

This is Your  
**PREFERRED PROVIDER ORGANIZATION**  
**CERTIFICATE OF COVERAGE**

Issued by



BlueShield of Northeastern New York  
40 Century Hill Drive  
Latham, New York 12110



President & CEO

This Certificate of Coverage (“Certificate”) explains the benefits available to You under a Group Contract between BlueShield of Northeastern New York (hereinafter referred to as “We”, “Us”, or “Our”) and the Group listed in the Group Contract. This Certificate is not a contract between You and Us. Amendments, riders or endorsements may be delivered with the Certificate or added thereafter.

This Certificate offers You the option to receive Covered Services on two benefit levels:

- 1. In-Network Benefits.** In-network benefits are the highest level of coverage available. In-network benefits apply when Your care is provided by Participating

Providers who are located within Our Service Area. You should always consider receiving dental care services first through the in-network benefits portion of this Certificate.

- 2. Out-of-Network Benefits.** The out-of-network benefits portion of this Certificate provides coverage when You receive Covered Services from Non-Participating Providers. Your out-of-pocket expenses will be higher when You receive out-of-network benefits. In addition to Cost-Sharing, You will also be responsible for paying any difference between the Allowed Amount and the Non-Participating Provider's charge.

**READ THIS ENTIRE CERTIFICATE CAREFULLY. IT DESCRIBES THE BENEFITS AVAILABLE UNDER THE GROUP CONTRACT. IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO UNDERSTAND THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS IN THIS CERTIFICATE.**

This Certificate is governed by the laws of New York State.

**The insurance evidenced by this Certificate provides DENTAL insurance ONLY.**

If You need foreign language assistance to understand this Certificate, You may call Us at 1-855-886-2901.

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## SECTION I

### Definitions

Defined terms will appear capitalized throughout the 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.

**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. The Certificate explains the benefits available to You under the Group Contract.

**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 that You owe before We begin to pay for a particular Covered Service.

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

**Emergency Dental Care:** Emergency dental treatment required to alleviate pain and suffering caused by dental disease or trauma. Refer to the Pediatric Dental Care section of this Certificate for details.

**Exclusions:** Dental 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.

**General Dentist:** A dentist licensed under Title 8 of the New York State Education Law (or other comparable state law, if applicable) who is not a Specialist.

**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.

**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 rehabilitatory 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.

**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.

**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, "Member" also means the Member's designee.

**New York State of Health ("NYSOH"):** The New York State of Health, the Official Health Plan Marketplace. The NYSOH is a marketplace where individuals, families and small businesses can learn about their health insurance options; compare plans based on cost, benefits and other important features; apply for and receive financial help with premium and cost-sharing based on income; choose a plan; and enroll in coverage. The NYSOH helps eligible consumers enroll in other programs, including Medicaid, Child Health Plus, and the Essential Health Plan.

**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-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 dental care services We

do not Cover. The Out-of-Pocket Limit only applies to benefits that are part of the pediatric dental essential health benefit.

**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 [www.bsneny.com](http://www.bsneny.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, or device that the Covered Service, procedure, treatment plan, or device 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 dental insurance coverage.

**Premium Tax Credit:** Financial help that lowers Your taxes to help You and Your family pay for private dental insurance. You can get this help if You get health insurance through the NYSOH and Your income is below a certain level. Advance payments of the tax credit can be used right away to lower Your monthly Premium

**Primary Care Dentist (“PCD”):** A participating dentist who directly provides or coordinates a range of dental services for You.

**Provider:** An appropriately licensed, registered or certified dentist, dental hygienist, or dental assistant under Title 8 of the New York State Education Law (or other comparable state law, if applicable) that the New York State Insurance Law requires to be recognized who charges and bills patients for Covered Services. The Provider’s services must be rendered within the lawful scope of practice for that type of Provider in order to be Covered under the Certificate.

**Referral:** An authorization given to one Participating Provider from another Participating Provider (usually from a PCD to a 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.

**Responsible Adult:** The person who enters into this Certificate with Us on behalf of his or her Child or Children.

**Schedule of Benefits:** The section of this Certificate that describes the Copayments, Deductibles, Coinsurance, Out-of-Pocket Limits, Preauthorization 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, Warren, Washington.

**Specialist:** A dentist who focuses on a specific area of dentistry, including oral surgery, endodontia, periodontia, orthodontia and pediatric dentistry, 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. In the case of a Certificate that provides coverage for Pediatric Dental Care only, the Subscriber refers to the Responsible Adult if the Member is under 18 years of age.

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

**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 (including 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 dental insurance 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 [www.bsneny.com](http://www.bsneny.com)

#### **D. The Role of Primary Care Dentists.**

This Certificate does not have a gatekeeper, usually known as a Primary Care Dentist (“PCD”). You do not need a Referral from a PCD before receiving Specialist care

**1. Access to Providers and Changing Providers.** Sometimes Providers in Our Provider directory are not available. You should call the Provider to make sure he or she 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 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.

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

We Cover the services of Non-Participating Providers. 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 listed in the Schedule of Benefits section of this Certificate and You are responsible for requesting Preauthorization for 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, You or Your Provider must call Us at the number on Your ID card.

You or Your Provider must contact Us to request Preauthorization at least two (2) weeks prior to a planned service. If that is not possible, then as soon as reasonably possible during regular business hours prior to the service.

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 including medical policy, clinical guidelines, and therapeutic guidelines.

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

The benefits available to You under this Certificate may be 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 certain benefits described in this Certificate as long as the dental service, procedure, treatment, test, device, or supply (collectively, “service”) is Medically Necessary (e.g. orthodontia). 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 dental records;
- Our dental policies and clinical guidelines;
- Dental opinions of a professional society, peer review committee or other groups of Physicians;
- Reports in peer-reviewed dental 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 required for the direct care and treatment or management of that condition;
- Your condition would be adversely affected if the services were not provided;
- They are provided in accordance with generally-accepted standards of dental 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.

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. Important Telephone Numbers and Addresses.**

- CLAIMS

Refer to the address on Your ID card

(Submit claims forms to this address.)

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

(Please login to member portal to submit an electronic claim.)

- COMPLAINTS, GRIEVANCES AND UTILIZATION REVIEW APPEALS

Call the number on Your ID card

- MEMBER SERVICES

Call the number on Your ID card

(Member service representatives are available Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 7 p.m.)

- PREAUTHORIZATION

Call the number on Your ID card

- OUR WEBSITE

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

## SECTION III

### Cost-Sharing Expenses and Allowed Amount

#### A. Deductible.

There is no Deductible for Covered in-network and out-of-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 Services. 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. We will pay the remaining percentage of the Allowed Amount as Your 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. Out-of-Pocket Limit for the Pediatric Dental Essential Health Benefit.

When You have met Your Out-of-Pocket Limit in payment of In-network and Out-of-Network Copayments, Deductibles and Coinsurance for a Plan Year in the Schedule of Benefits section of this Certificate for the pediatric dental essential health benefit, We will provide coverage for 100% of the Allowed Amount for Covered Services for the remainder of that Plan Year for the pediatric dental essential health benefit. If You have other than individual coverage, the individual Out-of-Pocket Limit applies to each Member under age 19 covered under this Certificate. Once a Member under age 19 meets the Out-of-Pocket Limit for one (1) Member under age 19, We will provide coverage for 100% of the Allowed Amount for the rest of that Plan Year for that person for the pediatric dental essential health benefit. If this Certificate covers more than one Member under age 19, when two (2) or more Members under age 19 covered under this Certificate have collectively met the Out-of-Pocket Limit for two (2) or more Members under age 19 in payment of 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 pediatric dental essential health benefit for the rest of that Plan Year.

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

This Certificate does not have an Out-of-Pocket Limit on benefits other than the pediatric dental essential health benefit.

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

When You receive Covered Services from a Non-Participating Provider, in addition to the applicable Copayments, Deductible 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 may be less than the Non-Participating Provider's actual charge.

### **G. 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:

#### **For Providers:**

For Providers, 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 for information on Your financial responsibility when You receive services from a Non-Participating Provider.**

## **SECTION IV.**

### **Who Is Covered**

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

This Certificate is issued to cover Members (known as “You”) who are under 19 years of age. Coverage lasts until the end of the month in which You turn 19 years of age.

#### **B. Children Covered Under This Certificate.**

Children covered under this Certificate include the Subscriber’s natural Children, legally adopted Children, step Children, and Children for whom the Subscriber is the proposed adoptive parent without regard to financial dependence, residency with the Subscriber, 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. 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 Member in relation to eligibility for coverage under this Certificate at any time.

#### **C. When Coverage Begins.**

Coverage under this Certificate will begin as follows:

1. If the Subscriber elects coverage before becoming eligible, or within 30 days of becoming eligible for other than a special enrollment period, coverage begins on the date the Subscriber becomes eligible, or on the date determined by the Group.
2. If the Subscriber does not elect coverage upon becoming eligible or within 30 days of becoming eligible for other than a special enrollment period, the Subscriber must wait until the Group’s next open enrollment period to enroll, except as provided below.
3. If the Subscriber has a newborn or adopted newborn Child and the NYSOH receives notice of such birth within 30 days thereafter, coverage for the Subscriber’s newborn starts at the moment of birth; otherwise coverage begins on the date on which the NYSOH receives notice. Your adopted newborn Child will be covered from the moment of birth if the Subscriber takes physical custody of the infant as soon as the infant is released from the Hospital after birth and the Subscriber files 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. In order for coverage to start at the moment of birth, the Subscriber must notify the NYSOH and pay any additional Premium within the 30 day period. Otherwise, coverage begins on the date on which the NYSOH receives notice Provided that You pay any additional Premium when due.

#### **D. Special Enrollment Periods**

You can also enroll for coverage within 30 days of the occurrence of one of the following events:

1. You lose minimum essential coverage, which includes the termination of employer contributions for Your coverage;
2. Your enrollment or non-enrollment in another qualified dental plan was unintentional, inadvertent or erroneous and was the result of the error, misrepresentation, or inaction of an officer, employee, or agent of the NYSOH or a non-NYSOH entity providing enrollment assistance or conducting enrollment activities, as evaluated and determined by the NYSOH;
3. You adequately demonstrate to the NYSOH that another qualified dental plan in which You were enrolled substantially violated a material provision of its contract;
4. You gain a Dependent or become a Dependent through marriage, birth, adoption, placement for adoption, placement in foster care or through a child support order or other court order, however, foster Children and Children for whom You are a legal guardian are not covered under this Certificate;
5. You lose a Dependent or are no longer considered a Dependent through divorce or legal separation or upon the death of You or Your Dependents;
6. You become eligible for new qualified dental plans because of a permanent move and You either had minimum essential coverage for one (1) or more days during the 60 days before the move or were living outside the United States or a United States territory at the time of the move;
7. If You are an Indian, as defined in 25 U.S.C. 450b(d), You may enroll in a qualified dental plan or change from one qualified dental plan to another one time per month;
8. You demonstrate to the NYSOH that You meet other exceptional circumstances as the NYSOH may provide;
9. You are a victim of domestic violence or spousal abandonment, including a Dependent or unmarried victim within a household, are enrolled in minimum essential coverage, and You and Your Dependents seek to enroll in coverage separate from the perpetrator of the abuse or abandonment;
10. You, Your Spouse or Child apply for coverage during the annual open enrollment period or due to a qualifying event, are assessed by the NYSOH as potentially eligible for Medicaid or Child Health Plus, but are determined ineligible for



Medicaid or Child Health Plus after open enrollment ended or more than 60 days after the qualifying event;

11. You, Your Spouse or Child apply for Medicaid or Child Health Plus coverage during the annual open enrollment period and are determined ineligible for Medicaid or Child Health Plus coverage after open enrollment has ended; or
12. You, Your Spouse or Child adequately demonstrate to the NYSOH that a material error related to plan benefits, service area, or premium influenced Your decision to purchase a qualified health plan through the NYSOH.

The NYSOH must receive notice and Premium payment within 30 days of one of these events. If You enroll because You lost minimum essential coverage, Your coverage will begin on the first day of the month following Your loss of coverage. If You enroll because You gain a Dependent through adoption or placement for adoption, Your coverage will begin on the date of the adoption or placement for adoption. If You enroll because of a court order, Your coverage will begin on the date the court order is effective. If You enroll because You or Your Dependents dies, Your coverage will begin on the first day of the month following your application.

In all other cases, the effective date of Your coverage will depend on when the NYSOH receives 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 can also enroll for coverage within 60 days of the occurrence of one of the following events:

1. You lose eligibility for Medicaid or Child Health Plus; or
2. You become eligible for Medicaid or Child Health Plus.

The NYSOH must receive notice and Premium payment within 60 days of one of these events. The effective date of Your coverage will depend on when the NYSOH receives 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.

## E. Coverage of Children of Domestic Partners

Children covered under this Certificate also include the Children of the Subscriber's 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 or civil union partnership within the last six (6) months, where such registry exists, or
2. For partners residing where registration does not exist, by an alternate affidavit of domestic partnership.
  - a. The affidavit must be notarized and must contain the following:
    - The partners are both 18 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 the 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 (2) 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 (1) 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 partner's financial interdependence; or
- Other item(s) of proof sufficient to establish economic interdependency under the circumstances of the particular case.

## SECTION V

### Pediatric Dental 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.

We Cover the following dental care services for Members through the end of the month in which the Members turn 19 years of age:

- A. Emergency Dental Care.** We Cover Emergency Dental Care, which includes emergency dental treatment required to alleviate pain and suffering caused by dental disease or trauma. Emergency Dental Care is not subject to Our Preauthorization.
- B. Preventive Dental Care.** We Cover preventive dental care that includes procedures which help to prevent oral disease from occurring, including:
- Prophylaxis (scaling and polishing the teeth) two (2) times per Plan Year;
  - Topical fluoride application two (2) times per Plan Year where the local water supply is not fluoridated;
  - Sealants on unrestored permanent molar teeth; and
  - Unilateral or bilateral space maintainers for placement in a restored deciduous and/or mixed dentition to maintain space for normally developing permanent teeth.
- C. Routine Dental Care.** We Cover routine dental care provided in the office of a dentist, including:
- Dental examinations, visits and consultations two (2) times per Plan Year;
  - X-rays, full mouth x-rays or panoramic x-rays 36 month intervals, bitewing x-rays at six (6) month intervals, and other x-rays if Medically Necessary (once primary teeth erupt);
  - Procedures for simple extractions and other routine dental surgery not requiring Hospitalization, including preoperative care and postoperative care;
  - In-office conscious sedation;
  - Amalgam, composite restorations and stainless steel crowns; and
  - Other restorative materials appropriate for children.

**D. Endodontics.** We Cover routine endodontic services, including procedures for treatment of diseased pulp chambers and pulp canals, where Hospitalization is not required.

**E. Periodontics.** We Cover limited periodontic services. We Cover non-surgical periodontic services. We Cover periodontic surgical services necessary for treatment related to hormonal disturbances, drug therapy, or congenital defects. We also Cover periodontic services in anticipation of, or leading to orthodontics that are otherwise Covered under this Certificate.

**F. Prosthodontics.** We Cover prosthodontic services as follows:

- Removable complete or partial dentures, for Members 15 years of age and above, including six (6) months follow-up care;
- Additional services including insertion of identification slips, repairs, relines and rebases and treatment of cleft palate; and
- Interim prosthesis for Members five (5) to 15 years of age.

We do not Cover implants or implant related services.

Fixed bridges are not Covered unless they are required:

- For replacement of a single upper anterior (central/lateral incisor or cuspid) in a patient with an otherwise full complement of natural, functional and/or restored teeth;
- For cleft palate stabilization; or
- Due to the presence of any neurologic or physiologic condition that would preclude the placement of a removable prosthesis, as demonstrated by medical documentation.

**G. Oral Surgery.** We Cover non-routine oral surgery, such as partial and complete bony extractions, tooth re-implantation, tooth transplantation, surgical access of an unerupted tooth, mobilization of erupted or malpositioned tooth to aid eruption, and placement of device to facilitate eruption of an impacted tooth. We also Cover oral surgery in anticipation of, or leading to orthodontics that are otherwise Covered under this Certificate.

**H. Orthodontics.** We Cover orthodontics used to help restore oral structures to health and function and to treat serious medical conditions such as: cleft palate and cleft lip; maxillary/mandibular micrognathia (underdeveloped upper or lower jaw); extreme mandibular prognathism; severe asymmetry (craniofacial anomalies); ankylosis of the temporomandibular joint; and other significant skeletal dysplasias.

Procedures include but are not limited to:

- Rapid Palatal Expansion (RPE);
- Placement of component parts (e.g. brackets, bands);
- Interceptive orthodontic treatment;
- Comprehensive orthodontic treatment (during which orthodontic appliances are placed for active treatment and periodically adjusted);
- Removable appliance therapy; and
- Orthodontic retention (removal of appliances, construction and placement of retainers).

## **SECTION VI**

### **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. Cosmetic Services.**

We do not Cover cosmetic services 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, except for pediatric orthodontics as described in the Pediatric Dental Care section of 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.

#### **D. Coverage Outside of the United States, Canada or Mexico.**

We do not Cover care or treatment provided outside of the United States, its possessions, Canada or Mexico.

#### **E. Experimental or Investigational Treatment.**

We do not Cover any health care service, procedure, treatment, or device 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, 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 the Certificate for non-investigational treatments. See the Utilization Review and External Appeal sections of this Certificate for a further explanation of Your Appeal rights.

**F. Felony Participation.**

We do not Cover any illness, treatment or medical condition due to Your participation in a felony, riot or insurrection.

**G. Foot Care.**

We do not Cover foot care, in connection with corns, calluses, flat feet, fallen arches, weak feet, chronic foot strain or symptomatic complaints of the feet.

**H. 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.

**I. Medical Services.**

We do not Cover medical services or dental services that are medical in nature, including any Hospital charges or prescription drug charges.

**J. Medically Necessary.**

In general, We will not Cover any dental service, procedure, treatment, test or device 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 or device for which coverage has been denied, to the extent that such service, procedure, treatment, test or device 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).

**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. Pre-Existing Conditions.**

For a period of 12 months from the enrollment date, We do not Cover any conditions for which medical advice was given, treatment was recommended by or received from a physician within six (6) months before the effective date of Your coverage. We will not treat genetic information as a pre-existing condition in the absence of a diagnosis of the condition related to such information. The pre-existing condition exclusion does not apply to the pediatric dental essential health benefit.

**O. Services not Listed.**

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

**P. 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.

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

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

**R. Services with No Charge.**

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

**S. Vision Services.**

We do not Cover the examination or fitting of eyeglasses or contact lenses.

**T. War.**

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

**U. 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 VII**

### **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. 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), 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.

## **SECTION VIII**

### **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 must use Our Grievance form for written Grievances. You may submit an oral Grievance in connection with a denial of urgent care. 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: 72 hours of receipt of Your Grievance.

Pre-Service Grievances: 15 calendar days of receipt of Your Grievance.  
(A request for a service or treatment that has not yet been provided.)

Post-Service Grievances: 30 calendar days of receipt of Your Grievance.  
(A claim for a service or a treatment that has already been provided.)

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

If You are not satisfied with the resolution of Your Grievance, You or Your designee may file an Appeal by phone at the number on Your ID card or in writing. 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: 72 hours of receipt of Your Appeal.

Pre-Service Grievances: 15 calendar days of receipt of Your Appeal.  
(A request for a service or treatment that

has not yet been provided.)

Post-Service Grievances:

(A claim for a service or a treatment that has already been provided.)

30 calendar days of receipt of Your Appeal.

**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 Financial Services at**

**1-800-342-3736 or write them at:**

New York State Department of Financial Services

Consumer Assistance Unit

One Commerce Plaza

Albany, NY 12257

Website: [www.dfs.ny.gov](http://www.dfs.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, 10th 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 IX

### 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. 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. Specific guidelines and protocols are available for Your review upon request. For more information, call the number on Your ID card.

#### 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 requests, if We have all information necessary to make a determination, We will make a determination and provide notice to You (or Your designee) and Your Provider, by telephone, within 72 hours of receipt of the request. Written notice will be provided within three (3) business days of receipt of the request. If We need additional information, We 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 notice to You (or Your designee) and Your Provider by telephone within 48 hours of the earlier of Our receipt of the information or the end of the 48-hour time period. Written notification will be provided within the earlier of three (3) business days of Our receipt of the information or three (3) calendar days after the verbal notification.

### **C. Concurrent Reviews.**

1. **Non-Urgent Concurrent Reviews.** Utilization Review decisions for services during the course of care (concurrent reviews) will be made, and notice provided to You (or Your designee) and Your Provider, by telephone and in writing, within one (1) business day of receipt of all necessary information. If We need additional information, We will request it within one (1) business day. You or Your Provider will then have 45 calendar days to submit the information. 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 Our receipt of the information or, if We do not receive the information, within 15 calendar days of the end of the 45-day period.
2. **Urgent Concurrent Reviews.** For concurrent reviews that involve an extension of urgent care, if the request for coverage is made at least 24 hours prior to the expiration of a previously approved treatment, We will make a determination and provide notice to You (or Your designee) and Your Provider by telephone within 24 hours of receipt of the request. Written notice will be provided within one (1) business day of receipt of the request.

If the request for coverage is not made at least 24 hours prior to the expiration of a previously approved treatment and We have all the information necessary to make a determination, We will make a determination and provide written notice to You (or Your designee) and Your Provider within the earlier of 72 hours or of one (1) business day of receipt of the request. If We need additional information, We 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.

#### **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.

Once We have all the information to make a decision, Our failure to make a Utilization Review determination within the applicable time frames set forth above will be deemed an adverse determination subject to an internal Appeal.

#### **E. Retrospective Review of Preauthorized Services.**

We may only reverse a preauthorized treatment, service or procedure on retrospective review when:

- The relevant medical information presented to Us upon retrospective review is materially different from the information presented during the Preauthorization review;
- The relevant medical information presented to Us upon retrospective review existed at the time of the Preauthorization but was withheld or not made available to Us;
- We were not aware of the existence of such information at the time of the Preauthorization review; and
- Had We been aware of such information, the treatment, service or procedure being requested would not have been authorized. The determination is made

using the same specific standards, criteria or procedures as used during the Preauthorization review.

#### **F. Reconsideration.**

If We did not attempt to consult with Your Provider who recommended the Covered Service before making an adverse determination, the 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 reconsideration will take place within one (1) business day of the request for reconsideration. If the adverse determination is upheld, a notice of adverse determination will be given to You and Your Provider, by telephone and in writing.

#### **G. Utilization Review Internal Appeals.**

You, Your designee, and, in retrospective review cases, Your Provider, may request an internal Appeal of an adverse determination, either by phone or in writing.

You have up to 180 calendar days after You receive notice of the adverse determination to file an Appeal. We will acknowledge Your request for an internal Appeal within 15 calendar days of receipt. This acknowledgment will if necessary, inform You of any additional information needed before a decision can be made. A clinical peer reviewer who is a Physician or a health care professional in the same or similar specialty as the Provider who typically manages the disease or condition at issue and who is not subordinate to the clinical peer reviewer who made the initial adverse determination will perform the Appeal.

#### **H. Standard Appeal.**

**Preauthorization Appeal.** If Your Appeal relates to a Preauthorization request, We will decide the Appeal within 30 calendar days of receipt of the Appeal request. Written notice of the determination will be provided to You (or Your designee), and where appropriate, Your Provider, within two (2) business days after the determination is made, but no later than 30 calendar days after receipt of the Appeal request.

**Retrospective Appeal.** If Your Appeal relates to a retrospective claim, We will decide the Appeal within 60 calendar days of receipt of the Appeal request. Written notice of the determination will be provided to You (or Your designee), and where appropriate,

Your Provider, within two (2) business days after the determination is made, but no later than 60 calendar days after receipt of the Appeal request.

**Expedited Appeal.** An Appeal of a review of continued or extended health care services, additional services rendered in the course of continued treatment, home health care services following discharge from an inpatient Hospital admission, services in which a Provider requests an immediate review, or any other urgent matter will be handled on an expedited basis. An expedited Appeal is not available for retrospective reviews. For an expedited Appeal, Your Provider will have reasonable access to the clinical peer reviewer assigned to the Appeal within one (1) business day of receipt of the request for an Appeal. Your Provider and a clinical peer reviewer may exchange information by telephone or fax. An expedited Appeal will be determined within the earlier of 72 hours of receipt of the Appeal or two (2) business days of receipt of the information necessary to conduct the Appeal.

If You are not satisfied with the resolution of Your expedited Appeal, You may file a standard internal appeal or an external appeal.

Our failure to render a determination of Your Appeal within 60 calendar days of receipt of the necessary information for a standard Appeal or within two (2) business days of receipt of the necessary information for an expedited Appeal will be deemed a reversal of the initial adverse determination.

### **I. Appeal Assistance.**

If You need Assistance filing an Appeal, You may contact the state independent Consumer Assistance Program at:

Community Health Advocates  
633 Third Avenue, 10th Floor  
New York, NY 10017

Or call toll free: 1-888-614-5400, or email [cha@cssny.org](mailto:cha@cssny.org)

Website: [www.communityhealthadvocates.org](http://www.communityhealthadvocates.org)

## SECTION X

### 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), 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 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. 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 the External Appeal Agent overturns Our decision that a service is not Medically Necessary or approves coverage of an experimental or investigational 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.

#### **E. 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 XI

### Coordination of Benefits

This section applies when You also have group dental 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 dental 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 dental coverage with which We will coordinate benefits. The term “plan” includes:
  - Group dental benefits and blanket or group remittance dental 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.
  - Dental benefits coverage, in group and individual automobile “no-fault” and traditional liability “fault” type contracts.
  - Dental benefits coverage of a governmental plan offered, required, or provided by law, except Medicaid or any other plan whose benefits are by law excess to any private benefits 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 shall 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 dental 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; and
  - If a court decree between the parents says which parent is responsible for the child's dental 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.**

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.

## **SECTION XII**

### **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 has been paid.
4. For Children, until the end of the month in which the Child turns 19 years of age.
5. The end of the month during which the Group or Subscriber provides written notice to the NYSOH requesting termination of coverage, or on such later date requested for such termination by the notice.
6. If the Subscriber has performed an act that constitutes fraud or made a misrepresentation of material fact in writing on his/her enrollment application, or in order to obtain coverage for a service, coverage will terminate immediately upon written notice of termination delivered by the NYSOH to the Subscriber. However, if the Subscriber makes a 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 Your enrollment under the Certificate. 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.

7. The date that the Group Contract is terminated. If We terminate and/or decide to stop offering a particular class of group Contracts, without regard to claims experience or health related status, to which this Certificate belongs, We will provide the Group and Subscribers at least 30 days prior written notice.
8. The Group has performed an act or practice that constitutes fraud or made a misrepresentation of material fact under the terms of the coverage.
9. The Group ceases to meet the statutory requirements to be defined as a group for the purposes of obtaining coverage. The NYSOH will provide written notice to the Group and Subscriber at least 30 days' prior to when the coverage will cease.
10. The date there is no longer any enrollee 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 under COBRA or USERRA.

## **SECTION XIII**

### **Extension of Benefits**

Upon termination of insurance, whether due to termination of eligibility, or termination of the Certificate, an extension of benefits shall be provided for a period of no less than 30 days for completion of a dental procedure that was started before Your coverage ended.



## SECTION XIV

### 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. Call or write Your employer to find out if You are entitled to temporary continuation of coverage under COBRA. Any period of continuation of coverage will terminate automatically at the end of the period of continuation provided under COBRA.

#### Qualifying Events.

Pursuant to federal COBRA, 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; or.
  - The covered employee becoming entitled to Medicare.

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;
  - Death of the Subscriber; or
  - The covered employee becoming entitled to Medicare.

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 18 months after the Subscriber's coverage would have terminated because of termination of employment; provided that the Subscriber or their dependents may continue for a total of 29 months if the Member is determined to be disabled under the United States Social Security Act.
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.

## **Continuation Rights During Active Duty**

Under the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (“USERRA”), 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 due to service in the uniformed services or upon becoming eligible for medical and dental care under federal health insurance by reason of their service. Call or write Your Group to find out if You are entitled to temporary continuation of coverage under USERRA.

The Group may charge up to 102% of the Group Premium for continued coverage. This does not apply if You or Your dependents serve less than 31 days.

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

1. The 24-month period beginning on the date on which the absence begins; or
2. The day after the date on which You or Your Dependent fail to apply for or return to a position of employment.

An exclusion or waiting period may not be imposed in connection with the reinstatement of coverage upon reemployment unless an exclusion or waiting period would have been imposed under the health plan had coverage not been terminated.

1. This shall not apply to the coverage of any illness or injury determined by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to have been incurred in, or aggravated during, performance of service in the uniformed services.
2. If You or Your Dependent’s coverage under a health plan is terminated by reason of the person having become eligible for federal health insurance for former members of the uniformed services and their dependents, but subsequently do not commence a period of active duty under the order to active duty that established such eligibility because the order is canceled before such active duty commences, any exclusion or waiting period in connection with the reinstatement of coverage shall apply to the continued employment in the same manner as if You or Your Dependents had become reemployed upon such termination of eligibility.

## **SECTION XV**

### **General Provisions**

#### **1. Agreements between Us and Participating Providers.**

Any agreement between Us and Participating Providers may only be terminated by Us or the Providers. This Certificate does not require any Provider to accept a Member as a patient. We do not guarantee a Member's admission to any Participating Provider or any dental benefits program.

#### **2. Assignment.**

You cannot assign any benefits or monies due under this Certificate to any person, corporation, or other organization. Any assignment of benefits by You will be void. Assignment means the transfer to another person or to an organization of Your right to the services provided under this Certificate or Your right to collect money from Us for those services.

#### **3. Changes in This Certificate.**

We may unilaterally change this Certificate upon renewal, if We give the Group 30 days' prior written notice.

#### **4. Choice of Law.**

This Certificate shall be governed by the laws of the State of New York.

#### **5. Clerical Error.**

Clerical error, whether by the Group or Us, with respect to this Certificate, or any other documentation issued by Us in connection with this Certificate, or in keeping any record pertaining to the coverage hereunder, will not modify or invalidate coverage otherwise validly in force or continue coverage otherwise validly terminated.

#### **6. Conformity with Law.**

Any term of this Certificate which is in conflict with New York State law or with any applicable federal law that imposes additional requirements from what is required under New York State law will be amended to conform with the minimum requirements of such law.

## **7. Continuation of Benefit Limitations.**

Some of the benefits in this Certificate may be limited to a specific number of visits, a benefit maximum, and/or subject to a Deductible. You will not be entitled to any additional benefits if Your coverage status should change during the year. For example, if Your coverage status changes from covered family member to Subscriber, all benefits previously utilized 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. 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 certain information over the telephone for reasons such as the following: to determine the level of care You need; so that We may certify care authorized by Your Provider; or 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.

## **10. Identification Cards.**

Identification ("ID") cards are issued by Us for identification purposes only. Possession of any ID 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 that the services are sought to be received.

## **11. 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.

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

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

## **13. Material Accessibility.**

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

#### **14. More Information about Your Dental 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 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.
- 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.
- Written application procedures and minimum qualification requirements for Providers.

#### **15. 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, NY 14240

#### **16. Premium Refund.**

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

#### **17. 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 days after receiving notification from Us. However, We shall not initiate

overpayment recovery efforts more than 24 months after the original payment was made unless We have a reasonable belief of fraud or other intentional misconduct.

#### **18. Renewal Date.**

The renewal date for the Certificate is the anniversary of the effective date of the Group Contract of each year. This Certificate will automatically renew each year on the renewal date unless otherwise terminated by Us, as permitted by this Certificate, or by the Group upon 30 days' prior written notice to Us.

#### **19. Right to Develop Guidelines and Administrative Rules.**

We may develop or adopt standards that describe in more detail when We will or will not make payments under this Certificate. Those standards will not be contrary to the descriptions in this Certificate. If You have a question about the standards that apply to a particular benefit, You may contact Us and We will explain the standards or send You a copy of the standards. We may also develop administrative rules pertaining to enrollment and other administrative matters. We shall have all the powers necessary or appropriate to enable Us to carry out Our duties in connection with the administration of this Certificate.

#### **20. Right to Offset.**

If We make a claim payment to You or on Your behalf in error or You owe Us any money, You must repay the amount You owe Us. Except as otherwise required by law, if We owe You a payment for other claims received, We have the right to subtract any amount You owe Us from any payment We owe You.

#### **21. Service Marks.**

BlueShield of Northeastern New York is an independent corporation organized under the New York Insurance Law. BlueShield of Northeastern New York also operates under licenses with the BlueCross BlueShield Association, which licenses BlueShield of Northeastern New York to use the BlueShield service marks in a portion of New York State. BlueShield of Northeastern New York does not act as an agent of the BlueCross BlueShield Association. BlueShield of Northeastern New York is solely responsible for the obligations created under this agreement.

#### **22. Severability.**

The unenforceability or invalidity of any provision of this Certificate shall not affect the validity and enforceability of the remainder of this Certificate.

### **23. Significant Change in Circumstances.**

If We are unable to arrange for Covered Services as provided under this Certificate as the result of events outside of Our control, We will make a good faith effort to make alternative arrangements. These events would include a major disaster, epidemic, the complete or partial destruction of facilities, riot, civil insurrection, disability of a significant part of Participating Providers' personnel or similar causes. We will make reasonable attempts to arrange for Covered Services. We and Our Participating Providers will not be liable for delay, or failure to provide or arrange for Covered Services if such failure or delay is caused by such an event.

### **24. Subrogation and Reimbursement.**

These paragraphs apply when another party (including any insurer) is, or may be found to be, responsible for Your injury, illness or other condition and We have provided benefits related to that injury, illness or condition. As permitted by applicable state law, unless preempted by federal law, We may be subrogated to all rights of recovery against any such party (including Your own insurance carrier) for the benefits We have provided to you under this Certificate. Subrogation means that We have the right, independently of you, to proceed directly against the other party to recover the benefits that We have provided.

Subject to applicable state law, unless preempted by federal law, We may have a right of reimbursement if you or anyone on your behalf receives payment from any responsible party (including Your own insurance carrier) from any settlement, verdict or insurance proceeds, in connection with an injury, illness, or condition for which We provided benefits. Under Section 5-335 of the New York General Obligations Law, Our right of recovery does not apply when a settlement is reached between a plaintiff and defendant, unless a statutory right of reimbursement exists. The law also provides that, when entering into a settlement, it is presumed that You did not take any action against Our rights or violate any contract between You and Us. The law presumes that the settlement between You and the responsible party does not include compensation for the cost of dental care services for which We provided benefits.

We request that You notify Us within 30 days of the date when any notice is given to any party, including an insurance company or attorney, of Your intention to pursue or investigate a claim to recover damages or obtain compensation due to injury, illness or condition sustained by You for which we have provided benefits. You must provide all information requested by Us or Our representatives including, but not limited to,



completing and submitting any applications or other forms or statements as We may reasonably request.

#### **25. Third Party Beneficiaries.**

No third party beneficiaries are intended to be created by this Certificate and nothing in the Certificate shall confer upon any person or entity other than You or Us any right, benefit, or remedy of any nature whatsoever under or by reason of this Certificate. No other party can enforce this Certificate's provisions or seek any remedy arising out of either Our or Your performance or failure to perform any portion of this Certificate, or to bring an action or pursuit for the breach of any terms of this Certificate.

#### **26. 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 two (2) years from the date the claim was required to be filed.

#### **27. 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.

#### **28. 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.

#### **29. 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.

### **30. 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.

### **31. 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 regardless of whether an assignment has been made.

### **32. 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.

### **33. Your Dental Records and Reports.**

In order to provide Your coverage under this Certificate, it may be necessary for Us to obtain Your dental 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. By accepting coverage under this Certificate, except as prohibited by state or federal law, You automatically give Us or Our designee permission to obtain and use Your dental records for those purposes and You authorize each and every Provider who renders services to You to:

- Disclose all facts pertaining to Your care, treatment, and physical condition to Us or to a dental professional that We may engage to assist Us in reviewing a treatment or claim, or in connection with a complaint or quality of care review;
- Render reports pertaining to Your care, treatment, and physical condition to Us, or to a dental professional that We may engage to assist Us in reviewing a treatment or claim; and
- Permit copying of Your dental records by Us.

We agree to maintain Your dental information in accordance with state and federal confidentiality requirements. However, to the extent permitted under state or federal

law, You automatically give Us permission to share Your information with the New York State Department of Health, quality oversight organizations, and third parties with which We contract to assist Us in administering this Certificate, so long as they also agree to maintain the information in accordance with state and federal confidentiality requirements.

**SECTION XVI Blue Pediatric Dental SCHEDULE OF BENEFITS**

<p><b>COST-SHARING</b></p> <p><b>PEDIATRIC DENTAL CARE ESSENTIAL HEALTH BENEFIT</b></p> <p><b>Deductible</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One (1) Member under Age 19</li> <li>• Two (2) or More Members under Age 19</li> </ul> <p><b>Out-of-Pocket Limit</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One (1) Member under Age 19</li> <li>• Two (2) or More Members under Age 19</li> </ul> <p>Deductibles, Coinsurance and Copayments that make up Your Out-of-Pocket Limit accumulate on a calendar year ending on December 31 of each year.</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>Deductible and out-of-pocket limits are combined for covered services at participating and non-participating providers.</p>
	<p>None</p> <p>None</p> <p>\$ 350</p> <p>\$ 700</p>	<p>None</p> <p>None</p> <p>\$ 350</p> <p>\$ 700</p> <p>See the Cost-Sharing Expenses and Allowed Amount section of this Contract for a description of how We calculate the Allowed Amount. Any charges of a Non-Participating Provider that are in excess of the Allowed Amount do not apply towards the Deductible or Out-of-Pocket Limit. You must pay the amount of the Non-Participating Provider's charge that exceeds Our Allowed Amount.</p>	

PEDIATRIC DENTAL ESSENTIAL HEALTH BENEFIT & CARE	Participating Provider Member Responsibility for Cost-Sharing	Non-Participating Provider Member Responsibility for Cost-Sharing	Limits
<b>Pediatric Dental Care</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Emergency Dental Care</li> <li>• Preventive Dental Care</li> <li>• Routine Dental Care</li> <li>• Endodontics</li> <li>• Periodontics</li> <li>• Prosthodontics</li> <li>• Oral Surgery</li> <li>• Orthodontics</li> </ul>	50% Coinsurance not subject to Deductible \$20 Copayment not subject to Deductible 50% Coinsurance not subject to Deductible 50% Coinsurance not subject to Deductible 50% Coinsurance not subject to Deductible 50% Coinsurance not subject to Deductible 50% Coinsurance not subject to Deductible 50% Coinsurance not subject to Deductible	50% Coinsurance not subject to Deductible \$20 Copayment not subject to Deductible 50% Coinsurance not subject to Deductible 50% Coinsurance not subject to Deductible 50% Coinsurance not subject to Deductible 50% Coinsurance not subject to Deductible 50% Coinsurance not subject to Deductible 50% Coinsurance not subject to Deductible	One Dental Exam & Cleaning Per 6-Month Period Full mouth X-rays or panoramic X-rays at 36 month intervals and bitewing X-rays at 6 month intervals
<b>Orthodontics Require Preauthorization</b>			

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 Contract, You will be responsible for the full cost of the services.