anything for a secondary procedure that is billed with a primary procedure when that secondary procedure is incidental to the primary procedure.
- 2. Through Different Incisions.** If Covered multiple surgical procedures are

performed during the same operative session but through different incisions, We will pay:

- For the procedure with the highest Allowed Amount; and
- 50% of the amount We would otherwise pay for the other procedures.

#### **V. Oral Surgery.**

We Cover the following limited dental and oral surgical procedures:

- Oral surgical procedures for jaw bones or surrounding tissue and dental services for the repair or replacement of sound natural teeth that are required due to accidental injury. Replacement is Covered only when repair is not possible. Dental services must be obtained within 12 months of the injury.
- Oral surgical procedures for jaw bones or surrounding tissue and dental services necessary due to congenital disease or anomaly.
- Oral surgical procedures required for the correction of a non-dental physiological condition which has resulted in a severe functional impairment.
- Removal of tumors and cysts requiring pathological examination of the jaws, cheeks, lips, tongue, roof and floor of the mouth. Cysts related to teeth are not Covered.
- Surgical/nonsurgical medical procedures for temporomandibular joint disorders and orthognathic surgery.

#### **W. Reconstructive Breast Surgery.**

We Cover breast reconstruction surgery after a mastectomy or partial mastectomy. Coverage includes: all stages of reconstruction of the breast on which the mastectomy or partial mastectomy has been performed; surgery and reconstruction of the other breast to produce a symmetrical appearance; and physical complications of the mastectomy or partial mastectomy, including lymphedemas, in a manner determined by You and Your attending Physician to be appropriate. We also Cover implanted breast prostheses following a mastectomy or partial mastectomy.

#### **X. Other Reconstructive and Corrective Surgery.**

We Cover reconstructive and corrective surgery other than reconstructive breast surgery only when it is:

- Performed to correct a congenital birth defect of a covered Child which has resulted in a functional defect; or
- Incidental to surgery or follows surgery that was necessitated by trauma, infection or disease of the involved part; or
- Otherwise Medically Necessary.

#### **Y. Telemedicine Program.**

In addition to providing Covered Services via telehealth, We Cover online internet consultations between You and Providers who participate in Our telemedicine program for medical conditions that are not an Emergency Condition. Not all Participating Providers participate in Our telemedicine program. You can check Our Provider directory or contact Us for a listing of the Providers that participate in Our telemedicine program.

Our telemedicine program allows members to communicate with doctors via two-way



video from the comfort of their home or office and can be accessed by logging into your account at [www.bsneny.com](http://www.bsneny.com). Medical conditions that would be appropriate for this service include but are not limited to: cold or flu symptoms, periodic pains or general health questions. Technical requirements for this service: A high-speed Internet connection, an up-to-date web browser and Adobe Flash.

## **Z. Transplants.**

We Cover only those transplants determined to be non-experimental and non-investigational. Covered transplants include but are not limited to: kidney, corneal, liver, heart, and heart/lung transplants; and bone marrow transplants for aplastic anemia, leukemia, severe combined immunodeficiency disease and Wiskott-Aldrich Syndrome.

**All transplants must be prescribed by Your Specialist(s). Additionally, all transplants must be performed at Hospitals that We have specifically approved and designated to perform these procedures.**

We Cover the Hospital and medical expenses, including donor search fees, of the Member-recipient. We Cover transplant services required by You when You serve as an organ donor only if the recipient is a Member. We do not Cover the medical expenses of a non-Member acting as a donor for You if the non-Member's expenses will be Covered under another health plan or program.

We do not Cover: travel expenses, lodging, meals, or other accommodations for donors or guests; donor fees in connection with organ transplant surgery; or routine harvesting and storage of stem cells from newborn cord blood.

## SECTION X

### Additional Benefits, Equipment and Devices

Please refer to the Schedule of Benefits section of this Certificate for Cost-Sharing requirements, day or visit limits, and any Preauthorization or Referral requirements that apply to these benefits.

#### **A. Autism Spectrum Disorder.**

We Cover the following services when such services are prescribed or ordered by a licensed Physician or a licensed psychologist and are determined by Us to be Medically Necessary for the screening, diagnosis, and treatment of autism spectrum disorder. For purposes of this benefit, “autism spectrum disorder” means any pervasive developmental disorder defined in the most recent edition of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders at the time services are rendered.

- 1. Screening and Diagnosis.** We Cover assessments, evaluations, and tests to determine whether someone has autism spectrum disorder.
- 2. Assistive Communication Devices.** We Cover a formal evaluation by a speech-language pathologist to determine the need for an assistive communication device. Based on the formal evaluation, We Cover the rental or purchase of assistive communication devices when ordered or prescribed by a licensed Physician or a licensed psychologist if You are unable to communicate through normal means (i.e., speech or writing) when the evaluation indicates that an assistive communication device is likely to provide You with improved communication. Examples of assistive communication devices include communication boards and speech-generating devices. Coverage is limited to dedicated devices. We will only Cover devices that generally are not useful to a person in the absence of a communication impairment. We do not Cover items, such as, but not limited to, laptops, desktop, or tablet computers. We Cover software and/or applications that enable a laptop, desktop, or tablet computer to function as a speech-generating device. Installation of the program and/or technical support is not separately reimbursable. We will determine whether the device should be purchased or rented.

We Cover repair, replacement fitting and adjustments of such devices when made necessary by normal wear and tear or significant change in Your physical condition. We do not Cover the cost of repair or replacement made necessary because of loss or damage caused by misuse, mistreatment, or theft. Coverage will be provided for the device most appropriate to Your current functional level. We do not Cover delivery or service charges or routine maintenance.

- 3. Behavioral Health Treatment.** We Cover counseling and treatment programs that are necessary to develop, maintain, or restore, to the maximum extent







equipment unless another Prescription Drug, supply or equipment is Medically Necessary. The diabetic Prescription Drugs, supplies and equipment that are subject to step therapy include:

- Diabetic glucose meters and test strips;
- Diabetic supplies (including but not limited to syringes, lancets, needles, pens);
- Insulin;
- Injectable anti-diabetic agents; and
- Oral anti-diabetic agents.

For diabetic Prescription Drugs, refer to the step therapy provisions in the Prescription Drug section and the Step Therapy Protocol Override Determination provisions in the Utilization Review section of this Certificate.

### **C. Durable Medical Equipment and Braces.**

We Cover the rental or purchase of durable medical equipment and braces.

#### **1. Durable Medical Equipment.**

Durable Medical Equipment is equipment which is:

- Designed and intended for repeated use;
- Primarily and customarily used to serve a medical purpose;
- Generally not useful to a person in the absence of disease or injury; and
- Appropriate for use in the home.

Coverage is for standard equipment only. We Cover the cost of repair or replacement when made necessary by normal wear and tear. We do not Cover the cost of repair or replacement that is the result of misuse or abuse by You. We will determine whether to rent or purchase such equipment. We do not Cover over-the-counter durable medical equipment.

We do not Cover equipment designed for Your comfort or convenience (e.g., pools, hot tubs, air conditioners, saunas, humidifiers, dehumidifiers, exercise equipment), as it does not meet the definition of durable medical equipment.

#### **2. Braces.**

We Cover braces, including orthotic braces, that are worn externally and that temporarily or permanently assist all or part of an external body part function that has been lost or damaged because of an injury, disease or defect. Coverage is for standard equipment only. We Cover replacements when growth or a change in Your medical condition make replacement necessary. We do not Cover the cost of repair or replacement that is the result of misuse or abuse by You.

### **D. Hearing Aids.**

We Cover 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.

Covered Services are available for a hearing aid that is purchased as a result of a written recommendation by a Physician and include the hearing aid and the charges for associated fitting and testing. We Cover a single purchase (including repair and/or replacement) of hearing aids for one or both ears once every three (3) years.

Bone anchored hearing aids are Covered only if You 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.

If You meet the criteria for a bone anchored hearing aid, Coverage is provided for one hearing aid per ear during the entire period of time that You are enrolled under this Certificate. We Cover repair and/or replacement of a bone anchored hearing aid only for malfunctions.

#### **E. Hospice.**

Hospice Care is available if Your primary attending Physician has certified that You have six months or less to live. We Cover inpatient Hospice Care in a Hospital or hospice and home care and outpatient services provided by the hospice, including drugs and medical supplies. Coverage is provided for 210 days of Hospice Care. We also Cover five (5) visits for supportive care and guidance for the purpose of helping You and Your immediate family cope with the emotional and social issues related to Your death, either before or after Your death.

We Cover Hospice Care only when provided as part of a Hospice Care program certified pursuant to Article 40 of the New York Public Health Law. If care is provided outside New York State, the hospice must be certified under a similar certification process required by the state in which the hospice is located. We do not Cover: funeral arrangements; pastoral, financial, or legal counseling; homemaker, caretaker, or respite care.

#### **F. Medical Supplies.**

We Cover medical supplies that are required for the treatment of a disease or injury which is Covered under this Certificate. We also Cover maintenance supplies (e.g., ostomy supplies) for conditions Covered under this Certificate. All such supplies must be in the appropriate amount for the treatment or maintenance program in progress. We do not Cover over-the-counter medical supplies. See the Diabetic Equipment, Supplies, and Self-Management Education section above for a description of diabetic supply Coverage.

#### **G. Prosthetics.**

##### **H. External Prosthetic Devices.**

We Cover prosthetic devices (including wigs) that are worn externally and that

temporarily or permanently replace all or part of an external body part that has been lost or damaged because of an injury or disease. We Cover wigs only when You have severe hair loss due to injury or disease or as a side effect of the treatment of a disease (e.g., chemotherapy). We do not Cover wigs made from human hair unless You are allergic to all synthetic wig materials.

We do not Cover dentures or other devices used in connection with the teeth unless required due to an accidental injury to sound natural teeth or necessary due to congenital disease or anomaly.

Eyeglasses and contact lenses are not Covered under this section of the Certificate and are only Covered under the Pediatric Vision Care section of this Certificate.

We do not Cover shoe inserts.

We Cover external breast prostheses following a mastectomy, which are not subject to any lifetime limit.

Coverage is for standard equipment only.

We Cover the cost of one (1) prosthetic device, per limb, per Plan Year. We also Cover the cost of repair and replacement of the prosthetic device and its parts. We do not Cover the cost of repair or replacement covered under warranty or if the repair or replacement is the result of misuse or abuse by You.

#### **1. Internal Prosthetic Devices.**

We Cover surgically implanted prosthetic devices and special appliances if they improve or restore the function of an internal body part which has been removed or damaged due to disease or injury. This includes implanted breast prostheses following a mastectomy or partial mastectomy in a manner determined by You and Your attending Physician to be appropriate.

Coverage also includes repair and replacement due to normal growth or normal wear and tear.

Coverage is for standard equipment only.





### **C. Inpatient Medical Services.**

We Cover medical visits by a Health Care Professional on any day of inpatient care Covered under this Certificate.

### **D. Inpatient Stay for Maternity Care.**

We Cover inpatient maternity care in a Hospital for the mother, and inpatient newborn care in a Hospital for the infant, for at least 48 hours following a normal delivery and at least 96 hours following a caesarean section delivery, regardless of whether such care is Medically Necessary. The care provided shall include parent education, assistance, and training in breast or bottle-feeding, and the performance of any necessary maternal and newborn clinical assessments. We will also Cover any additional days of such care that We determine are Medically Necessary. In the event the mother elects to leave the Hospital and requests a home care visit before the end of the 48-hour or 96-hour minimum Coverage period, We will Cover a home care visit. The home care visit will be provided within 24 hours after the mother's discharge, or at the time of the mother's request, whichever is later. Our Coverage of this home care visit shall be in addition to home health care visits under this Certificate and shall not be subject to any Cost-Sharing amounts in the Schedule of Benefits section of this Certificate that apply to home care benefits.

### **E. Inpatient Stay for Mastectomy Care.**

We Cover inpatient services for Members undergoing a lymph node dissection, lumpectomy, mastectomy or partial mastectomy for the treatment of breast cancer and any physical complications arising from the mastectomy, including lymphedema, for a period of time determined to be medically appropriate by You and Your attending Physician.

### **F. Autologous Blood Banking Services.**

We Cover autologous blood banking services only when they are being provided in connection with a scheduled, Covered inpatient procedure for the treatment of a disease or injury. In such instances, We Cover storage fees for a reasonable storage period that is appropriate for having the blood available when it is needed.

### **G. Habilitation Services.**

We Cover inpatient Habilitation Services consisting of physical therapy, speech therapy and occupational therapy for 60 days per Plan Year. The visit limit applies to all therapies combined.

### **H. Rehabilitation Services.**

We Cover inpatient Rehabilitation Services consisting of physical therapy, speech therapy and occupational therapy for up to 60 days per Plan Year.

We Cover speech and physical therapy only when:

1. Such therapy is related to the treatment or diagnosis of Your physical illness or injury (in the case of a covered Child, this includes a medically diagnosed congenital defect); and
2. The therapy is ordered by a Physician.

3. You have been hospitalized or have undergone surgery for such illness or injury.

Covered Rehabilitation Services must begin within six months of the later to occur:

1. The date of the injury or illness that caused the need for the therapy;
2. The date You are discharged from a Hospital where surgical treatment was rendered; or
3. The date outpatient surgical care is rendered.

#### **I. Skilled Nursing Facility.**

We Cover services provided in a Skilled Nursing Facility, including care and treatment in a semi-private room, as described in "Hospital Services" above. Custodial, convalescent or domiciliary care is not Covered (see the Exclusions and Limitations section of this Certificate). We Cover up to unlimited days per Plan Year for non-custodial care.

#### **J. End of Life Care.**

If You are diagnosed with advanced cancer and You have fewer than 60 days to live, We will Cover Acute care provided in a licensed Article 28 Facility or Acute care Facility that specializes in the care of terminally ill patients. Your attending Physician and the Facility's medical director must agree that Your care will be appropriately provided at the Facility. If We disagree with Your admission to the Facility, We have the right to initiate an expedited external appeal to an External Appeal Agent. We will Cover and reimburse the Facility for Your care, subject to any applicable limitations in this Certificate until the External Appeal Agent renders a decision in Our favor.

We will reimburse Non-Participating Providers for this end of life care as follows:

1. We will reimburse a rate that has been negotiated between Us and the Provider.
2. If there is no negotiated rate, We will reimburse Acute care at the Facility's current Medicare Acute care rate.
3. If it is an alternate level of care, We will reimburse at 75% of the appropriate Medicare Acute care rate.

#### **K. Limitations/Terms of Coverage.**

1. When You are receiving inpatient care in a Facility, We will not Cover additional charges for special duty nurses, charges for private rooms (unless a private room is Medically Necessary), or medications and supplies You take home from the Facility. If You occupy a private room, and the private room is not Medically Necessary, Our Coverage will be based on the Facility's maximum semi-private room charge. You will have to pay the difference between that charge and the private room charge.
2. We do not Cover radio, telephone or television expenses, or beauty or barber services.
3. We do not Cover any charges incurred after the day We advise You it is no longer Medically Necessary for You to receive inpatient care, unless Our denial is overturned by an External Appeal Agent.

## SECTION XII

### Mental Health Care and Substance Use Services

Please refer to the Schedule of Benefits section of this Certificate for Cost-Sharing requirements, day or visit limits, and any Preauthorization or Referral requirements that apply to these benefits which are no more restrictive than those that apply to medical and surgical benefits in accordance with the federal Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act of 2008.

#### A. Mental Health Care Services.

**1. Inpatient Services.** We Cover inpatient mental health care services relating to the diagnosis and treatment of mental, nervous and emotional disorders comparable to other similar Hospital, medical and surgical coverage provided under this Certificate. Coverage for inpatient services for mental health care is limited to Facilities defined in New York Mental Hygiene Law Section 1.03(10), such as:

- A psychiatric center or inpatient Facility under the jurisdiction of the New York State Office of Mental Health;
- A state or local government run psychiatric inpatient Facility;
- A part of a Hospital providing inpatient mental health care services under an operating certificate issued by the New York State Commissioner of Mental Health;
- A comprehensive psychiatric emergency program or other Facility providing inpatient mental health care that has been issued an operating certificate by the New York State Commissioner of Mental Health;

and, in other states, to similarly licensed or certified Facilities.

We also Cover inpatient mental health care services relating to the diagnosis and treatment of mental, nervous and emotional disorders received at Facilities that provide residential treatment, including room and board charges. Coverage for residential treatment services is limited to Facilities defined in New York Mental Hygiene Law Section 1.03(33) and to residential treatment facilities that are part of a comprehensive care center for eating disorders identified pursuant to Article 27-J of the New York Public Health Law; and, in other states, to Facilities that are licensed or certified to provide the same level of treatment.

**2. Outpatient Services.** We Cover outpatient mental health care services, including but not limited to partial hospitalization program services and intensive outpatient program services, relating to the diagnosis and treatment of mental, nervous and emotional disorders. Coverage for outpatient services for mental health care includes Facilities that have been issued an operating certificate pursuant to Article 31 of the New York Mental Hygiene Law or are operated by

the New York State Office of Mental Health and, in other states, to similarly licensed or certified Facilities; and services provided by a licensed psychiatrist or psychologist; a licensed clinical social worker a psychiatric nurse, licensed as a nurse practitioner or a professional corporation or a university faculty practice corporation thereof.

**3. Limitations/Terms of Coverage.** We do not Cover:

- Benefits or services deemed to be cosmetic in nature on the grounds that changing or improving an individual's appearance is justified by the individual's mental health needs;
- Mental health benefits or services for individuals who are incarcerated, confined or committed to a local correctional facility or prison, or a custodial facility for youth operated by the New York State Office of Children and Family Services; or
- Services solely because they are ordered by a court.

**B. Substance Use Services.**

- 1. Inpatient Services.** We Cover inpatient substance use services relating to the diagnosis and treatment of substance use disorder. This includes Coverage for detoxification and rehabilitation services as a consequence of chemical use and/or substance use. Inpatient substance use services are limited to Facilities in New York State which are certified by the Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services ("OASAS"); and, in other states, to those Facilities that are licensed or certified by a similar state agency or which are accredited by the Joint Commission as alcoholism, substance abuse or chemical dependence treatment programs.

We also Cover inpatient substance use services relating to the diagnosis and treatment of substance use disorder received at Facilities that provide residential treatment, including room and board charges. Coverage for residential treatment services is limited to OASAS-certified Facilities that provide services defined in 14 NYCRR 819.2(a)(1), 820.3(a)(1) and (2) and Part 817; and, in other states, to those Facilities that are licensed or certified by a similar state agency or which are accredited by the Joint Commission as alcoholism, substance abuse or chemical dependence treatment programs to provide the same level of treatment.

- 2. Outpatient Services.** We Cover outpatient substance use services relating to the diagnosis and treatment of substance use disorder, including but not limited to partial hospitalization program services, intensive outpatient program services, and medication-assisted treatment. Such Coverage is limited to Facilities in New York State that are certified by OASAS or licensed by OASAS as outpatient clinics or medically supervised ambulatory substance abuse programs, and, in other states, to those that are licensed or certified by a similar state agency or which are accredited by the Joint Commission as alcoholism, substance abuse or chemical dependence treatment programs. Coverage in an

OASAS-certified Facility includes services relating to the diagnosis and treatment of a substance use disorder provided by an OASAS credentialed Provider. Coverage is also available in a professional office setting for outpatient substance use disorder services relating to the diagnosis and treatment of alcoholism, substance use and dependency or by Physicians who have been granted a waiver pursuant to the federal Drug Addiction Treatment Act of 2000 to prescribe Schedule III, IV and V narcotic medications for the treatment of opioid addiction during the Acute detoxification stage of treatment or during stages of rehabilitation.

We also Cover up to 20 outpatient visits per calendar year for family counseling. A family member will be deemed to be covered, for the purposes of this provision, so long as that family member: 1) identifies himself or herself as a family member of a person suffering from substance use and/or dependency; and 2) is covered under the same family Certificate that covers the person receiving, or in need of, treatment for substance use disorder. Our payment for a family member therapy session will be the same amount, regardless of the number of family members who attend the family therapy session.

## SECTION XIII

### Prescription Drug Coverage

Please refer to the Schedule of Benefits section of this Certificate for Cost-Sharing requirements, day or visit limits, and any Preauthorization or Referral requirements that apply to these benefits.

#### A. Covered Prescription Drugs.

We Cover Medically Necessary Prescription Drugs that, except as specifically provided otherwise, can be dispensed only pursuant to a prescription and are:

- Required by law to bear the legend “Caution – Federal Law prohibits dispensing without a prescription”;
- FDA approved;
- Ordered by a Provider authorized to prescribe and within the Provider’s scope of practice;
- Prescribed within the approved FDA administration and dosing guidelines;
- On Our Formulary
- Dispensed by a licensed pharmacy.

Covered Prescription Drugs include, but are not limited to:

- Self-injectable/administered Prescription Drugs.
- Inhalers (with spacers).
- Topical dental preparations.
- Pre-natal vitamins, vitamins with fluoride, and single entity vitamins.
- Osteoporosis drugs and devices approved by the FDA, or generic equivalents as approved substitutes, for the treatment of osteoporosis and consistent with the criteria of the federal Medicare program or the National Institutes of Health.
- Nutritional formulas for the treatment of phenylketonuria, branched-chain ketonuria, galactosemia and homocystinuria.
- Prescription or non-prescription enteral formulas for home use, whether administered orally or via tube feeding, for which a Physician or other licensed Provider has issued a written order. The written order must state that the enteral formula is Medically Necessary and has been proven effective as a disease-specific treatment regimen for patients whose condition would cause them to become malnourished or suffer from disorders resulting in chronic disability, mental retardation, or death, if left untreated, including but not limited to: inherited diseases of amino acid or organic acid metabolism; Crohn’s disease; gastroesophageal reflux with failure to thrive; gastroesophageal motility such as chronic intestinal pseudo-obstruction; and multiple severe food allergies.
- Modified solid food products that are low in protein or which contain modified protein to treat certain inherited diseases of amino acid and organic acid metabolism.
- Prescription Drugs prescribed in conjunction with treatment or services Covered under the infertility treatment benefit in the Outpatient and Professional Services section of this Certificate.

- Off-label cancer drugs, so long as, the Prescription Drug is recognized for the treatment of the specific type of cancer for which it has been prescribed in one of the following reference compendia: the American Hospital Formulary Service-Drug Information; National Comprehensive Cancer Networks Drugs and Biologics Compendium; Thomson Micromedex DrugDex; Elsevier Gold Standard's Clinical Pharmacology; or other authoritative compendia as identified by the Federal Secretary of Health and Human Services or the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services; or recommended by review article or editorial comment in a major peer reviewed professional journal.
- Orally administered anticancer medication used to kill or slow the growth of cancerous cells.
- Smoking cessation drugs including over-the-counter drugs for which there is a written order and Prescription Drugs prescribed by a Provider.
- Prescription Drugs for the treatment of mental health and substance use disorders, including drugs for detoxification, maintenance and overdose reversal.
- Contraceptive drugs or devices or generic equivalents approved as substitutes by the FDA.

You may request a copy of Our drug Formulary. Our drug Formulary is also available on Our website at [www.bsny.com](http://www.bsny.com). You may inquire if a specific drug is Covered under this Certificate by contacting Us at the number on Your ID card.

## **B. Refills.**

We Cover Refills of Prescription Drugs only when dispensed at a retail or mail order or designated pharmacy as ordered by an authorized Provider. Benefits for Refills will not be provided beyond one year from the original prescription date. For prescription eye drop medication, We allow for the limited refilling of the prescription prior to the last day of the approved dosage period without regard to any coverage restrictions on early Refill of renewals. To the extent practicable, the quantity of eye drops in the early Refill will be limited to the amount remaining on the dosage that was initially dispensed. Your Cost-Sharing for the limited Refill is the amount that applies to each prescription or Refill as set forth in the Schedule of Benefits section of this Certificate.

## **C. Benefit and Payment Information.**

**1. Cost-Sharing Expenses.** You are responsible for paying the costs outlined in the Schedule of Benefits section of this Certificate when Covered Prescription Drugs are obtained from a retail or mail order or designated pharmacy.

You have a three tier plan design, which means that Your out-of-pocket expenses will generally be lowest for Prescription Drugs on Tier 1 and highest for Prescription Drugs on Tier 3. Your out-of-pocket expense for Prescription Drugs on Tier 2 will generally be more than for Tier 1 but less than Tier 3.

You are responsible for paying the full cost (the amount the pharmacy charges You) for any non-Covered Prescription Drug, and Our contracted rates (Our Prescription Drug Cost) will not be available to You.



**2. Participating Pharmacies.** For Prescription Drugs purchased at a retail or mail order or designated Participating Pharmacy, You are responsible for paying the lower of:

- The applicable Cost-Sharing; or
- The Prescription Drug Cost for that Prescription Drug (Your Cost-Sharing will never exceed the Usual and Customary Charge of the Prescription Drug.)

In the event that Our Participating Pharmacies are unable to provide the Covered Prescription Drug, and cannot order the Prescription Drug within a reasonable time, You may, with Our prior approval, go to a Non-Participating Pharmacy that is able to provide the Prescription Drug. We will pay You the Prescription Drug Cost for such approved Prescription Drug less Your required in-network Cost-Sharing upon receipt of a complete Prescription Drug claim form. Contact Us at the number on Your ID card or visit Our website at [www.bsneny.com](http://www.bsneny.com) to request approval.

**3. Non-Participating Pharmacies.** We will not pay for any Prescription Drugs that You purchase at a Non-Participating retail or mail order Pharmacy other than as described above.

**4. Designated Pharmacies.** If You require certain Prescription Drugs including, but not limited to specialty Prescription Drugs, We may direct You to a Designated Pharmacy with whom We have an arrangement to provide those Prescription Drugs.

Generally, specialty Prescription Drugs are Prescription Drugs that are approved to treat limited patient populations or conditions; are normally injected, infused or require close monitoring by a Provider; or have limited availability, special dispensing and delivery requirements and/or require additional patient supports.

If You are directed to a Designated Pharmacy and You choose not to obtain Your Prescription Drug from a Designated Pharmacy, You will not have coverage for that Prescription Drug

Following are the therapeutic classes of Prescription Drugs or conditions that are included in this program:

- Age related macular edema;
- Anemia, neutropenia, thrombocytopenia;
- Contraceptives;
- Cardiovascular
- Crohn's disease;
- Cystic fibrosis;
- Cytomegalovirus;
- Endocrine disorders/neurologic disorders such as infantile spasms;
- Enzyme deficiencies/liposomal storage disorders;
- Gaucher's disease;

- Growth hormone;
- Hemophilia;
- Hepatitis B, hepatitis C;
- Hereditary angioedema;
- HIV/AIDS;
- Immune deficiency;
- Immune modulator;
- Iron overload;
- Iron toxicity;
- Multiple sclerosis;
- Oncology;
- Osteoarthritis;
- Osteoporosis;
- Parkinson's disease;
- Pulmonary arterial hypertension;
- Respiratory condition;
- Rheumatologic and related conditions (rheumatoid arthritis, psoriatic arthritis, ankylosing spondylitis, juvenile rheumatoid arthritis, psoriasis)
- Transplant;
- RSV prevention.

**5. Mail Order.** Certain Prescription Drugs may be ordered through Our mail order pharmacy. You are responsible for paying the lower of:

- The applicable Cost-Sharing; or
- The Prescription Drug Cost for that Prescription Drug.

(Your Cost-Sharing will never exceed the Usual and Customary Charge of the Prescription Drug.)

To maximize Your benefit, ask Your Provider to write Your Prescription Order or Refill for a 90-day supply, with Refills when appropriate (not a 30-day supply with three Refills). You may be charged the mail order Cost-Sharing for any Prescription Orders or Refills sent to the mail order pharmacy regardless of the number of days supply written on the Prescription Order or Refill.

Prescription Drugs purchased through mail order will be delivered directly to Your home or office.

We will provide benefits that apply to drugs dispensed by a mail order pharmacy to drugs that are purchased from a retail pharmacy when that retail pharmacy has a participation agreement with Our vendor in which it agrees to be bound by the same terms and conditions as a participating mail order pharmacy.

You or Your Provider may obtain a copy of the list of Prescription Drugs available through mail order by visiting Our website at [www.bsny.com](http://www.bsny.com) or by calling the number on Your ID card.

**6. Tier Status.** The tier status of a Prescription Drug may change periodically. Changes will generally be quarterly, but no more than six times per calendar year, based on Our periodic tiering decisions. These changes may occur without prior notice to You. However, if You have a prescription for a drug that is being moved to a higher tier (other than a Brand-Name Drug that becomes available as a Generic as described below) We will notify You. When such changes occur, Your out-of-pocket expense may change. You may access the most up to date tier status on Our website at [www.bsneny.com](http://www.bsneny.com) or by calling the number on Your ID card.

**7. When a Brand-Name Drug Becomes Available as a Generic.** When a Brand-Name Drug becomes available as a Generic, the tier placement of the Brand-Name Prescription Drug may change. If this happens, You will pay the Cost-Sharing applicable to the tier to which the Prescription Drug is assigned.

**8. Formulary Exception Process.** If a Prescription Drug is not on Our Formulary, You, Your designee or Your prescribing Health Care Professional may request a Formulary exception for a clinically-appropriate Prescription Drug in writing, electronically or telephonically. The request should include a statement from Your prescribing Health Care Professional that all Formulary drugs will be or have been ineffective, would not be as effective as the non-Formulary drug, or would have adverse effects. If coverage is denied under Our standard or expedited Formulary exception process, You are entitled to an external appeal as outlined in the External Appeal section of this Certificate. Visit Our website at <sup>67</sup> [www.bsneny.com](http://www.bsneny.com) <sup>68</sup> or call the number on Your ID card to find out more about this process.

**Standard Review of a Formulary Exception.** We will make a decision and notify You or Your designee and the prescribing Health Care Professional no later than 72 hours after Our receipt of Your request. If We approve the request, We will Cover the Prescription Drug while You are taking the Prescription Drug, including any refills.

**Expedited Review of a Formulary Exception.** If You are suffering from a health condition that may seriously jeopardize Your health, life or ability to regain maximum function or if You are undergoing a current course of treatment using a non-formulary Prescription Drug, You may request an expedited review of a Formulary exception. The request should include a statement from Your prescribing Health Care Professional that harm could reasonably come to You if the requested drug is not provided within the timeframes for Our standard Formulary exception process. We will make a decision and notify You or Your designee and the prescribing Health Care Professional no later than 24 hours after Our receipt of Your request. If We approve the request, We will Cover the Prescription Drug while You suffer from the health condition that may seriously jeopardize Your health, life or ability to regain maximum function or for the duration of Your current course of treatment using the non-Formulary Prescription Drug.

**9. Supply Limits.** Except for contraceptive drugs or devices, We will pay for no more than a 30-day supply of a Prescription Drug purchased at a retail pharmacy.

You are responsible for one (1) Cost-Sharing amount for up to a 30-day supply. However, for maintenance drugs we will pay for up to a 90-day supply of a drug purchased at a retail pharmacy. You are responsible for up to three Cost-Sharing amounts for a 90-day supply at a retail pharmacy.

You may have an initial three-month supply of a contraceptive drug or device dispensed to You. For subsequent dispensing of the same contraceptive drug or device, You may have the entire prescribed supply (of up to 12 months) of the contraceptive drug or device dispensed at the same time. Contraceptive drugs and devices are not subject to Copayments, Deductibles or Coinsurance when provided in accordance with the comprehensive guidelines supported by HRSA and items or services with an “A” or “B” rating from USPSTF and when provided by a Participating Pharmacy. For other contraceptive drugs and devices, for an initial three-month supply, You are responsible for up to three (3) Cost-Sharing amounts and You are responsible for up to nine (9) Cost-Sharing Amounts for the remaining supply of a 12 month prescription. For a subsequent 12 month dispensing of the same contraceptive drug or device, You are responsible for up to twelve (12) Cost-Sharing amounts.

Benefits will be provided for Prescription Drugs dispensed by a mail order pharmacy in a quantity of up to a 90-day supply. You are responsible for one Cost-Share amount for a 30-day supply up to a maximum of two and a half (2.5) Cost-Share amounts for a 90-day supply.

Specialty Prescription Drugs may be limited to a 30-day supply when obtained at a retail or mail order pharmacy. You may access Our website at [www.bsneny.com](http://www.bsneny.com) or by calling the number on Your ID card for more information on supply limits for specialty Prescription Drugs

Some Prescription Drugs may be subject to quantity limits based on criteria that We have developed, subject to Our periodic review and modification. The limit may restrict the amount dispensed per Prescription Order or Refill and/or the amount dispensed per month's supply. You can determine whether a Prescription Drug has been assigned a maximum quantity level for dispensing by accessing Our website at [www.bsneny.com](http://www.bsneny.com) or by calling the number on Your ID card. If We deny a request to Cover an amount that exceeds Our quantity level, You are entitled to an Appeal pursuant to the Utilization Review and External Appeal sections of this Certificate.

**10. Emergency Supply of Prescription Drugs for Substance Use Disorder Treatment.** If You have an Emergency Condition, You may immediately access, without Preauthorization, a five (5) day emergency supply of a Covered Prescription Drug for the treatment of a substance use disorder, including a Prescription Drug to manage opioid withdrawal and/or stabilization and for opioid overdose reversal. If You have a Copayment, it will be prorated.

In this paragraph, “Emergency Condition” means a substance use disorder condition

that manifests itself by Acute symptoms of sufficient severity, including severe pain or the expectation of severe pain, such that a prudent layperson, possessing an average knowledge of medicine and health, could reasonably expect the absence of immediate medical attention to result in:

- Placing the health of the person afflicted with such condition or, with respect to a pregnant woman, the health of the woman or her unborn child in serious jeopardy, or in the case of a behavioral condition, placing the health of such person or others in serious jeopardy;
- Serious impairment to such person's bodily functions;
- Serious dysfunction of any bodily organ or part of such person; or
- Serious disfigurement of such person.

**11. Initial Limited Supply of Prescription Opioid Drugs.** If You receive an initial limited prescription for a seven (7) day supply or less of any schedule II, III, or IV opioid prescribed for Acute pain, and You have a Copayment, Your Copayment will be prorated. If You receive an additional supply of the Prescription Drug within the 30-day period in which You received the seven (7) day supply, Your Copayment for the remainder of the 30-day supply will also be prorated. In no event will the prorated Copayment(s) total more than Your Copayment for a 30-day supply.

**12. Cost-Sharing for Orally-Administered Anti-Cancer Drugs.** Your Cost-Sharing for orally-administered anti-cancer drugs is at least as favorable to You as the Cost-Sharing amount, if any, that applies to intravenous or injected anticancer medications Covered under the Outpatient and Professional Services section of this Certificate.

**13. Half Tablet Program.** Certain Prescription Drugs may be designated as eligible for Our voluntary half tablet program. This program provides the opportunity to reduce Your Prescription Drug out-of-pocket expenses by up to 50% by using higher strength tablets and splitting them in half. If You are taking an eligible Prescription Drug, and You would like to participate in this program, please call Your Physician to see if the half tablet program is appropriate for Your condition. If Your Physician agrees, he or she must write a new prescription for Your medication to enable Your participation.

You can determine whether a Prescription Drug is eligible for the voluntary half tablet program by accessing Our website at [www.bsneny.com](http://www.bsneny.com) or by calling the number on Your ID card.

#### **D. Medical Management.**

This Certificate includes certain features to determine when Prescription Drugs should be Covered, which are described below. As part of these features, Your prescribing Provider may be asked to give more details before We can decide if the Prescription Drug is Medically Necessary.

**1. Preauthorization.** Preauthorization may be needed for certain Prescription Drugs to make sure proper use and guidelines for Prescription Drug coverage are followed. When appropriate, Your Provider will be responsible for obtaining Preauthorization for the Prescription Drug.

For a list of Prescription Drugs that need Preauthorization, please visit Our website at [www.bsny.com](http://www.bsny.com) or call the number on Your ID card. The list will be reviewed and updated from time to time. We also reserve the right to require Preauthorization for any new Prescription Drug on the market or for any currently available Prescription Drug which undergoes a change in prescribing protocols and/or indications regardless of the therapeutic classification, including if a Prescription Drug or related item on the list is not Covered under Your Certificate. Your Provider may check with Us to find out which Prescription Drugs are Covered.

**2. Step Therapy.** Step therapy is a process in which You may need to use one (1) or more types of Prescription Drugs before We will Cover another as Medically Necessary. A "step therapy protocol" means Our policy, protocol or program that establishes the sequence in which We approve Prescription Drugs for Your medical condition. When establishing a step therapy protocol, We will use recognized evidence-based and peer reviewed clinical review criteria that also takes into account the needs of atypical patient populations and diagnoses. We check certain Prescription Drugs to make sure that proper prescribing guidelines are followed. These guidelines help You get high quality and cost-effective Prescription Drugs. The Prescription Drugs that require Preauthorization under the step therapy program are also included on the Preauthorization drug list. If a step therapy protocol is applicable to Your request for coverage of a Prescription Drug, You, Your designee, or Your Health Care Professional can request a step therapy override determination as outlined in the Utilization Review section of this Certificate.

#### **E. Limitations/Terms of Coverage.**

1. We reserve the right to limit quantities, day supply, early Refill access and/or duration of therapy for certain medications based on Medical Necessity including acceptable medical standards and/or FDA recommended guidelines.
2. If We determine that You may be using a Prescription Drug in a harmful or abusive manner, or with harmful frequency, Your selection of Participating Pharmacies may be limited. If this happens, We may require You to select a single Participating Pharmacy that will provide and coordinate all future pharmacy services. Benefits will be paid only if You use the selected single Participating Pharmacy. If You do not make a selection within 31 days of the date We notify You, We will select a single Participating Pharmacy for You.
3. Compounded Prescription Drugs will be Covered only when they contain at least one (1) ingredient that is a Covered legend Prescription Drug, and are obtained from a pharmacy that is approved for compounding.
4. Various specific and/or generalized "use management" protocols will be used from time to time in order to ensure appropriate utilization of medications. Such protocols will be consistent with standard medical/drug treatment guidelines. The primary goal of the protocols is to provide Our Members with a quality-

focused Prescription Drug benefit. In the event a use management protocol is implemented, and You are taking the drug(s) affected by the protocol, You will be notified in advance.

5. Injectable drugs (other than self-administered injectable drugs) and diabetic insulin, oral hypoglycemics, and diabetic supplies and equipment are not Covered under this section but are Covered under other sections of this Certificate.
6. We do not Cover charges for the administration or injection of any Prescription Drug. Prescription Drugs given or administered in a Physician's office are Covered under the Outpatient and Professional Services section of this Certificate.
7. We do not Cover drugs that do not by law require a prescription, except for smoking cessation drugs, over-the-counter preventive drugs or devices provided in accordance with the comprehensive guidelines supported by HRSA or with an "A" or "B" rating from USPSTF, or as otherwise provided in this Certificate. We do not Cover Prescription Drugs that have over-the-counter non-prescription equivalents, except if specifically designated as Covered in the drug Formulary. Non-prescription equivalents are drugs available without a prescription that have the same name/chemical entity as their prescription counterparts.
8. We do not Cover Prescription Drugs to replace those that may have been lost or stolen.
9. We do not Cover Prescription Drugs dispensed to You while in a Hospital, nursing home, other institution, Facility, or if You are a home care patient, except in those cases where the basis of payment by or on behalf of You to the Hospital, nursing home, Home Health Agency or home care services agency, or other institution, does not include services for drugs.
10. We reserve the right to deny benefits as not Medically Necessary or experimental or investigational for any drug prescribed or dispensed in a manner contrary to standard medical practice. If coverage is denied, You are entitled to an Appeal as described in the Utilization Review and External Appeal sections of this Certificate.
11. A pharmacy need not dispense a Prescription Order that, in the pharmacist's professional judgment, should not be filled.

#### **F. General Conditions.**

You must show Your ID card to a retail pharmacy at the time You obtain Your Prescription Drug or You must provide the pharmacy with identifying information that can be verified by Us during regular business hours. You must include Your identification number on the forms provided by the mail order pharmacy from which You make a purchase.

## G. Definitions.

Terms used in this section are defined as follows. (Other defined terms can be found in the Definitions section of this Certificate).

1. **Brand-Name Drug:** A Prescription Drug that: 1) is manufactured and marketed under a trademark or name by a specific drug manufacturer; or 2) We identify as a Brand-Name Prescription Drug, based on available data resources. All Prescription Drugs identified as “brand name” by the manufacturer, pharmacy, or Your Physician may not be classified as a Brand-Name Drug by Us.
2. **Designated Pharmacy:** A pharmacy that has entered into an agreement with Us or with an organization contracting on Our behalf, to provide specific Prescription Drugs, including but not limited to, specialty Prescription Drugs. The fact that a pharmacy is a Participating Pharmacy does not mean that it is a Designated Pharmacy.
3. **Formulary:** The list that identifies those Prescription Drugs for which coverage may be available under this Certificate. This list is subject to Our periodic review and modification generally quarterly, but no more than six (6) times per Plan Year. You may determine to which tier a particular Prescription Drug has been assigned by visiting Our website at [www.bsneny.com](http://www.bsneny.com) or by calling the number on Your ID card.
4. **Generic Drug:** A Prescription Drug that: 1) is chemically equivalent to a Brand-Name Drug; or 2) We identify as a Generic Prescription Drug based on available data resources. All Prescription Drugs identified as “generic” by the manufacturer, pharmacy, or Your Physician may not be classified as a Generic Drug by Us.
5. **Maintenance Drug:** A Prescription Drug used to treat a condition that is considered chronic or long-term and which usually requires daily use of Prescription Drugs.
6. **Non-Participating Pharmacy:** A pharmacy that has not entered into an agreement with Us to provide Prescription Drugs to Members. We will not make any payment for prescriptions or Refills filled at a Non-Participating Pharmacy other than as described above.
7. **Participating Pharmacy:** A pharmacy that has:
  - Entered into an agreement with Us or Our designee to provide Prescription Drugs to Members;
  - Agreed to accept specified reimbursement rates for dispensing Prescription Drugs; and
  - Been designated by Us as a Participating Pharmacy.A Participating Pharmacy can be either a retail or mail-order pharmacy.



- 8. Prescription Drug:** A medication, product or device that has been approved by the FDA and that can, under federal or state law, be dispensed only pursuant to a Prescription Order or Refill and is on Our Formulary. A Prescription Drug includes a medication that, due to its characteristics, is appropriate for self administration or administration by a non-skilled caregiver.
- 9. Prescription Drug Cost:** The amount, including a dispensing fee and any sales tax, as contracted between Us and Our pharmacy benefit manager for a Covered Prescription Drug dispensed at a Participating Pharmacy. If Your Certificate includes coverage at Non-Participating Pharmacies, the Prescription Drug Cost for a Prescription Drug dispensed at a Non-Participating Pharmacy is calculated using the Prescription Drug Cost that applies for that particular Prescription Drug at most Participating Pharmacies.
- 10. Prescription Order or Refill:** The directive to dispense a Prescription Drug issued by a duly licensed Health Care Professional who is acting within the scope of his or her practice.
- 11. Usual and Customary Charge:** The usual fee that a pharmacy charges individuals for a Prescription Drug without reference to reimbursement to the pharmacy by third parties as required by Section 6826-a of the New York Education Law.

## SECTION XIV

### Wellness Benefits

#### A. Wellness Program.

##### 1. Purpose.

The purpose of this wellness program is to encourage You to take a more active role in managing Your health and well-being, including mental, physical and emotional health and well-being.

##### 2. Description.

We provide benefits in connection with the use of or participation in any of the following wellness and health promotion actions and activities:

- A health risk assessment tool
- Designated healthy activities

You are entitled to a wellness allowance, per Contract, per plan year. This allowance can be used on the following health services and products at participating providers: acupuncture, exercise centers, fitness clubs, gyms, health food and massage therapy. There is no coverage at non-participating providers. You will be responsible for any additional costs associated with any programs, classes, equipment, or services you participate or enroll in that exceed the annual benefit allowance. The allowance amount will be credited after enrollment and for each Contract Year thereafter. Any portion of the allowance not used by the last day of the Contract Year will be forfeited and may not be rolled over and used the following Contract Year. If the member or subscriber terminates coverage, any remaining portion of the credit is forfeited. The services, discounts and providers may change from time to time. Please check our website periodically for a recent listing or call the customer service number listed on the back of your ID card.

##### 3. Eligibility.

You, the Subscriber, and the Subscriber's covered Spouse; can participate in the wellness program.

##### 4. Participation.

The preferred method for accessing the wellness program is through Our website at [www.bsny.com](http://www.bsny.com). You need to have access to a computer with internet access in order to participate in the website program. However, if You do not have access to a computer, please call Us at the phone number on Your ID card and We will provide You with information regarding how to participate without internet access.

##### 5. Rewards.

Rewards for participation in a wellness program include:

- A \$25 wellness gift card when a subscriber and/or spouse completes a health survey; max \$50 per contract.

## **6. Member Discount Program.**

As a member of BlueShield of Northeastern New York you will receive the Blue Discount program which includes online health and lifestyle related discounts from participating vendors. The discounts are designed to encourage healthy behaviors, including mental, physical and emotional health and wellbeing; examples include fitness centers, recreational fitness, healthy eating options, and cultural activities. The discounts and vendors may change from time to time. BlueShield of Northeastern New York you will be eligible to participate in a nutrition program that provides a financial incentive for making healthier grocery decisions. Once enrolled in the program, you will have access to a robust website and mobile application, which provides discounts on healthy foods, nutritional information, recipes and wellness tips. In addition to the discount packages described above, additional discounts may be available via our website. Please check our website periodically for a recent listing, or call the number on the back of your ID card for more information.

## SECTION XV

### Routine Vision Care

Please refer to the Schedule of Benefits section of this Certificate for Cost-Sharing requirements, day or visit limits and any Preauthorization or Referral requirements that apply to these benefits.

#### **A. Routine Vision Care.**

We Cover emergency, preventive and routine vision care for Members through the end of the month in which the member turns 19 years of age. We also Cover routine vision examinations for Members over age 18.

#### **B. Vision Examinations.**

We Cover vision examinations for the purpose of determining the need for corrective lenses, and if needed, to provide a prescription for corrective lenses. We Cover a vision examination one (1) time in any twelve (12) month period, unless more frequent examinations are Medically Necessary as evidenced by appropriate documentation.

The vision examination may include, but is not limited to:

- Case history;
- External examination of the eye or internal examination of the eye;
- Ophthalmoscopic exam;
- Determination of refractive status;
- Binocular distance;
- Tonometry tests for glaucoma;
- Gross visual fields and color vision testing; and
- Summary findings and recommendation for corrective lenses.

#### **C. Prescribed Lenses and Frames.**

We Cover standard prescription lenses or contact lenses one (1) time in any 12 month period, unless it is Medically Necessary for You to have new lenses or contact lenses more frequently, as evidenced by appropriate documentation. Prescription lenses may be constructed of either glass or plastic. We also Cover standard frames adequate to hold lenses one (1) time in any twelve (12) month period, unless it is Medically Necessary for You to have new frames more frequently, as evidenced by appropriate documentation.

For adults over age 19, coverage for prescribed frames and lenses is provided through the following programs.

Adult Vision services are available as described below. Also note, there are no out-of-network services associated with these adult vision services.

<b>Vision Care Services Program</b>	<b>Member Cost</b>
<b>Routine Eye Exam</b>	Covered in full
<b>Frames</b>	
Up to \$70 retail	\$40
Above \$70 retail	\$40 copay plus 10% off amount over \$70
<b>Lenses (Uncoated Plastic)</b>	
Single Vision	\$35
Bifocal	\$55
Trifocal	\$65
Lenticular	\$110
<b>Lens Options (Add to lens prices above)</b>	
Anti-Reflective Coating (Premium)	100% of charge
Anti-Reflective Coating (Standard)	\$45
Blended Segment Lenses	\$20
Glass Lenses	\$18
Gradient Tint	\$12
Hi-Index Lenses	\$55
Photochromic Glass Lenses (Single Vision)	\$35
Photochromic Glass Lenses (Multi-Focal)	\$35
Polarized Lenses	\$75
Solid Tint	\$10
Standard Scratch-Resistance	\$15
Standard Polycarbonate	\$30
Standard Progressive (Add-on to bifocal)	\$75
Premium Progressive (Add-on to bifocal)	\$125
Transition Lenses	\$65
Ultraviolet Coating	\$15
<b>Contact Lenses</b>	
Conventional	20% discount off retail, formulary does not apply
Disposable/Planned Replacement	10% discount off retail, formulary does not apply
<b>Other Add-Ons and Services</b>	
Non prescription Sunglasses	10% - 20% discount depending on provider

Other Ancillary Products/Solutions	10% - 20% discount depending on provider
<b>Laser Vision Correction</b>	
	Up to 25% discount off usual and customary or 5% discount on any advertised specials - whichever is lowest
<b>Frequency</b>	
Examination	Annual
Frames	Unlimited
Lenses	Unlimited
Contact Lenses	Unlimited

## SECTION XVI

### Exclusions and Limitations

No coverage is available under this Certificate for the following:

#### **A. Aviation.**

We do not Cover services arising out of aviation, other than as a fare-paying passenger on a scheduled or charter flight operated by a scheduled airline.

#### **B. Convalescent and Custodial Care.**

We do not Cover services related to rest cures, custodial care or transportation. "Custodial care" means help in transferring, eating, dressing, bathing, toileting and other such related activities. Custodial care does not include Covered Services determined to be Medically Necessary.

#### **C. Conversion Therapy.**

We do not Cover conversion therapy. Conversion therapy is any practice by a mental health professional that seeks to change the sexual orientation or gender identity of a Member under 18 years of age, including efforts to change behaviors, gender expressions, or to eliminate or reduce sexual or romantic attractions or feelings toward individuals of the same sex. Conversion therapy does not include counseling or therapy for an individual who is seeking to undergo a gender transition or who is in the process of undergoing a gender transition, that provides acceptance, support, and understanding of an individual or the facilitation of an individual's coping, social support, and identity exploration and development, including sexual orientation-neutral interventions to prevent or address unlawful conduct or unsafe sexual practices, provided that the counseling or therapy does not seek to change sexual orientation or gender identity.

#### **D. Cosmetic Services.**

We do not Cover cosmetic services, Prescription Drugs, or surgery, unless otherwise specified, except that cosmetic surgery shall not include reconstructive surgery when such service is incidental to or follows surgery resulting from trauma, infection or diseases of the involved part, and reconstructive surgery because of congenital disease or anomaly of a covered Child which has resulted in a functional defect. We also Cover services in connection with reconstructive surgery following a mastectomy, as provided elsewhere in this Certificate. Cosmetic surgery does not include surgery determined to be Medically Necessary. If a claim for a procedure listed in 11 NYCRR 56 (e.g., certain plastic surgery and dermatology procedures) is submitted retrospectively and without medical information, any denial will not be subject to the Utilization Review process in the Utilization Review and External Appeal sections of this Certificate unless medical information is submitted.

#### **E. Dental Services.**

We do not Cover dental services except for: care or treatment due to accidental injury to

sound natural teeth within 12 months of the accident; dental care or treatment necessary due to congenital disease or anomaly; or except as or dental care or treatment specifically stated in the Outpatient and Professional Services sections of this Certificate.

**F. Experimental or Investigational Treatment.**

We do not Cover any health care service, procedure, treatment, device, or Prescription Drug that is experimental or investigational. However, We will Cover experimental or investigational treatments, including treatment for Your rare disease or patient costs for Your participation in a clinical trial as described in the Outpatient and Professional Services section of this Certificate, when Our denial of services is overturned by an External Appeal Agent certified by the State. However, for clinical trials, We will not Cover the costs of any investigational drugs or devices, non-health services required for You to receive the treatment, the costs of managing the research, or costs that would not be Covered under this Certificate for non-investigational treatments. See the Utilization Review and External Appeal sections of this Certificate for a further explanation of Your Appeal rights.

**G. Felony Participation.**

We do not Cover any illness, treatment or medical condition due to Your participation in a felony, riot or insurrection. This exclusion does not apply to coverage for services involving injuries suffered by a victim of an act of domestic violence or for services as a result of Your medical condition (including both physical and mental health conditions).

**H. Foot Care.**

We do not Cover routine foot care in connection with corns, calluses, flat feet, fallen arches, weak feet, chronic foot strain or symptomatic complaints of the feet. However, we will Cover foot care when You have a specific medical condition or disease resulting in circulatory deficits or areas of decreased sensation in Your legs or feet.

**I. Government Facility.**

We do not Cover care or treatment provided in a Hospital that is owned or operated by any federal, state or other governmental entity, except as otherwise required by law

**J. Medically Necessary.**

In general, We will not Cover any health care service, procedure, treatment, test, device or Prescription Drug that We determine is not Medically Necessary. If an External Appeal Agent certified by the State overturns Our denial, however, We will Cover the service, procedure, treatment, test, device or Prescription Drug for which coverage has been denied, to the extent that such service, procedure, treatment, test, device or Prescription Drug is otherwise Covered under the terms of this Certificate.



**K. Medicare or Other Governmental Program.**

We do not Cover services if benefits are provided for such services under the federal Medicare program or other governmental program (except Medicaid). When You are eligible for Medicare, We will reduce Our benefits by the amount Medicare would have paid for the Covered Services. Except as otherwise required by law, this reduction is made even if You fail to enroll in Medicare or You do not pay Your Medicare premium. Benefits for Covered Services will not be reduced if We are required by federal law to pay first or if You are not eligible for premium-free Medicare Part A.

**L. Military Service.**

We do not Cover an illness, treatment or medical condition due to service in the Armed Forces or auxiliary units.

**M. No-Fault Automobile Insurance.**

We do not Cover any benefits to the extent provided for any loss or portion thereof for which mandatory automobile no-fault benefits are recovered or recoverable. This exclusion applies even if You do not make a proper or timely claim for the benefits available to You under a mandatory no-fault policy.

**N. Services Not Listed.**

We do not Cover services that are not listed in this Certificate as being Covered.

**O. Services Provided by a Family Member.**

We do not Cover services performed by a member of the covered person's immediate family. "Immediate family" shall mean a child, spouse, mother, father, sister or brother of You or Your Spouse.

**P. Services Separately Billed by Hospital Employees.**

We do not Cover services rendered and separately billed by employees of Hospitals, laboratories or other institutions.

**Q. Services with No Charge.**

We do not Cover services for which no charge is normally made.

**R. Vision Services.**

We do not Cover the examination or fitting of eyeglasses or contact lenses, except as specifically stated in the Pediatric Vision Care section of this Certificate.

**S. War.**

We will not Cover an illness, treatment or medical condition due to war, declared or undeclared.

**T. Workers' Compensation.**

We do not Cover services if benefits for such services are provided under any state or federal Workers' Compensation, employers' liability or occupational disease law.

## SECTION XVII

### Claim Determinations

#### **A. Claims.**

A claim is a request that benefits or services be provided or paid according to the terms of this Certificate. When You receive services from a Participating Provider, You will not need to submit a claim form. However, if You receive services from a Non-Participating Provider either You or the Provider must file a claim form with Us. If the Non-Participating Provider is not willing to file the claim form, You will need to file it with Us. See the Coordination of Benefits section of this Certificate for information on how We coordinate benefit payments when You also have group health coverage with another plan.

#### **B. Notice of Claim.**

Claims for services must include all information designated by Us as necessary to process the claim, including, but not limited to: Member identification number; name; date of birth; date of service; type of service; the charge for each service; procedure code for the service as applicable; diagnosis code; name and address of the Provider making the charge; and supporting medical records, when necessary. A claim that fails to contain all necessary information will not be accepted and must be resubmitted with all necessary information. Claim forms are available from Us by calling the number on Your ID card or visiting Our website at [www.bsneny.com](http://www.bsneny.com). Completed claim forms should be sent to the address in the How Your Coverage Works section of this Certificate. You may also submit a claim to Us electronically by visiting Our website at [www.bsneny.com](http://www.bsneny.com).

#### **C. Timeframe for Filing Claims.**

Claims for services must be submitted to Us for payment within 120 days after You receive the services for which payment is being requested. If it is not reasonably possible to submit a claim within the 120 day period, You must submit it as soon as reasonably possible.

#### **D. Claims for Prohibited Referrals.**

We are not required to pay any claim, bill or other demand or request by a Provider for clinical laboratory services, pharmacy services, radiation therapy services, physical therapy services or x-ray or imaging services furnished pursuant to a referral prohibited by Section 238-a(1) of the New York Public Health Law.

#### **E. Claim Determinations.**

Our claim determination procedure applies to all claims that do not relate to a Medical necessity or experimental or investigational determination. For example, Our claim determination procedure applies to contractual benefit denials and Referrals. If You disagree with Our claim determination, You may submit a Grievance pursuant to the Grievance Procedures section of this Certificate.

For a description of the Utilization Review procedures and Appeal process for Medical Necessity or experimental or investigational determinations, see the Utilization Review and External Appeal sections of this Certificate.

#### **F. Pre-Service Claim Determinations.**

1. A pre-service claim is a request that a service or treatment be approved before it has been received. If We have all the information necessary to make a determination regarding a pre-service claim (e.g., a covered benefit determination or Referral), We will make a determination and provide notice to You (or Your designee) within 15 days from receipt of the claim.

If We need additional information, We will request it within 15 days from receipt of the claim. You will have 45 calendar days to submit the information. If We receive the information within 45 days, We will make a determination and provide notice to You (or Your designee) in writing, within 15 days of Our receipt of the information. If all necessary information is not received within 45 days, We will make a determination within 15 calendar days of the end of the 45 day period.

2. **Urgent Pre-Service Reviews.** With respect to urgent pre-service requests, if We have all information necessary to make a determination, We will make a determination and provide notice to You (or Your designee) by telephone, within 72 hours of receipt of the request. Written notice will follow within three (3) calendar days of the decision. If We need additional information, We will request it within 24 hours. You will then have 48 hours to submit the information. We will make a determination and provide notice to You (or Your designee) by telephone within 48 hours of the earlier of Our receipt of the information or the end of the 48-hour time period. Written notice will follow within three (3) calendar days of the decision.

#### **G. Post-Service Claim Determinations.**

A post-service claim is a request for a service or treatment that You have already received. If We have all information necessary to make a determination regarding a post-service claim, We will make a determination and notify You (or Your designee) within 30 calendar days of the receipt of the claim. If We need additional information, We will request it within 30 calendar days. You will then have 45 calendar days to provide the information. We will make a determination and provide notice to You (or Your designee) in writing within 15 calendar days of the earlier of Our receipt of the information or the end of the 45 day period.

#### **H. Payment of Claims.**

Where Our obligation to pay a claim is reasonably clear, We will pay the claim within 30 days of receipt of the claim (when submitted through the internet or e-mail) and 45 days of receipt of the claim (when submitted through other means, including paper or fax). If We request additional information, We will pay the claim within 30 days (for claims submitted through the internet or e-mail) or 45 days (for claims submitted through other means, including paper or fax) of receipt of the information.

## SECTION XVIII

### Grievance Procedures

#### **A. Grievances.**

Our Grievance procedure applies to any issue not relating to a Medical Necessity or experimental or investigational determination by Us. For example, it applies to contractual benefit denials or issues or concerns You have regarding Our administrative policies or access to Providers.

#### **B. Filing a Grievance.**

You can contact Us by phone at the number on Your ID card or in writing to file a Grievance. You may submit an oral Grievance in connection with a denial of a Referral or a covered benefit determination. We may require that You sign a written acknowledgement of Your oral Grievance, prepared by Us. You or Your designee has up to 180 calendar days from when You received the decision You are asking Us to review to file the Grievance.

When We receive Your Grievance, We will mail an acknowledgment letter within 15 business days. The acknowledgment letter will include the name, address, and telephone number of the person handling Your Grievance, and indicate what additional information, if any, must be provided.

We keep all requests and discussions confidential and We will take no discriminatory action because of Your issue. We have a process for both standard and expedited Grievances, depending on the nature of Your inquiry.

#### **C. Grievance Determination.**

Qualified personnel will review Your Grievance, or if it is a clinical matter, a licensed, certified or registered Health Care Professional will look into it. We will decide the Grievance and notify You within the following timeframes:

##### Expedited/Urgent Grievances:

By phone, within the earlier of 48 hours of receipt of all necessary information or 72 hours of receipt of Your Grievance.  
Written notice will be provided within 72 hours of receipt of Your Grievance.

Pre-Service Grievances:  
of (A request for a service or a treatment that has not yet been provided.)

In writing, within 15 calendar days of receipt of Your Grievance.

Post-Service Grievances:  
of (A claim for a service or a treatment that has already been provided.)

In writing, within 30 calendar days of receipt of Your Grievance.

All Other Grievances:  
(That are not in relation to a claim or request for a service or treatment.)

In writing, within 45 calendar days of receipt of all necessary information but no more than 60 calendar days of receipt of Your Grievance.

#### **D. Grievance Appeals.**

If You are not satisfied with the resolution of Your Grievance, You or Your designee may file an Appeal in writing. However, Urgent Appeals may be filed by phone. You have up to 60 business days from receipt of the Grievance determination to file an Appeal.

When We receive Your Appeal, We will mail an acknowledgment letter within 15 business days. The acknowledgement letter will include the name, address, and telephone number of the person handling Your Appeal and indicate what additional information, if any, must be provided.

One or more qualified personnel at a higher level than the personnel that rendered the Grievance determination will review it, or if it is a clinical matter, a clinical peer reviewer will look into it. We will decide the Appeal and notify You in writing within the following timeframes:

Expedited/Urgent Grievances:

The earlier of two (2) business days of receipt of all necessary information or 72 hours of receipt of Your Appeal.

Pre-Service Grievances:  
(A request for a service or a treatment that has not yet been provided.)

15 calendar days of receipt of Your Appeal.

Post-Service Grievances:  
(A claim for a service or a treatment that has already been provided.)

30 calendar days of receipt of Your Appeal.

All Other Grievances:  
(That are not in relation

30 business days of receipt of all necessary information to make a determination

to a claim or request  
for a service.)

**E. Assistance.**

If You remain dissatisfied with Our Appeal determination, or at any other time You are dissatisfied, You may:

**Call the New York State Department of Health at 1-800-206-8125 or write them at:**

New York State Department of Health Office  
of Health Insurance Programs  
Bureau of Consumer Services – Complaint Unit  
Corning Tower – OCP Room 1609 Albany,  
NY 12237  
Email: [managedcarecomplaint@health.ny.gov](mailto:managedcarecomplaint@health.ny.gov)  
Website: [www.health.ny.gov](http://www.health.ny.gov)

If You need assistance filing a Grievance or Appeal, You may also contact the state independent Consumer Assistance Program at:

Community Health Advocates  
633 Third Avenue, 10<sup>th</sup> Floor  
New York, NY 10017  
Or call toll free: 1-888-614-5400, or e-mail [cha@cssny.org](mailto:cha@cssny.org)  
Website: [www.communityhealthadvocates.org](http://www.communityhealthadvocates.org)

## SECTION XIX

### Utilization Review

#### A. Utilization Review.

We review health services to determine whether the services are or were Medically Necessary or experimental or investigational ("Medically Necessary"). This process is called Utilization Review. Utilization Review includes all review activities, whether they take place prior to the service being performed (Preauthorization); when the service is being performed (concurrent); or after the service is performed (retrospective). If You have any questions about the Utilization Review process, please call the number on Your ID card. The toll-free telephone number is available at least 40 hours a week with an after-hours answering machine.

All determinations that services are not Medically Necessary will be made by: 1) licensed Physicians; or 2) licensed, certified, registered or credentialed Health Care Professionals who are in the same profession and same or similar specialty as the Provider who typically manages Your medical condition or disease or provides the health care service under review; or 3) with respect to substance use disorder treatment, licensed Physicians or licensed, certified, registered or credentialed Health Care Professionals who specialize in behavioral health and have experience in the delivery of substance use disorder courses of treatment. We do not compensate or provide financial incentives to Our employees or reviewers for determining that services are not Medically Necessary. We have developed guidelines and protocols to assist Us in this process. For substance use disorder treatment, We will use evidence-based and peer reviewed clinical review tools designated by OASAS that are appropriate to the age of the patient. Specific guidelines and protocols are available for Your review upon request. For more information, call the number on Your ID card or visit Our website at [www.bsneny.com](http://www.bsneny.com).

#### B. Preauthorization Reviews.

1. **Non-Urgent Preauthorization Reviews.** If We have all the information necessary to make a determination regarding a Preauthorization review, We will make a determination and provide notice to You (or Your designee) and Your Provider, by telephone and in writing, within three (3) business days of receipt of the request.

If We need additional information, We will request it within three (3) business days. You or Your Provider will then have 45 calendar days to submit the information. If We receive the requested information within 45 days, We will make a determination and provide notice to You (or Your designee) and Your Provider, by telephone and in writing, within three (3) business days of Our receipt of the information. If all necessary information is not received within 45 days, We will make a determination within 15 calendar days of the end of the 45 day period.

2. **Urgent Preauthorization Reviews.** With respect to urgent Preauthorization





will request it within 24 hours. You or Your Provider will then have 48 hours to submit the information. We will make a determination and provide written notice to You (or Your designee) and Your Provider within the earlier of one (1) business day or 48 hours of Our receipt of the information or, if we do not receive the information, within 48 hours of the end of the 48-hour period.

3. **Home Health Care Reviews.** After receiving a request for coverage of home care services following an inpatient Hospital admission, We will make a determination and provide notice to You (or Your designee) and Your Provider, by telephone and in writing, within one (1) business day of receipt of the necessary information. If the day following the request falls on a weekend or holiday, We will make a determination and provide notice to You (or Your designee) and Your Provider within 72 hours of receipt of the necessary information. When We receive a request for home care services and all necessary information prior to Your discharge from an inpatient hospital admission, We will not deny coverage for home care services while Our decision on the request is pending.
4. **Inpatient Substance Use Disorder Treatment Reviews.** If a request for inpatient substance use disorder treatment is submitted to Us at least 24 hours prior to discharge from an inpatient substance use disorder treatment admission, We will make a determination within 24 hours of receipt of the request and We will provide coverage for the inpatient substance use disorder treatment while Our determination is pending.
5. **Inpatient Substance Use Disorder Treatment at Participating OASAS-Certified Facilities.** Coverage for inpatient substance use disorder treatment at a participating OASAS-certified Facility is not subject to Preauthorization. Coverage will not be subject to concurrent review for the first 14 days of the inpatient admission if the OASAS-certified Facility notifies Us of both the admission and the initial treatment plan within 48 hours of the admission. After the first 14 days of the inpatient admission, We may review the entire stay to determine whether it is Medically Necessary and We will use clinical review tools designated by OASAS. If any portion of the stay is denied as not Medically Necessary, You are only responsible for the in-network Cost-Sharing that would otherwise apply to Your inpatient admission.

#### **D. Retrospective Reviews.**

If We have all information necessary to make a determination regarding a retrospective claim, We will make a determination and notify You and Your Provider within 30 calendar days of the receipt of the request. If We need additional information, We will request it within 30 calendar days. You or Your Provider will then have 45 calendar days to provide the information. We will make a determination and provide notice to You and Your Provider in writing within 15 calendar days of the earlier of Our receipt of the information or the end of the 45-day period.



**2. Standard Review.** We will make a step therapy protocol override determination and provide notification to You (or Your designee) and where appropriate, Your Health Care Professional, within 72 hours of receipt of the supporting rationale and documentation.

**3. Expedited Review.** If You have a medical condition that places Your health in serious jeopardy without the Prescription Drug prescribed by Your Health Care Professional, We will make a step therapy protocol override determination and provide notification to You (or Your designee) and Your Health Care Professional within 24 hours of receipt of the supporting rationale and documentation.

If the required supporting rationale and documentation are not submitted with a step therapy protocol override determination request, We will request the information within 72 hours for Preauthorization and retrospective reviews, the lesser of 72 hours or one (1) business day for concurrent reviews, and 24 hours for expedited reviews. You or Your Health Care Professional will have 45 calendar days to submit the information for Preauthorization, concurrent and retrospective reviews, and 48 hours for expedited reviews. For Preauthorization reviews, We will make a determination and provide notification to You (or Your designee) and Your Health Care Professional within the earlier of 72 hours of Our receipt of the information or 15 calendar days of the end of the 45-day period if the information is not received. For concurrent reviews, We will make a determination and provide notification to You (or Your designee) and Your Health Care Professional within the earlier of 72 hours or one (1) business day of Our receipt of the information or 15 calendar days of the end of the 45-day period if the information is not received. For retrospective reviews, We will make a determination and provide notification to You (or Your designee) and Your Health Care Professional within the earlier of 72 hours of Our receipt of the information or 15 calendar days of the end of the 45-day period if the information is not received. For expedited reviews, We will make a determination and provide notification to You (or Your designee) and Your Health Care Professional within the earlier of 24 hours of Our receipt of the information or 48 hours of the end of the 48-hour period if the information is not received.

If We do not make a determination within 72 hours (or 24 hours for expedited reviews) of receipt of the supporting rationale and documentation, the step therapy protocol override request will be approved.

If We determine that the step therapy protocol should be overridden, We will authorize immediate coverage for the Prescription Drug prescribed by Your treating Health Care Professional. An adverse step therapy override determination is eligible for an Appeal.

#### **G. Reconsideration.**

If We did not attempt to consult with Your Provider who recommended the Covered Service before making an adverse determination, Your Provider may request reconsideration by the same clinical peer reviewer who made the adverse determination or a designated clinical peer reviewer if the original clinical peer reviewer is unavailable. For Preauthorization and concurrent reviews, the







## SECTION XX

### External Appeal

#### **A. Your Right to an External Appeal.**

In some cases, You have a right to an external appeal of a denial of coverage. If We have denied coverage on the basis that a service is not Medically Necessary (including appropriateness, health care setting, level of care or effectiveness of a Covered benefit); or is an experimental or investigational treatment (including clinical trials and treatments for rare diseases); or is an out-of-network treatment, You or Your representative may appeal that decision to an External Appeal Agent, an independent third party certified by the State to conduct these appeals.

In order for You to be eligible for an external appeal You must meet the following two (2) requirements:

- The service, procedure, or treatment must otherwise be a Covered Service under this Certificate; and
- In general, You must have received a final adverse determination through Our internal Appeal process. But, You can file an external appeal even though You have not received a final adverse determination through Our internal Appeal process if:
  - We agree in writing to waive the internal Appeal. We are not required to agree to Your request to waive the internal Appeal; or
  - You file an external appeal at the same time as You apply for an expedited internal Appeal; or
  - We fail to adhere to Utilization Review claim processing requirements (other than a minor violation that is not likely to cause prejudice or harm to You, and We demonstrate that the violation was for good cause or due to matters beyond Our control and the violation occurred during an ongoing, good faith exchange of information between You and Us).

#### **B. Your Right to Appeal a Determination that a Service is Not Medically Necessary.**

If We have denied coverage on the basis that the service is not Medically Necessary, You may appeal to an External Appeal Agent if You meet the requirements for an external appeal in paragraph “A” above.

#### **C. Your Right to Appeal a Determination that a Service is Experimental or Investigational.**

If We have denied coverage on the basis that the service is an experimental or investigational treatment (including clinical trials and treatments for rare diseases), You must satisfy the two (2) requirements for an external appeal in paragraph “A” above and Your attending Physician must certify that Your condition or disease is one for which:

1. Standard health services are ineffective or medically inappropriate; **or**

2. There does not exist a more beneficial standard service or procedure Covered by Us; **or**
3. There exists a clinical trial or rare disease treatment (as defined by law).

In addition, Your attending Physician must have recommended one (1) of the following:

1. A service, procedure or treatment that two (2) documents from available medical and scientific evidence indicate is likely to be more beneficial to You than any standard Covered Service (only certain documents will be considered in support of this recommendation – Your attending Physician should contact the State for current information as to what documents will be considered or acceptable); or
2. A clinical trial for which You are eligible (only certain clinical trials can be considered); or
3. A rare disease treatment for which Your attending Physician certifies that there is no standard treatment that is likely to be more clinically beneficial to You than the requested service, the requested service is likely to benefit You in the treatment of Your rare disease, and such benefit outweighs the risk of the service. In addition, Your attending Physician must certify that Your condition is a rare disease that is currently or was previously subject to a research study by the National Institutes of Health Rare Disease Clinical Research Network **or** that it affects fewer than 200,000 U.S. residents per year.

For purposes of this section, Your attending Physician must be a licensed, board-certified or board eligible Physician qualified to practice in the area appropriate to treat Your condition or disease. In addition, for a rare disease treatment, the attending Physician may not be Your treating Physician.

#### **D. Your Right to Appeal a Determination that a Service is Out-of-Network.**

If We have denied coverage of an out-of-network treatment because it is not materially different than the health service available in-network, You may appeal to an External Appeal Agent if You meet the two (2) requirements for an external appeal in paragraph “A” above, and You have requested Preauthorization for the out-of-network treatment.

In addition, Your attending Physician must certify that the out-of-network service is materially different from the alternate recommended in-network health service, and based on two (2) documents from available medical and scientific evidence, is likely to be more clinically beneficial than the alternate in-network treatment and that the adverse risk of the requested health service would likely not be substantially increased over the alternate in-network health service.

For purposes of this section, Your attending Physician must be a licensed, board certified or board eligible Physician qualified to practice in the specialty area appropriate to treat You for the health service.



### **E. Your Right to Appeal an Out-of-Network Referral Denial to a Non-Participating Provider.**

If We have denied coverage of a request for a Referral to a Non-Participating Provider because We determine We have a Participating Provider with the appropriate training and experience to meet Your particular health care needs who is able to provide the requested health care service, You may appeal to an External Appeal Agent if You meet the two requirements for an external appeal in paragraph “A” above.

In addition, Your attending Physician must: 1) certify that The Participating Provider recommended by Us does not have the appropriate training and experience to meet Your particular health care needs; and 2) recommend a Non-Participating Provider with the appropriate training and experience to meet Your particular health care needs who is able to provide the requested health care service.

For purposes of this section, Your attending Physician must be a licensed, board certified or board eligible Physician qualified to practice in the specialty area appropriate to treat You for the health service.

### **F. Your Right to Appeal a Formulary Exception Denial.**

If We have denied Your request for coverage of a non-formulary Prescription Drug through Our formulary exception process, You, Your designee or the prescribing Health Care Professional may appeal the formulary exception denial to an External Appeal Agent. See the Prescription Drug Coverage section of this Certificate for more information on the formulary exception process.

### **G. The External Appeal Process.**

You have four (4) months from receipt of a final adverse determination or from receipt of a waiver of the internal Appeal process to file a written request for an external appeal. If You are filing an external appeal based on Our failure to adhere to claim processing requirements, You have four (4) months from such failure to file a written request for an external appeal.

We will provide an external appeal application with the final adverse determination issued through Our internal Appeal process or Our written waiver of an internal Appeal. You may also request an external appeal application from the New York State Department of Financial Services at 1-800-400-8882. Submit the completed application to the Department of Financial Services at the address indicated on the application. If You meet the criteria for an external appeal, the State will forward the request to a certified External Appeal Agent.

You can submit additional documentation with Your external appeal request. If the External Appeal Agent determines that the information You submit represents a material change from the information on which We based Our denial, the External Appeal Agent will share this information with Us in order for Us to exercise Our right to reconsider Our decision. If We choose to exercise this right, We will have three (3) business days to amend or confirm Our decision. Please note that in the case of an expedited external appeal (described below), We do not have a right to reconsider Our decision.

In general, the External Appeal Agent must make a decision within 30 days of receipt of Your completed application. The External Appeal Agent may request additional information from You, Your Physician, or Us. If the External Appeal Agent requests additional information, it will have five (5) additional business days to make its decision.

The External Appeal Agent must notify You in writing of its decision within two (2) business days.

If Your attending Physician certifies that a delay in providing the service that has been denied poses an imminent or serious threat to Your health; or if Your attending Physician certifies that the standard external appeal time frame would seriously jeopardize Your life, health or ability to regain maximum function; or if You received Emergency Services and have not been discharged from a Facility and the denial concerns an admission, availability of care, or continued stay, You may request an expedited external appeal. In that case, the External Appeal Agent must make a decision within 72 hours of receipt of Your completed application. Immediately after reaching a decision, the External Appeal Agent must notify You and Us by telephone or facsimile of that decision. The External Appeal Agent must also notify You in writing of its decision.

If Your internal formulary exception request received a standard review through Our formulary exception process, the External Appeal Agent must make a decision on Your external appeal and notify You or Your designee and the prescribing Health Care Professional within 72 hours of receipt of Your completed application. If the External Appeal Agent overturns Our denial, We will Cover the Prescription Drug while You are taking the Prescription Drug, including any refills.

If Your internal formulary exception request received an expedited review through Our formulary exception process, the External Appeal Agent must make a decision on Your external appeal and notify You or Your designee and the prescribing Health Care Professional within 24 hours of receipt of Your completed application. If the External Appeal Agent overturns Our denial, We will Cover the Prescription Drug while You suffer from the health condition that may seriously jeopardize Your health, life or ability to regain maximum function or for the duration of Your current course of treatment using the non-formulary Prescription Drug.

If the External Appeal Agent overturns Our decision that a service is not Medically Necessary or approves coverage of an experimental or investigational treatment or an out-of-network treatment We will provide coverage subject to the other terms and conditions of this Certificate. Please note that if the External Appeal Agent approves coverage of an experimental or investigational treatment that is part of a clinical trial, We will only Cover the cost of services required to provide treatment to You according to the design of the trial. We will not be responsible for the costs of investigational drugs or devices, the costs of non- health care services, the costs of managing the research, or costs that would not be Covered under this Certificate for non-investigational treatments provided in the clinical trial.

The External Appeal Agent's decision is binding on both You and Us. The External Appeal Agent's decision is admissible in any court proceeding.

#### **H. Your Responsibilities.**

**It is Your responsibility to start the external appeal process.** You may start the external appeal process by filing a completed application with the New York State Department of Financial Services. You may appoint a representative to assist You with Your application; however, the Department of Financial Services may contact You and request that You confirm in writing that You have appointed the representative.

**Under New York State law, Your completed request for external appeal must be filed within four (4) months of either the date upon which You receive a final adverse determination, or the date upon which You receive a written waiver of any internal Appeal, or Our failure to adhere to claim processing requirements. We have no authority to extend this deadline.**

## SECTION XXI

### Coordination of Benefits

This section applies when You also have group health coverage with another plan. When You receive a Covered Service, We will coordinate benefit payments with any payment made by another plan. The primary plan will pay its full benefits and the other plan may pay secondary benefits, if necessary, to cover some or all of the remaining expenses. This coordination prevents duplicate payments and overpayments.

#### A. Definitions.

1. **“Allowable expense”** is the necessary, reasonable, and customary item of expense for health care, when the item is covered at least in part under any of the plans involved, except where a statute requires a different definition. When a plan provides benefits in the form of services, the reasonable cash value of each service will be considered as both an allowable expense and a benefit paid.
2. **“Plan”** is other group health coverage with which We will coordinate benefits. The term “plan” includes:
  - Group health benefits and group blanket or group remittance health benefits coverage, whether insured, self-insured, or self-funded. This includes group HMO and other prepaid group coverage, but does not include blanket school accident coverage or coverages issued to a substantially similar group (e.g., Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts) where the school or organization pays the premiums.
  - Medical benefits coverage, in group and individual automobile “no-fault” and traditional liability “fault” type contracts.
  - Hospital, medical, and surgical benefits coverage of Medicare or a governmental plan offered, required, or provided by law, except Medicaid or any other plan whose benefits are by law excess to any private insurance coverage.
3. **“Primary plan”** is one whose benefits must be determined without taking the existence of any other plan into consideration. A plan is primary if either: 1) the plan has no order of benefits rules or its rules differ from those required by regulation; or 2) all plans which cover the person use the order of benefits rules required by regulation and under those rules the plan determines its benefits first. More than one plan may be a primary plan (for example, two plans which have no order of benefit determination rules).
4. **“Secondary plan”** is one which is not a primary plan. If a person is covered by more than one secondary plan, the order of benefit determination rules decide the order in which their benefits are determined in relation to each other.

## **B. Rules to Determine Order of Payment.**

The first of the rules listed below in paragraphs 1-6 that applies will determine which plan will be primary:

1. If the other plan does not have a provision similar to this one, then the other plan will be primary.
2. If the person receiving benefits is the Subscriber and is only covered as a Dependent under the other plan, this Certificate will be primary.
3. If a child is covered under the plans of both parents and the parents are not separated or divorced, the plan of the parent whose birthday falls earlier in the year will be primary. If both parents have the same birthday, the plan which covered the parent longer will be primary. To determine whose birthday falls earlier in the year, only the month and day are considered. However, if the other plan does not have this birthday rule, but instead has a rule based on the sex of the parent and as a result the plans do not agree on which is primary, then the rule in the other plan will determine which plan is primary.
4. If a child is covered by both parents' plans, the parents are separated or divorced, and there is no court decree between the parents that establishes financial responsibility for the child's health care expenses:
  - The plan of the parent who has custody will be primary;
  - If the parent with custody has remarried, and the child is also covered as a child under the step-parent's plan, the plan of the parent with custody will pay first, the step-parent's plan will pay second, and the plan of the parent without custody will pay third.
  - If a court decree between the parents says which parent is responsible for the child's health care expenses, then that parent's plan will be primary if that plan has actual knowledge of the decree.
5. If the person receiving services is covered under one plan as an active employee or member (i.e., not laid-off or retired), or as the spouse or child of such an active employee, and is also covered under another plan as a laid-off or retired employee or as the spouse or child of such a laid-off or retired employee, the plan that covers such person as an active employee or spouse or child of an active employee will be primary. If the other plan does not have this rule, and as a result the plans do not agree on which will be primary, this rule will be ignored.
6. If none of the above rules determine which plan is primary, the plan that covered the person receiving services longer will be primary.

## **C. Effects of Coordination.**

When this plan is secondary, its benefits will be reduced so that the total benefits paid by the primary plan and this plan during a claim determination period will not exceed Our maximum available benefit for each Covered Service. Also, the amount We pay will not be more than the amount We would pay if We were primary. As each claim is

submitted, We will determine Our obligation to pay for allowable expenses based upon all claims that have been submitted up to that point in time during the claim determination period.

**D. Right to Receive and Release Necessary Information.**

We may release or receive information that We need to coordinate benefits. We do not need to tell anyone or receive consent to do this. We are not responsible to anyone for releasing or obtaining this information. You must give Us any needed information for coordination purposes, in the time frame requested.

**E. Our Right to Recover Overpayment.**

If We made a payment as a primary plan, You agree to pay Us any amount by which We should have reduced Our payment. Also, We may recover any overpayment from the primary plan or the Provider receiving payment and You agree to sign all documents necessary to help Us recover any overpayment.

**F. Coordination with “Always Excess,” “Always Secondary,” or “Non-Complying” Plans.**

Except as described below, We will coordinate benefits with plans, whether insured or self-insured, that provide benefits that are stated to be always excess or always secondary or use order of benefit determination rules that are inconsistent with the rules described above in the following manner:

1. If this Certificate is primary, as defined in this section, We will pay benefits first.
2. If this Certificate is secondary, as defined in this section, We will pay only the amount We would pay as the secondary insurer.
3. If We request information from a non-complying plan and do not receive it within 30 days, We will calculate the amount We should pay on the assumption that the non-complying plan and this Certificate provide identical benefits. When the information is received, We will make any necessary adjustments.

If a blanket accident insurance policy issued in accordance with Section 1015.11 of the General Business Law contains a provision that its benefits are excess or always secondary, then this Certificate is primary.

## SECTION XXII

### Termination of Coverage

Coverage under this Certificate will automatically be terminated on the first of the following to apply:

1. The Group and/or Subscriber has failed to pay Premiums within 30 days of when Premiums are due. Coverage will terminate as of the last day for which Premiums were paid.
2. The end of the month in which the Subscriber ceases to meet the eligibility requirements as defined by the Group.
3. Upon the Subscriber's death, coverage will terminate unless the Subscriber has coverage for Dependents. If the Subscriber has coverage for Dependents, then coverage will terminate as of the last day of the month for which the Premium had been paid.
4. For Spouses in cases of divorce, the date of the divorce.
5. For Children, until the end of the month in which the Child turns 26 years of age.
6. For all other Dependents, the end of the month in which the Dependent ceases to be eligible.
7. The end of the month during which the Group or Subscriber provides written notice to Us requesting termination of coverage, or on such later date requested for such termination by the notice.
8. If the Subscriber or the Subscriber's Dependent has performed an act that constitutes fraud or the Subscriber has made an intentional misrepresentation of material fact in writing on his or her enrollment application, or in order to obtain coverage for a service, coverage will terminate immediately upon written notice of termination delivered by Us to the Subscriber and/or the Subscriber's Dependent, as applicable. However, if the Subscriber makes an intentional misrepresentation of material fact in writing on his or her enrollment application, we will rescind coverage if the facts misrepresented would have led Us to refuse to issue the coverage. Rescission means that the termination of Your coverage will have a retroactive effect of up to one (1) year. If termination is a result of the Subscriber's action, coverage will terminate for the Subscriber and any Dependents. If termination is a result of the Dependent's action, coverage will terminate for the Dependent.
9. The date that the Group Contract is terminated. If We terminate and/or decide to stop offering a particular class of group policies, without regard to claims experience or health related status, to which this Certificate belongs, We will provide the Group and Subscribers at least 90 days' prior written notice.

10. If We elect to terminate or cease offering all hospital, surgical and medical expense coverage in the small group market in this state, We will provide written notice to the Group and Subscriber at least 180 days prior to when the coverage will cease.
11. The Group has performed an act or practice that constitutes fraud or made an intentional misrepresentation of material fact under the terms of the coverage.
12. The Group ceases to meet the statutory requirements to be defined as a group for the purposes of obtaining coverage. We will provide written notice to the Group and Subscriber at least 30 days prior to when the coverage will cease.
13. The date there is no longer any Subscriber who lives, resides, or works in Our Service Area.

No termination shall prejudice the right to a claim for benefits which arose prior to such termination.

See the Continuation of Coverage section of this Certificate for Your right to continuation of this coverage. See the Conversion Right to a New Contract after Termination section of this Certificate for Your right to conversion to an individual Contract.



## SECTION XXIII

### Extension of Benefits

When Your coverage under this Certificate ends, benefits stop. But, if You are totally disabled on the date the Group Contract terminates, or on the date Your coverage under this Certificate terminates, continued benefits may be available for the treatment of the injury or sickness that is the cause of the total disability.

For purposes of this section, “total disability” means You are prevented because of injury or disease from engaging in any work or other gainful activity. Total disability for a minor means that the minor is prevented because of injury or disease from engaging in substantially all of the normal activities of a person of like age and sex who is in good health.

#### **A. When You May Continue Benefits.**

When Your coverage under this Certificate ends, We will provide benefits during a period of total disability for a Hospital stay commencing, or surgery performed, within 31 days from the date Your coverage ends. The Hospital stay or surgery must be for the treatment of the injury, sickness, or pregnancy causing the total disability.

If Your coverage ends because You are no longer employed, We will provide benefits during a period of total disability for up to 12 months from the date Your coverage ends for Covered services to treat the injury, sickness, or pregnancy that caused the total disability, unless these services are covered under another group health plan.

#### **B. Termination of Extension of Benefits.**

Extended benefits will end on the earliest of the following:

- The date You are no longer totally disabled;
- The date the contractual benefit has been exhausted;
- 12 months from the date extended benefits began (if Your benefits are extended based on termination of employment); or
- With respect to the 12-month extension of coverage, the date You become eligible for benefits under any group policy providing medical benefits.

#### **C. Limits on Extended Benefits.**

We will not pay extended benefits:

- For any Member who is not totally disabled on the date coverage under this Certificate ends; or
- Beyond the extent to which We would have paid benefits under this Certificate if coverage had not ended.

## SECTION XXIV

### Continuation of Coverage

Under the continuation of coverage provisions of the federal Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1985 (“COBRA”), most employer-sponsored group health plans must offer employees and their families the opportunity for a temporary continuation of health insurance coverage when their coverage would otherwise end. If You are not entitled to temporary continuation of coverage under COBRA, You may be entitled to temporary continuation coverage under the New York Insurance Law as described below. Call or write Your employer to find out if You are entitled to temporary continuation of coverage under COBRA or under the New York Insurance Law. Any period of continuation of coverage will terminate automatically at the end of the period of continuation provided under COBRA or the New York Insurance Law.

#### A. Qualifying Events.

Pursuant to federal COBRA and state continuation coverage laws, You, the Subscriber, Your Spouse and Your Children may be able to temporarily continue coverage under this Certificate in certain situations when You would otherwise lose coverage, known as qualifying events.

1. If Your coverage ends due to voluntary or involuntary termination of employment or a change in Your employee class (e.g., a reduction in the number of hours of employment), You may continue coverage. Coverage may be continued for You, Your Spouse and any of Your covered Children.
2. If You are a covered Spouse, You may continue coverage if Your coverage ends due to:
  - Voluntary or involuntary termination of the Subscriber’s employment;
  - Reduction in the hours worked by the Subscriber or other change in the Subscriber’s class;
  - Divorce or legal separation from the Subscriber; or
  - Death of the Subscriber.
3. If You are a covered Child, You may continue coverage if Your coverage ends due to:
  - Voluntary or involuntary termination of the Subscriber’s employment;
  - Reduction in the hours worked by the Subscriber or other change in the Subscriber’s class;
  - Loss of covered Child status under the plan rules; or
  - Death of the Subscriber.

If You want to continue coverage, You must request continuation from the Group in writing and make the first Premium payment within the 60-day period following the later of:

1. The date coverage would otherwise terminate; or
2. The date You are sent notice by first class mail of the right of continuation by the Group.

The Group may charge up to 102% of the Group Premium for continued coverage.

Continued coverage under this section will terminate at the earliest of the following:

1. The date 36 months after the Subscriber's coverage would have terminated because of termination of employment;
2. If You are a covered Spouse or Child, the date 36 months after coverage would have terminated due to the death of the Subscriber, divorce or legal separation, the Subscriber's eligibility for Medicare, or the failure to qualify under the definition of "Children";
3. The date You become covered by an insured or uninsured arrangement that provides group hospital, surgical or medical coverage;
4. The date You become entitled to Medicare;
5. The date to which Premiums are paid if You fail to make a timely payment; or
6. The date the Group Contract terminates. However, if the Group Contract is replaced with similar coverage, You have the right to become covered under the new Group Contract for the balance of the period remaining for Your continued coverage.

When Your continuation of coverage ends, You may have a right to conversion. See the Conversion Right to a New Contract after Termination section of this Certificate.

### **B. Supplementary Continuation, Conversion, and Temporary Suspension Rights During Active Duty.**

If You, the Subscriber are a member of a reserve component of the armed forces of the United States, including the National Guard, You have the right to continuation, conversion, or a temporary suspension of coverage during active duty and reinstatement of coverage at the end of active duty if Your Group does not voluntarily maintain Your coverage and if:

1. Your active duty is extended during a period when the president is authorized to order units of the reserve to active duty, provided that such additional active duty is at the request and for the convenience of the federal government; and
2. You serve no more than four (4) years of active duty.

When Your Group does not voluntarily maintain Your coverage during active duty, coverage under this Certificate will be suspended unless You elect to continue coverage in writing within 60 days of being ordered to active duty and You pay the Group the required Premium payment but not more frequently than on a monthly basis in advance. This right of continuation extends to You and Your eligible Dependents. Continuation of coverage is not available for any person who is eligible to be covered under Medicare; or any person who is covered as an employee, member or dependent under any other insured or uninsured arrangement which provides group hospital, surgical or medical coverage, except for coverage available to active duty members of the uniformed services and their family members.



## SECTION XXV

### Conversion Right to a New Contract after Termination

#### A. Circumstances Giving Rise to Right to Conversion.

You have the right to convert to a new Contract if coverage under this Certificate terminates under the circumstances described below.

- 1. Termination of the Group Contract.** If the Group Contract between Us and the Group is terminated as set forth in the Termination of Coverage section of this Certificate, and the Group has not replaced the coverage with similar and continuous health care coverage, whether insured or self-insured, You are entitled to purchase a new Contract as direct payment members.
- 2. If You Are No Longer Covered in a Group.** If Your coverage terminates under the Termination of Coverage section of this Certificate because You are no longer a member of a Group, You are entitled to purchase a new Contract as a direct payment member.
- 3. On the Death of the Subscriber.** If coverage terminates under the Termination of Coverage section of this Certificate because of the death of the Subscriber, the Subscriber's Dependents are entitled to purchase a new Contract as direct payment members.
- 4. Termination of Your Marriage.** If a Spouse's coverage terminates under the Termination of Coverage section of this Certificate because the Spouse becomes divorced from the Subscriber or the marriage is annulled, that former Spouse is entitled to purchase a new Contract as a direct payment member.
- 5. Termination of Coverage of a Child.** If a Child's coverage terminates under the Termination of Coverage section of this Certificate because the Child no longer qualifies as a Child, the Child is entitled to purchase a new Contract as a direct payment member.
- 6. Termination of Your Temporary Continuation of Coverage.** If coverage terminates under the Termination of Coverage section of this Certificate because You are no longer eligible for continuation of coverage, You are entitled to purchase a new Contract as a direct payment member.
- 7. Termination of Your Young Adult Coverage.** If a Child's young adult coverage terminates under the Termination of Coverage section of this Certificate, the Child is entitled to purchase a new Contract as a direct payment member.

#### B. When to Apply for the New Contract.





when You were a covered family member will be applied toward Your new status as a Subscriber.

#### **8. Entire Agreement.**

This Certificate, including any endorsements, riders and the attached applications, if any, constitutes the entire Certificate.

#### **9. Fraud and Abusive Billing.**

We have processes to review claims before and after payment to detect fraud and abusive billing. Members seeking services from Non-Participating Providers could be balance billed by the Non-Participating Provider for those services that are determined to be not payable as a result of a reasonable belief of fraud or other intentional misconduct or abusive billing.

#### **10. Furnishing Information and Audit.**

The Group and all persons covered under this Certificate will promptly furnish Us with all information and records that We may require from time to time to perform Our obligations under this Certificate. You must provide Us with information over the telephone for reasons like the following: to allow Us to determine the level of care You need; so that We may certify care authorized by Your Physician; or to make decisions regarding the Medical Necessity of Your care. The Group will, upon reasonable notice, make available to Us, and We may audit and make copies of, any and all records relating to Group enrollment at the Group's New York office.

#### **11. Identification Cards.**

Identification ("ID") cards are issued by Us for identification purposes only. Possession of any identification card confers no right to services or benefits under this Certificate. To be entitled to such services or benefits, Your Premiums must be paid in full at the time the services are sought to be received.

#### **12. Incontestability.**

No statement made by You will be the basis for avoiding or reducing coverage unless it is in writing and signed by You. All statements contained in any such written instrument shall be deemed representations and not warranties.

#### **13. Independent Contractors.**

Participating Providers are independent contractors. They are not Our agents or employees. We and Our employees are not the agent or employee of any Participating Provider. We are not liable for any claim or demand on account of damages arising out of, or in any manner connected with, any injuries alleged to be suffered by You, Your covered Spouse or Children while receiving care from any Participating Provider or in any Participating Provider's Facility.

#### **14. Input in Developing Our Policies.**

Subscribers may participate in the development of Our policies by calling the number on the back of your ID card.



### **15. Material Accessibility.**

We will give the Group, and the Group will give You ID cards Certificates, riders, and other necessary materials.

### **16. More Information about Your Health Plan.**

You can request additional information about Your coverage under this Certificate.

Upon Your request, We will provide the following information:

- A list of the names, business addresses and official positions of Our board of directors, officers and members; and Our most recent annual certified financial statement which includes a balance sheet and a summary of the receipts and disbursements.
- The information that We provide the State regarding Our consumer complaints.
- A copy of Our procedures for maintaining confidentiality of Member information.
- A copy of Our drug formulary. You may also inquire if a specific drug is Covered under this Certificate.
- A written description of Our quality assurance program.
- A copy of Our medical policy regarding an experimental or investigational drug, medical device or treatment in clinical trials.
- Provider affiliations with participating Hospitals.
- A copy of Our clinical review criteria (e.g., Medical Necessity criteria), and where appropriate, other clinical information We may consider regarding a specific disease, course of treatment or Utilization Review guidelines ,including clinical review criteria relating to a step therapy protocol override determination.
- Written application procedures and minimum qualification requirements for Providers.
- Documents that contain the processes, strategies, evidentiary standards, and other factors used to apply a treatment limitation with respect to medical/surgical benefits and mental health or substance use disorder benefits under the Certificate.

### **17. Notice.**

Any notice that We give You under this Certificate will be mailed to Your address as it appears in our records or to the address of the Group. You agree to provide Us with notice of any change of Your address. If You have to give Us any notice, it should be sent by U.S. mail, first class, postage prepaid to: BlueShield of Northeastern New York PO BOX 80, Buffalo New York 14240.

### **18. Premium Refund.**

We will give any refund of Premiums, if due, to the Group.

### **19. Recovery of Overpayments.**

On occasion, a payment will be made to You when You are not covered, for a service that is not covered, or which is more than is proper. When this happens, We will explain the problem to You and You must return the amount of the overpayment to Us within 60





### **28. Time to Sue.**

No action at law or in equity may be maintained against Us prior to the expiration of 60 days after written submission of a claim has been furnished to Us as required in this Certificate. You must start any lawsuit against Us under this Certificate within 2 years from the date the claim was required to be filed.

### **29. Translation Services.**

Translation services are available under this Certificate for non-English speaking Members. Please contact Us at the number on Your ID card to access these services.

### **30. Venue for Legal Action.**

If a dispute arises under this Certificate, it must be resolved in a court located in the State of New York. You agree not to start a lawsuit against Us in a court anywhere else. You also consent to New York State courts having personal jurisdiction over You. That means that, when the proper procedures for starting a lawsuit in these courts have been followed, the courts can order You to defend any action We bring against You.

### **31. Waiver.**

The waiver by any party of any breach of any provision of this Certificate will not be construed as a waiver of any subsequent breach of the same or any other provision. The failure to exercise any right hereunder will not operate as a waiver of such right.

### **32. Who May Change this Certificate.**

This Certificate may not be modified, amended, or changed, except in writing and signed by Our Chief Executive Officer (“CEO”) or a person designated by the CEO. No employee, agent, or other person is authorized to interpret, amend, modify, or otherwise change this Certificate in a manner that expands or limits the scope of coverage, or the conditions of eligibility, enrollment, or participation, unless in writing and signed by the CEO or person designated by the CEO.

### **33. Who Receives Payment under this Certificate.**

Payments under this Certificate for services provided by a Participating Provider will be made directly by Us to the Provider. If You receive services from a Non-Participating Provider, We reserve the right to pay either You or the Provider. If You assign benefits for a surprise bill to a Non-Participating Provider, We will pay the Non-Participating Provider directly. See the How Your Coverage Works section of this Certificate for more information about surprise bills..

### **34. Workers’ Compensation Not Affected.**

The coverage provided under this Certificate is not in lieu of and does not affect any requirements for coverage by workers’ compensation insurance or law.

### **35. Your Medical Records and Reports.**

In order to provide Your coverage under this Certificate, it may be necessary for Us to obtain Your medical records and information from Providers who treated You. Our actions to provide that coverage include processing Your claims, reviewing Grievances, Appeals or complaints involving Your care, and quality assurance reviews of Your care, whether based on a specific complaint or a routine audit of randomly selected cases.







































MENTAL HEALTH and SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER SERVICES	Participating Provider Member Responsibility for Cost-Sharing	Non-Participating Provider Member Responsibility for Cost-Sharing	Limits
Inpatient Mental Health Care including Residential Treatment (for a continuous confinement when in a Hospital)  <b>Preauthorization required. However, Preauthorization is not required for emergency admissions.</b>	\$1,000 Copayment per admission	20% Coinsurance after Deductible per admission	See benefit for description
Outpatient Mental Health Care (including Partial Hospitalization and Intensive Outpatient Program Services)  <b>Preauthorization required for some services</b>	\$40 Copayment	20% Coinsurance after Deductible	See benefit for description

<p>Inpatient Substance Use Services including Residential Treatment (for a continuous confinement when in a Hospital)</p> <p><b>Preauthorization required. However, Preauthorization is not required for emergency admissions or for Participating OASAS-certified Facilities.</b></p>	<p>\$1,000 Copayment per admission</p>	<p>20% Coinsurance after Deductible per admission</p>	<p>See benefit for description</p>
<p>Outpatient Substance Use Services(including Partial Hospitalization, Intensive Outpatient Program Services, and Medication Assisted Treatment)</p> <p><b>Preauthorization required for some services</b></p>	<p>\$40 Copayment</p>	<p>20% Coinsurance after Deductible</p>	<p>Unlimited; Up to 20 visits per calendar year may be used for family counseling</p>
<p><b>PRESCRIPTION DRUGS</b></p> <p>*Certain Prescription Drugs are not subject to Cost-Sharing when provided in accordance with the comprehensive guidelines supported by HRSA or if the item or service has an "A" or "B" rating from the USPSTF and obtained at a participating pharmacy.</p>	<p><b>Participating Provider Member Responsibility for Cost-Sharing</b></p>	<p><b>Non-Participating Provider Member Responsibility for Cost-Sharing</b></p>	<p><b>Limits</b></p>

<p><b>Retail Pharmacy</b></p> <p>30-day supply</p> <p>Tier 1</p> <p>Tier 2</p> <p>Tier 3</p> <p>If You have an Emergency Condition, Preauthorization is not required for a five (5) day emergency supply of a Covered Prescription Drug used to treat a substance use disorder, including a Prescription Drug to manage opioid withdrawal and/or stabilization and for opioid overdose reversal.</p>	<p>\$4 Copayment</p> <p>\$35 Copayment</p> <p>\$70 Copayment</p>	<p>Non-Participating Provider services are not covered and You pay the full cost</p> <p>Non-Participating Provider services are not covered and You pay the full cost</p> <p>Non-Participating Provider services are not covered and You pay the full cost</p>	<p>See benefit for description</p>
<p><b>Mail Order Pharmacy</b></p> <p>Up to a 90-day supply</p> <p>Tier 1</p> <p>Tier 2</p> <p>Tier 3</p> <p>Enteral Formulas</p> <p>Gold HMO</p>	<p>\$10 Copayment</p> <p>\$87.50 Copayment</p> <p>\$175 Copayment</p>	<p>Non-Participating Provider services are not covered and You pay the full cost</p> <p>Non-Participating Provider services are not covered and You pay the full cost</p> <p>Non-Participating Provider services are not covered and You pay the full cost</p>	<p>See benefit for description</p> <p>See benefit for description</p>



Tier 1	\$4 Copayment	Non-Participating Provider services are not covered and You pay the full cost	description
Tier 2	\$35 Copayment	Non-Participating Provider services are not covered and You pay the full cost	
Tier 3	\$70 Copayment	Non-Participating Provider services are not covered and You pay the full cost	
<b>WELLNESS BENEFITS</b>	<b>Participating Provider Member Responsibility for Cost-Sharing</b>	<b>Non-Participating Provider Member Responsibility for Cost-Sharing</b>	<b>Limits</b>
Wellness	\$250 wellness debit card (per contract) that works as a benefit allowance and can be used for a variety of services including fitness centers, massage therapy, acupuncture treatments, health food stores, chiropractic visits, etc. If the subscriber and/or subscriber's spouse completes a health survey, they will receive \$25 each. Max \$50 per contract. Includes web portal, worksite seminars, national discount network, health assessment.	Non-Participating Provider services are not covered and You pay the full cost	
<b>PEDIATRIC VISION CARE</b>	<b>Participating Provider Member Responsibility for Cost-Sharing</b>	<b>Non-Participating Provider Member Responsibility for Cost-Sharing</b>	<b>Limits</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Exams</li> <li>Lenses and Frames</li> <li>Contact Lenses</li> </ul>	<p>One routine exam per year, covered in full. Additional exams at Specialist cost share.</p> <p>20% Coinsurance</p> <p>20% Coinsurance</p>	<p>Non-Participating Provider services are not covered and You pay the full cost</p> <p>Non-Participating Provider services are not covered and You pay the full cost</p> <p>Non-Participating Provider services are not covered and You pay the full cost</p>	<p>One (1) exam per 12-month period</p> <p>One (1) prescribed lenses and frames per 12-month period</p>

All in-network Preauthorization requests are the responsibility of Your Participating Provider. You will not be penalized for a Participating Provider's failure to obtain a required Preauthorization. However, if services are not covered under the Certificate, You will be responsible for the full cost of the services.