BlueOptions

Benefit Booklet for the Monroe County BOCC Group Health Plan

A Self-funded Group Health Benefit Plan

Effective: 01-01-25

For Customer Service Assistance: 800-352-2583

B0611
ASO BB BOP Plans 03559 03769

BlueOptions

for Self-Funded Groups
Benefit Booklet

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Table of Contents

Section 1: How to Use Your Benefit Booklet

This is your Benefit Booklet ("Booklet"). It describes your coverage, benefits, limitations and exclusions for the self-funded Group Health Benefit Plan ("Group Health Plan" or "Group Plan") established and maintained by Monroe County BOCC. Your Plan is self-funded; this means that benefits for Covered Services under the Plan will be paid either directly from the Group's general assets or a combination of its general assets and contributions made by Covered Plan Participants. The benefits provided under the Plan are not guaranteed or insured by an insurance company or by Blue Cross Blue Shield of Florida, Inc. (BCBSF).

The sponsor of your Group Health Plan has contracted with BCBSF, under an Administrative Services Only Agreement ("ASO Agreement"), to provide certain third party administrative services, including claims processing, customer service, and other services, and access to certain of its Provider networks. BCBSF provides certain administrative services only and does not assume any financial risk or obligation with respect to Health Care Services rendered to Covered Persons or claims submitted for processing under this Benefit Booklet for such Services. The payment of claims under the Group Health Plan depends exclusively upon the funding provided by or through Monroe County BOCC.

You should read your Benefit Booklet carefully before you need Health Care Services. It contains valuable information about:

- your BlueOptions benefits;
- what is covered;
- what is excluded or not covered;
- coverage and payment rules;
- Blueprint for Health Programs;
- how and when to file a claim;
- how much, and under what circumstances, payment will be made;
- what you will have to pay as your share;
- and other important information including when benefits may change; how and when coverage stops; how to continue coverage if you are no longer eligible; how benefits will be coordinated with other policies or plans; the Group Health Plan's subrogation rights; and right of reimbursement.

You will need to refer to the Schedule of Benefits to determine how much you have to pay for particular Health Care Services.

When reading your Booklet, please remember that:

- you should read this Booklet in its entirety in order to determine if a particular Health Care Service is covered.
- the headings of sections contained in this Booklet are for reference purposes only and shall not affect in any way the meaning or interpretation of particular provisions.
- references to “you” or “your” throughout refer to you as the Covered Plan Participant and to your Covered Dependents, unless expressly stated otherwise or unless, in the context in which the term is used, it is clearly intended otherwise. Any references which refer solely to you as the Covered Plan Participant or solely to your Covered Dependent(s) will be noted as such.
- references to “we”, “us”, and “our” throughout refer to Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Florida, Inc. We may also refer to ourselves as “BCBSF.”
- if a word or phrase starts with a capital letter, it is either the first word in a sentence, a proper name, a title, or a defined term. If the word or phrase has a special meaning, it will either be defined in the Definitions section or defined within the particular section where it is used.

Where do you find information on…

- **what particular types of Health Care Services are covered?**

  Read the "What Is Covered?” and “What Is Not Covered?” sections.
- **how much will be paid under your Group Health Plan and how much you have to pay?**

  Read the “Understanding Your Share of Health Care Expenses” section along with the Schedule of Benefits.
- **how to take advantage of the BlueCard® Program when you receive Services out-of-state?**

  Read the “BlueCard® Program” section.
- **how to add or remove a Dependent?**

  Read the “Enrollment and Effective Date of Coverage” section.
- **what happens if I receive a surprise bill?**

  Read the Surprise Billing subsection in the "Understanding Your Share of Health Care Expenses" section.
- **what happens if you are covered under this Benefit Booklet and another health plan**?

  Read the “Duplication of Coverage Under Other Health Plans/Programs” section.
- **what happens when your coverage ends?**

  Read the “Termination of Coverage” section.
- **what do the terms used throughout this Booklet mean?**

  Read the “Definitions” section.

Overview of How BlueOptions Works

Whenever you need care, you have a choice. If you visit an:	
In-Network Provider	**Out-of-Network Provider**
You receive In-Network benefits, the highest level of coverage available.	You receive the Out-of-Network level of benefits – you will share more of the cost of your care.
You do not have to file a claim; the claim will be filed by the In-Network Provider for you.	You may be required to submit a claim form.
The In-Network Provider* is responsible for Admission Notification if you are admitted to the Hospital.	You should notify BCBSF of inpatient admissions.

* For Services rendered by an In-Network Provider located outside of Florida, you should notify us of inpatient admissions

Section 2: What Is Covered?

Introduction

This section describes the Health Care Services that are covered under this Benefit Booklet. All benefits for Covered Services are subject to your share of the cost and the benefit maximums listed on your Schedule of Benefits, the applicable Allowed Amount, any limitations and/or exclusions, as well as other provisions contained in this Booklet, and any Endorsement(s) in accordance with BCBSF's Medical Necessity coverage criteria and benefit guidelines then in effect.

Remember that exclusions and limitations also apply to your coverage. Exclusions and limitations that are specific to a type of Service are included along with the benefit description in this section. Additional exclusions and limitations that may apply can be found in the "What Is Not Covered?" section. More than one limitation or exclusion may apply to a specific Service or a particular situation.

Expenses for the Health Care Services listed in this section will be covered under this Booklet only if the Services are:

1. within the Health Care Services categories in this "What Is Covered?" section;
2. actually rendered (not just proposed or recommended) by an appropriately licensed health care Provider who is recognized for payment under this Benefit Booklet and for which an itemized statement or description of the procedure or Service, which was rendered is received, including any applicable procedure code, diagnosis code and other information required in order to process a claim for the Service;
3. Medically Necessary, as defined in this Booklet and determined by BCBSF or Monroe County BOCC in accordance with BCBSF's Medical Necessity coverage criteria then in effect, except as specified in this section;
4. in accordance with our benefit guidelines listed below;
5. rendered while your coverage is in force; and
6. not specifically or generally limited or excluded under this Booklet.

BCBSF or Monroe County BOCC will determine whether Services are Covered Services under this Booklet after you have obtained the Services and a claim has been received for the Services. In some circumstances BCBSF or Monroe County BOCC may determine whether Services might be Covered Services under this Booklet before you are provided the Service. For example, BCBSF or Monroe County BOCC may determine whether a proposed transplant is a Covered Service under this Booklet before the transplant is provided. Neither BCBSF nor Monroe County BOCC are obligated to determine, in advance, whether any Service not yet provided to you would be a Covered Service unless we have specifically designated that a Service is subject to a prior authorization requirement as described in the "Blueprint for Health Programs" section. We are also not obligated to cover or pay for any Service that has not actually been rendered to you.

In determining whether Health Care Services are Covered Services under this Booklet, no written or verbal representation by any employee or agent of BCBSF or Monroe County BOCC, or by any other person shall waive or otherwise modify the terms of this Booklet and, therefore, neither you, nor any health care Provider or other person should rely on any such written or verbal representation.

Our Benefit Guidelines

In providing benefits for Covered Services, the benefit guidelines listed below will apply as well as any other applicable payment rules specific to particular categories of Services:

1. Payment for certain Health Care Services is included within the Allowed Amount for the primary procedure, and therefore no additional amount is payable for any such Services.
2. Payment is based on the Allowed Amount for the actual Service rendered (i.e., payment is not based on the Allowed Amount for a Service which is more complex than that actually rendered), and is not based on the method utilized to perform the Service nor the day of the week nor the time of day the procedure is performed.
3. Payment for a Service includes all components of the Health Care Service when the Service can be described by a single procedure code, or when the Service is an essential or integral part of the associated therapeutic/diagnostic Service rendered.

Covered Services Categories

Accident Care

Health Care Services to treat an injury or illness resulting from an Accident not related to your job or employment are covered.

Exclusion:

Health Care Services to treat an injury or illness resulting from an Accident related to your job or employment are excluded.

Allergy Testing and Treatments

Testing and desensitization therapy (e.g., injections) and the cost of hyposensitization serum are covered. The Allowed Amount for allergy testing is based upon the type and number of tests performed by the Physician. The Allowed Amount for allergy immunotherapy treatment is based upon the type and number of doses.

Ambulance Services

Ground Ambulance

Ground Ambulance Services for Emergency Medical Conditions and limited non-emergency ground transport may be covered only when:

1. For Emergency Medical Conditions – it is Medically Necessary to transport you from the place an Emergency Medical Condition occurs to the nearest Hospital that can provide the Medically Necessary level of care. If it is determined that the nearest Hospital is unable to provide the Medically Necessary level of care for the Emergency Medical Condition, then coverage for Ambulance Services shall extend to the next nearest Hospital that can provide Medically Necessary care; or

2. For limited non-emergency ground Ambulance transport – it is Medically Necessary to transport you by ground:
    a) from an Out-of-Network Hospital to the nearest In-Network Hospital that can provide care;
    b) to the nearest In-Network or Out-of-Network Hospital for a Condition that requires a higher level of care that was not available at the original Hospital;
    c) to the nearest more cost-effective acute care facility as determined solely by us; or
    d) from an acute facility to the nearest cost-effective sub-acute setting.

Note: Non-emergency Ambulance transportation meets the definition of Medical Necessity only when the patient's Condition requires treatment at another facility and when another mode of transportation, whether by Ambulance or otherwise (regardless of whether covered by us or not) would endanger the patient's medical Condition. If another mode of transportation could be used safely and effectively, regardless of time, or mode (e.g. air, ground, water) then Ambulance transportation is not Medically Necessary.

Air and Water Ambulance

Air and water Ambulance coverage is specifically limited to transport due to an Emergency Medical Condition when the patient's destination is an acute care Hospital, and:

1. the pick-up point is not accessible by ground Ambulance, or
2. speed in excess of the ground vehicle is critical for your health or safety.

Air and water Ambulance transport for non-emergency transport is excluded unless it is specifically approved by us in advance of the transport.

Exclusion:

Ground, air and water Ambulance Services for situations that are not Medically Necessary because they do not require Ambulance transportation including but not limited to:

1. Ambulance Services for a patient who is legally pronounced dead before the Ambulance is summoned.
2. Aid rendered by an Ambulance crew without transport. Examples include, but are not limited to situations when an Ambulance is dispatched and:
    a) the crew renders aid until a helicopter can be sent;
    b) the patient refuses care or transport; or
    c) only basic first aid is rendered.
3. Non-emergency transport to or from a patient's home or a residential, domiciliary or custodial facility.
4. Transfers by medical vans or commercial transportation (such as Physician owned limousines, public transportation, cab, etc.).
5. Ambulance transport for patient convenience or patient and/or family preference. Examples include but are not limited to:
    a) patient wants to be at a certain Hospital or facility for personal/preference reasons;
    b) patient is in a foreign country, or out-of-state, and wants to return home for a surgical procedure or treatment (or for continued treatment), or after being discharged from inpatient care; or
    c) patient is going for a routine Service and is medically able to use another mode of transportation but can't pay for, find and/or prefers not to use such transportation.

6. Air or water Ambulance Services in the absence of an Emergency Medical Condition, unless such Services are authorized by us in advance.

Ambulatory Surgical Centers

Health Care Services rendered at an Ambulatory Surgical Center are covered and include:

1. use of operating and recovery rooms;
2. respiratory, or inhalation therapy (e.g., oxygen);
3. Drugs and medicines administered (except for take-home Drugs) at the Ambulatory Surgical Center;
4. intravenous solutions;
5. dressings, including ordinary casts;
6. anesthetics and their administration;
7. administration and cost of whole blood or blood products (except as outlined in the Drugs exclusion of the "What Is Not Covered?" section);
8. transfusion supplies and equipment;
9. diagnostic Services, including radiology, ultrasound, laboratory, pathology and approved machine testing (e.g., EKG);
10. chemotherapy treatment for proven malignant disease; and
11. other Medically Necessary Services.

Anesthesia Administration Services

Administration of anesthesia by a Physician or Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist ("CRNA") may be covered. In those instances where the CRNA is actively directed by a Physician other than the Physician who performed the surgical procedure, payment for Covered Services, if any, will be made for both the CRNA and the Physician Health Care Services at the lower directed-services Allowed Amount in accordance with BCBSF's payment program for such Covered Services then in effect.

Exclusion:

Coverage does not include anesthesia Services by an operating Physician, his or her partner or associate.

Autism Spectrum Disorder and Down Syndrome

Services provided to a Covered Dependent consisting of:

1. well-baby and well-child screening for the presence of Autism Spectrum Disorder;
2. Applied Behavior Analysis, when rendered by a person certified per Florida Statutes Section 393.17 or licensed under Chapters 490 or 491; and
3. Physical Therapy by a Physical Therapist, Occupational Therapy by an Occupational Therapist, and Speech Therapy by a Speech Therapist. Covered therapies provided in the treatment of Autism Spectrum Disorder and Down Syndrome are covered even though they may be habilitative in nature (provided to teach a function) and are not necessarily limited to restoration of a function or skill that has been lost.

Payment Rules for Autism Spectrum Disorder and Down Syndrome

Applied Behavior Analysis Services for Autism Spectrum Disorder and Down Syndrome must be authorized in accordance with criteria established by us, **before** such Services are rendered. Services performed without authorization will be denied. Authorization for coverage is not required when Covered Services are provided for the treatment of an Emergency Medical Condition**.**

Behavioral Health Services

Mental Health Services

Diagnostic evaluation, psychiatric treatment, individual therapy, and group therapy rendered to you by a Physician, Psychologist or Mental Health Professional for the treatment of a Mental and Nervous Disorder may be covered. Covered Services may include:

1. Physician office visits;
2. Intensive Outpatient Treatment (rendered in a facility), as defined in this Booklet;
3. Partial Hospitalization, as defined in this Booklet, when provided under the direction of a Physician; and
4. Residential Treatment Services, as defined in this Booklet.

Exclusion:

1. Services rendered for a Condition that is not a Mental and Nervous Disorder as defined in this Booklet, regardless of the underlying cause, or effect, of the disorder;
2. Services for psychological testing associated with the evaluation and diagnosis of learning disabilities or intellectual disability;
3. Services beyond the period necessary for evaluation and diagnosis of learning disabilities or intellectual disability, except for Services that meet the definition of Medical Necessity for the Condition;
4. Services for educational purposes, except for Services that meet the definition of Medical Necessity for the Condition;
5. Services for marriage counseling unless related to a Mental and Nervous Disorder as defined in this Booklet, regardless of the underlying cause, or effect, of the disorder;
6. Services for pre-marital counseling;
7. Services for court-ordered care or testing, or required as a condition of parole or probation, except for Services that meet the definition of Medical Necessity for the Condition;
8. Services to test aptitude, ability, intelligence or interest, except as covered under the Autism Spectrum Disorder and Down Syndrome category;
9. Services required to maintain employment;
10. Services for cognitive remediation; and
11. inpatient stays for Custodial Care, covalescent care, change of environment or any other Service primarily for your convenience or that of your family members or the Provider.

Substance Dependency Treatment Services

When there is a sudden drop in consumption after prolonged heavy use of a substance a person may experience withdrawal, often causing both physiologic and cognitive symptoms. The symptoms of withdrawal vary greatly, ranging from minimal changes to potentially life threatening states. Detoxification Services can be rendered in different types of locations, depending on the severity of the withdrawal symptoms.

Care and treatment for Substance Dependency includes the following:

1. Inpatient and outpatient Health Care Services rendered by a Physician, Psychologist or Mental Health Professional in a program accredited by The Joint Commission or approved by the state of Florida for Detoxification or Substance Dependency.
2. Physician, Psychologist and Mental Health Professional outpatient visits for the care and treatment of Substance Dependency.

We may provide you with information on resources available to you for non-medical ancillary services like vocational rehabilitation or employment counseling, when we are able to. The Plan doesn't pay for any services that are provided to you by any of these resources; they are to be provided solely at your expense. You acknowledge that we do not have any contractual or other formal arrangements with the Providers of such services.

Exclusion:

Long term Services for alcoholism or drug addiction, including specialized inpatient units or inpatient stays that are primarily intended as a change of environment.

Breast Reconstructive Surgery

Surgery to reestablish symmetry between two breasts and implanted prostheses incident to Mastectomy is covered. In order to be covered, such surgery must be provided in a manner chosen by your Physician, consistent with prevailing medical standards, and in consultation with you.

Child Cleft Lip and Cleft Palate Treatment

Treatment and Services for Child Cleft Lip and Cleft Palate, including medical, dental, Speech Therapy, audiology, and nutrition Services for treatment of a child under the age of 18 who has cleft lip or cleft palate are covered. In order for such Services to be covered, your Covered Dependent's Physician must specifically prescribe such Services and such Services must be consequent to treatment of the cleft lip or cleft palate.

Clinical Trials

Clinical trials are research studies in which Physicians and other researchers work to find ways to improve care. Each study tries to answer scientific questions and to find better ways to prevent, diagnose, or treat patients. Each trial has a protocol which explains the purpose of the trial, how the trial will be performed, who may participate in the trial, and the beginning and end points of the trial.

If you are eligible to participate in an Approved Clinical Trial, routine patient care for Services furnished in connection with your participation in the Approved Clinical Trial may be covered when:

1. An In-Network Provider has indicated such trial is appropriate for you; or
2. you provide us with medical and scientific information establishing that your participation in such trial is appropriate.

Routine patient care includes all Medically Necessary Services that would otherwise be covered under this Booklet, such as doctor visits, lab tests, x-rays and scans and hospital stays related to treatment of your Condition and is subject to the applicable Cost Share(s) on the Schedule of Benefits.

Even though benefits may be available under this Booklet for routine patient care related to an Approved Clinical Trial you may not be eligible for inclusion in these trials or there may not be any trials available to treat your Condition at the time you want to be included in a clinical trial.

Exclusion:

1. Costs that are generally covered by the clinical trial, including, but not limited to:
    a) Research costs related to conducting the clinical trial such as research Physician and nurse time, analysis of results, and clinical tests performed only for research purposes.
    b) The investigational item, device or Service itself.
    c) Services inconsistent with widely accepted and established standards of care for a particular diagnosis.
2. Services related to an Approved Clinical Trial received outside of the United States.

Concurrent Physician Care

Concurrent Physician care Services are covered, provided: (a) the additional Physician actively participates in your treatment; (b) the Condition involves more than one body system or is so severe or complex that one Physician cannot provide the care unassisted; and (c) the Physicians have different specialties or have the same specialty with different sub-specialties.

Consultations

Consultations provided by a Physician are covered if your attending Physician requests the consultation and the consulting Physician prepares a written report.

Contraceptive Injections

Medication by injection is covered when provided and administered by a Physician, for the purpose of contraception, and is limited to the medication and administration.

Dental Services

Dental Services are limited to the following:

1. Care and stabilization treatment rendered within 90 days of an Accidental Dental Injury to Sound Natural Teeth.
2. Extraction of teeth required prior to radiation therapy when you have a diagnosis of cancer of the head and/or neck.
3. Anesthesia Services for dental care including general anesthesia and hospitalization Services necessary to assure the safe delivery of necessary dental Services provided to you or your Covered Dependent in a Hospital or Ambulatory Surgical Center if:
    a) the Covered Dependent is under 8 years of age and it is determined by a dentist and the Covered Dependent's Physician that:
        i. Dental treatment is necessary due to a dental Condition that is significantly complex; or
        ii. the Covered Dependent has a developmental disability in which patient management in the dental office has proven to be ineffective; or

b) you or your Covered Dependent has one or more medical Conditions that would create significant or undue medical risk for you in the course of delivery of any necessary dental treatment or surgery if not rendered in a Hospital or Ambulatory Surgical Center.

Exclusion:

1. Dental Services provided more than 90 days after the date of an Accidental Dental Injury, regardless of whether or not such Services could have been rendered within 90 days; and
2. Dental implants.

Diabetes Outpatient Self-Management

Diabetes outpatient self-management training and educational Services and nutrition counseling to treat diabetes, if your treating Physician or a Physician who specializes in the treatment of diabetes certifies that such Services are Medically Necessary, are covered. In order to be covered, diabetes outpatient self-management training and educational Services must be provided under the direct supervision of a certified Diabetes Educator or a board-certified Physician specializing in endocrinology. Additionally, in order to be covered, nutrition counseling must be provided by a licensed Dietitian. Covered Services may also include the trimming of toenails, corns, calluses, and therapeutic shoes (including inserts and/or modifications) for the treatment of severe diabetic foot disease.

Notwithstanding the above, if your Benefit Booklet was amended by a Pharmacy Program Endorsement which covers diabetes equipment and supplies, then diabetes equipment and supplies will be covered in accordance with the terms and conditions of such Pharmacy Program Endorsement.

Diagnostic Services

Diagnostic Services when ordered by a Physician are limited to the following:

1. radiology, ultrasound and nuclear medicine, Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI);
2. laboratory and pathology Services;
3. Services involving bones or joints of the jaw (e.g., Services to treat temporomandibular joint [TMJ] dysfunction) or facial region if, under accepted medical standards, such diagnostic Services are necessary to treat Conditions caused by congenital or developmental deformity, disease, or injury;
4. approved machine testing (e.g., electrocardiogram [EKG], electroencephalograph [EEG], and other electronic diagnostic medical procedures); and
5. genetic testing for the purposes of explaining current signs and symptoms of a possible hereditary disease.

Dialysis Services

Dialysis Services including equipment, training, and medical supplies, when provided at any location by a Provider licensed to perform dialysis including a Dialysis Center are covered.

Durable Medical Equipment

Durable Medical Equipment when provided by a Durable Medical Equipment Provider and when prescribed by a Physician, limited to the most cost effective equipment as determined by BCBSF or Monroe County BOCC is covered.

Payment Guidelines for Durable Medical Equipment

Supplies and service to repair medical equipment may be Covered Services only if you own the equipment or you are purchasing the equipment. Payment for Durable Medical Equipment will be based on the lowest of the following: 1) the purchase price; 2) the lease/purchase price; 3) the rental rate; or 4) the Allowed Amount. The Allowed Amount for such rental equipment will not exceed the total purchase price. Durable Medical Equipment includes, but is not limited to, the following: wheelchairs, crutches, canes, walkers, hospital beds, and oxygen equipment.

Note: Repair or replacement of Durable Medical Equipment due to growth of a child or significant change in functional status is a Covered Service.

Exclusion:

Durable Medical Equipment which is primarily for convenience and/or comfort; modifications to motor vehicles and/or homes, including but not limited to, wheelchair lifts or ramps; water therapy devices such as Jacuzzis, hot tubs, swimming pools or whirlpools; exercise and massage equipment, electric scooters, hearing aids, air conditioners and purifiers, humidifiers, water softeners and/or purifiers, pillows, mattresses or waterbeds, escalators, elevators, stair glides, emergency alert equipment, handrails and grab bars, heat appliances, dehumidifiers, and the replacement of Durable Medical Equipment solely because it is old or used are excluded.

Emergency Services and Urgent Care Services

Emergency Services

Emergency Services for treatment of an Emergency Medical Condition are covered In-Network and Out-of-Network without the need for any prior authorization from us.

Urgent Care Services

For non-critical but urgent care needs, you may be able to reduce your out-of-pocket expenses and, in many cases, your wait time for care by using an Urgent Care Center. All Urgent Care Centers maintain extended weekday and weekend hours. Urgent Care Centers treat non-emergency conditions such as:

- Animal bites
- Cuts, scrapes and minor wounds
- Minor burns
- Minor eye irritations or infections
- Rash, poison ivy
- Sprains, strains, dislocations and minor fractures

Enteral Formulas

Prescription and non-prescription enteral formulas for home use when prescribed by a Physician as necessary to treat inherited diseases of amino acid, organic acid, carbohydrate or fat metabolism as well as malabsorption originating from congenital defects present at birth or acquired during the neonatal period are covered.

Coverage to treat inherited diseases of amino acid and organic acids, for you up to your 25th birthday, shall include coverage for food products modified to be low protein.

Eye Care

Coverage includes the following Services:

1. Physician Services, soft lenses or sclera shells, for the treatment of aphakic patients;
2. initial glasses or contact lenses following cataract surgery; and
3. Physician Services to treat an injury to or disease of the eyes.

Exclusion:

Health Care Services to diagnose or treat vision problems which are not a direct consequence of trauma or prior ophthalmic surgery; eye examinations; eye exercises or visual training; eye glasses and contact lenses and their fitting are excluded. In addition to the above, any surgical procedure performed primarily to correct or improve myopia or other refractive disorders (e.g., radial keratotomy, PRK and LASIK) are excluded.

Home Health Care

The Home Health Care Services listed below are covered when the following criteria are met:

1. you are unable to leave your home without considerable effort and the assistance of another person because you are: bedridden or chairbound or because you are restricted in ambulation whether or not you use assistive devices; or you are significantly limited in physical activities due to a Condition; and
2. the Home Health Care Services rendered have been prescribed by a Physician;
3. the Home Health Care Services are provided directly by (or indirectly through) a Home Health Agency; and
4. you are meeting or achieving the desired treatment goals as documented in the clinical progress notes.

Home Health Care Services are limited to:

1. part-time (i.e., less than 8 hours per day and less than a total of 40 hours in a calendar week) or intermittent (i.e., a visit of up to, but not exceeding, 2 hours per day) nursing care by a Registered Nurse, Licensed Practical Nurse and/or home health aide Services;
2. home health aide Services must be consistent with the plan of treatment, ordered by a Physician, and rendered under the supervision of a Registered Nurse;
3. medical social Services;
4. nutritional guidance;
5. respiratory, or inhalation therapy (e.g., oxygen); and
6. Physical Therapy by a Physical Therapist, Occupational Therapy by a Occupational Therapist, and Speech Therapy by a Speech Therapist.

Exclusion:

1. homemaker or domestic maid services;
2. sitter or companion services;
3. Services rendered by an employee or operator of an adult congregate living facility; an adult foster home; an adult day care center, or a nursing home facility;
4. Speech Therapy provided for a diagnosis of developmental delay;

5. Custodial Care;
6. food, housing, and home delivered meals; and
7. Services rendered in a Hospital, nursing home, or intermediate care facility.

Hospice Services

Health Care Services provided in connection with a Hospice treatment program may be Covered Services, provided the Hospice treatment program is:

1. approved by your Physician; and
2. your doctor has certified to us in writing that your life expectancy is 12 months or less.

Recertification is required every six months.

Hospital Services

Covered Hospital Services include:

1. room and board in a semi-private room when confined as an inpatient, unless the patient must be isolated from others for documented clinical reasons;
2. intensive care units, including cardiac, progressive and neonatal care;
3. use of operating and recovery rooms;
4. use of emergency rooms;
5. respiratory, pulmonary, or inhalation therapy (e.g., oxygen);
6. Drugs and medicines administered (except for take-home Drugs) by the Hospital;
7. intravenous solutions;
8. administration and cost of whole blood or blood products (except as outlined in the Drugs exclusion of the “What Is Not Covered?” section);
9. dressings, including ordinary casts;
10. anesthetics and their administration;
11. transfusion supplies and equipment;
12. diagnostic Services, including radiology, ultrasound, laboratory, pathology and approved machine testing (e.g., EKG);
13. Physical, Speech, Occupational, and Cardiac Therapies; and
14. transplants as described in the Transplant Services subsection.

Exclusion:

Expenses for the following Hospital Services are excluded when such Services could have been provided without admitting you to the Hospital: 1) room and board provided during the admission; 2) Physician visits provided while you were an inpatient; 3) Occupational Therapy, Speech Therapy, Physical Therapy, and Cardiac Therapy; and 4) other Services provided while you were an inpatient.

In addition, expenses for the following and similar items are also excluded:

1. gowns and slippers;
2. shampoo, toothpaste, body lotions and hygiene packets;

3. take-home Drugs;
4. telephone and television;
5. guest meals or gourmet menus; and
6. admission kits.

Inpatient Rehabilitation

Inpatient Rehabilitation Services are covered when the following criteria are met:

1. Services must be provided under the direction of a Physician and must be provided by a Medicare certified facility in accordance with a comprehensive rehabilitation program;
2. a plan of care must be developed and managed by a coordinated multi-disciplinary team;
3. coverage is subject to our Medical Necessity coverage criteria then in effect;
4. the individual must be able to actively participate in at least 2 rehabilitative therapies and be able to tolerate at least 3 hours per day of skilled Rehabilitation Services for at least 5 days a week; and
5. the Rehabilitation Services must be required at such intensity, frequency and duration that further progress cannot be achieved in a less intensive setting.

Inpatient Rehabilitation Services are subject to the inpatient facility Copayment, if applicable, and the benefit maximum set forth in the Schedule of Benefits.

Exclusion:

All Substance Dependency, drug and alcohol related diagnoses, Pain Management, and respiratory ventilator management Services are excluded.

Mammograms

Mammograms obtained in a medical office, medical treatment facility or through a health testing service that uses radiological equipment registered with the appropriate regulatory agencies for diagnostic purposes or breast cancer screening may be Covered Services.

In accordance with the Florida Statute 627.6613, coverage is available under the following circumstances:

1. A baseline mammogram for any woman who is 35 years of age or older, but younger than 40 years of age.
2. A mammogram every 2 years for any woman who is 40 years of age or older, but younger than 50 years of age, or more frequently based on the patient's Physician's recommendation.
3. A mammogram every year for any woman who is 50 years of age or older.
4. One or more mammograms a year, based upon a Physician's recommendation, for any woman who is at risk for breast cancer because of a personal or family history of breast cancer, because of having a history of biopsy-proven benign breast disease, because of having a mother, sister, or daughter who has or has had breast cancer, or because a woman has not given birth before the age of 30.

Mastectomy Services

Breast cancer treatment including treatment for physical complications relating to a Mastectomy (including lymphedemas), and outpatient post-surgical follow-up in accordance with prevailing medical standards as determined by you and your attending Physician are covered. Outpatient post-surgical follow-up care for Mastectomy Services shall be covered when provided by a Provider in accordance with the prevailing medical standards and at the most medically appropriate setting. The setting may be the Hospital, Physician's office, outpatient center, or your home. The treating Physician, after consultation with you, may choose the appropriate setting.

Maternity Services

Health Care Services, including prenatal care, delivery and postpartum care and assessment, provided to you, by a Doctor of Medicine (M.D.), Doctor of Osteopathy (D.O.), Hospital, Birth Center, Midwife or Certified Nurse Midwife may be Covered Services. Care for the mother includes the postpartum assessment.

In order for the postpartum assessment to be covered, such assessment must be provided at a Hospital, an attending Physician's office, an outpatient maternity center, or in the home by a qualified licensed health care professional trained in care for a mother. Coverage under this Booklet for the postpartum assessment includes coverage for the physical assessment of the mother and any necessary clinical tests in keeping with prevailing medical standards.

Under Federal law, your Group Plan generally may not restrict benefits for any hospital length of stay in connection with childbirth for the mother or newborn child to less than 48 hours following a vaginal delivery; or less than 96 hours following a cesarean section. However, Federal law generally does not prohibit the mother's or newborn's attending Provider, after consulting with the mother, from discharging the mother or her newborn earlier than 48 hours (or 96 as applicable). In any case, under Federal law, your Group Plan can only require that a provider obtain authorization for prescribing an inpatient hospital stay that exceeds 48 hours (or 96 hours).

Medical Pharmacy

Physician-administered Prescription Drugs which are rendered in a Physician's office may be subject to a separate Cost Share amount that is in addition to the office visit Cost Share amount. The Medical Pharmacy Cost Share amount applies to each Prescription Drug and does not include the administration of the Prescription Drug.

Your plan may also include a maximum monthly amount you will be required to pay out-of-pocket for Medical Pharmacy, when such Services are provided by an In-Network Provider or Specialty Pharmacy. If your plan includes a Medical Pharmacy out-of-pocket monthly maximum, it will be listed on your Schedule of Benefits and only applies after you have met your Deductible, if applicable.

Please refer to your Schedule of Benefits for the additional Cost Share amount and/or monthly maximum out-of-pocket applicable to Medical Pharmacy for your plan.

Note: For purposes of this benefit, allergy injections and immunizations are not considered Medical Pharmacy.

Newborn Care

A newborn child will be covered from the moment of birth provided that the newborn child is eligible for coverage and properly enrolled. Covered Services shall consist of coverage for injury or sickness, including the necessary care or treatment of medically diagnosed congenital defects, birth abnormalities, and premature birth.

Newborn Assessment:

An assessment of the newborn child is covered provided the Services were rendered at a Hospital, the attending Physician's office, a Birth Center, or in the home by a Physician, Midwife or Certified Nurse Midwife, and the performance of any necessary clinical tests and immunizations are within prevailing medical standards. These Services are not subject to the Deductible.

Ambulance Services, when necessary to transport the newborn child to and from the nearest appropriate facility which is staffed and equipped to treat the newborn child's Condition, as determined by us and certified by the attending Physician as Medically Necessary to protect the health and safety of the newborn child, are covered.

Under Federal law, your Group Plan generally may not restrict benefits for any hospital length of stay in connection with childbirth for the mother or newborn child to less than 48 hours following a vaginal delivery; or less than 96 hours following a cesarean section. However, Federal law generally does not prohibit the mother's or newborn's attending Provider, after consulting with the mother, from discharging the mother or her newborn earlier than 48 hours (or 96 as applicable). In any case, under Federal law, your Group Plan can only require that a provider obtain authorization for prescribing an inpatient hospital stay that exceeds 48 hours (or 96 hours).

Nutrition Counseling

Nutrition counseling by a licensed Dietitian as described in the Diabetes Outpatient Self-Management category or as part of the treatment of a Mental and Nervous Disorder or Substance Dependency Condition or Services that meet the definition of Medical Necessity for treatment of a Condition.

Orthotic Devices

Orthotic Devices including braces and trusses for the leg, arm, neck and back, and special surgical corsets are covered when prescribed by a Physician and designed and fitted by an Orthotist.

Benefits may be provided for necessary replacement of an Orthotic Device which is owned by you when due to irreparable damage, wear, a change in your Condition, or when necessitated due to growth of a child.

Payment for splints for the treatment of temporomandibular joint ("TMJ") dysfunction is limited to payment for one splint in a six-month period unless a more frequent replacement is determined by BCBSF or Monroe County BOCC to be Medically Necessary.

Exclusion:

1. Expenses for arch supports, shoe inserts designed to effect conformational changes in the foot or foot alignment, orthopedic shoes, over-the-counter, custom-made or built-up shoes, cast shoes, sneakers, ready-made compression hose or support hose, or similar type devices/appliances regardless of intended use, except for therapeutic shoes (including inserts and/or modifications) for the treatment of severe diabetic foot disease;
2. Expenses for orthotic appliances or devices which straighten or re-shape the conformation of the head or bones of the skull or cranium through cranial banding or molding (e.g. dynamic orthotic cranioplasty or molding helmets), except when the orthotic appliance or device is used as an alternative to an internal fixation device as a result of surgery for craniosynostosis; and
3. Expenses for devices necessary to exercise, train, or participate in sports, e.g. custom-made knee braces.

Osteoporosis Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment

Screening, diagnosis, and treatment of osteoporosis for high-risk individuals is covered, including, but not limited to:

1. estrogen-deficient individuals who are at clinical risk for osteoporosis;
2. individuals who have vertebral abnormalities;
3. individuals who are receiving long-term glucocorticoid (steroid) therapy; or
4. individuals who have primary hyperparathyroidism, and individuals who have a family history of osteoporosis.

Outpatient Cardiac, Occupational, Physical, Speech, Massage Therapies and Spinal Manipulation Services

Outpatient therapies listed below may be Covered Services when ordered by a Physician or other health care professional licensed to perform such Services. The outpatient therapies listed in this category are in addition to the Cardiac, Occupational, Physical and Speech Therapy benefits listed in the Home Health Care, Hospital, and Skilled Nursing Facility categories herein.

Cardiac Therapy Services provided under the supervision of a Physician, or an appropriate Provider trained for Cardiac Therapy, for the purpose of aiding in the restoration of normal heart function in connection with a myocardial infarction, coronary occlusion or coronary bypass surgery are covered.

Occupational Therapy Services provided by a Physician or Occupational Therapist for the purpose of aiding in the restoration of a previously impaired function lost due to a Condition are covered.

Speech Therapy Services of a Physician, Speech Therapist, or licensed audiologist to aid in the restoration of speech loss or an impairment of speech resulting from a Condition are covered.

Physical Therapy Services provided by a Physician or Physical Therapist for the purpose of aiding in the restoration of normal physical function lost due to a Condition are covered.

Massage Therapy Services provided by a Physician, Massage Therapist, or Physical Therapist when the Massage is prescribed as being Medically Necessary by a Physician licensed pursuant to Florida Statutes Chapter 458 (Medical Practice), Chapter 459 (Osteopathy), Chapter 460 (Chiropractic) or Chapter 461 (Podiatry) is covered. The Physician's prescription must specify the number of treatments.

<u>Payment Guidelines for Massage and Physical Therapy</u>

1. Payment for covered Massage Services is limited to no more than four (4) 15-minute Massage treatments per day, not to exceed the Outpatient Cardiac, Occupational, Physical, Speech, and Massage Therapies and Spinal Manipulations benefit maximum listed on the Schedule of Benefits.
2. Payment for a combination of covered Massage and Physical Therapy Services rendered on the same day is limited to no more than four (4) 15-minute treatments per day for combined Massage and Physical Therapy treatment, not to exceed the Outpatient Cardiac, Occupational, Physical, Speech, and Massage Therapies and Spinal Manipulations benefit maximum listed on the Schedule of Benefits.
3. Payment for covered Physical Therapy Services rendered on the same day as spinal manipulation is limited to one (1) Physical Therapy treatment per day not to exceed fifteen (15) minutes in length.

Spinal Manipulations: Services by Physicians for manipulations of the spine to correct a slight dislocation of a bone or joint that is demonstrated by x-ray are covered.

Payment Guidelines for Spinal Manipulation

1. Payment for covered spinal manipulation is limited to no more than 26 spinal manipulations per Benefit Period, **or** the maximum benefit listed in the Schedule of Benefits, whichever occurs first.
2. Payment for covered Physical Therapy Services rendered on the same day as a spinal manipulation is limited to one (1) Physical Therapy treatment per day, not to exceed fifteen (15) minutes in length.

Your Schedule of Benefits sets forth the maximum number of visits covered under this plan for any combination of the outpatient therapies and spinal manipulation Services listed above. For example, even if you may have only been administered two (2) of the spinal manipulations for the Benefit Period, any additional spinal manipulations for that Benefit Period will not be covered if you have already met the combined therapy visit maximum with other Services.

Oxygen

Expenses for oxygen, the equipment necessary to administer it, and the administration of oxygen are covered.

Physician Services

Covered Services include medical Services such as office visits and allergy testing and treatment or surgical Health Care Services provided by a Physician, including Services rendered in the Physician's office or in an outpatient facility.

Exclusion:

Expenses for failure to keep a scheduled appointment and for telephone consultations (except as indicated as covered under the Preventive Health Services category of this section).

Preventive Health Services

Preventive Services are covered for both adults and children based on prevailing medical standards and recommendations which are explained further below. Some examples of preventive health Services include, but are not limited to, periodic routine health exams, routine gynecological exams, immunizations and related preventive Services such as Prostate Specific Antigen (PSA), routine mammograms and pap smears. In order to be covered, Services shall be provided in accordance with prevailing medical standards consistent with:

1. evidence-based items or Services that have in effect a rating of 'A' or 'B' in the current recommendations of the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force established under the Public Health Service Act;
2. immunizations that have in effect a recommendation from the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention established under the Public Health Service Act with respect to the individual involved;
3. with respect to infants, children, and adolescents, evidence-informed preventive care and screenings provided for in the comprehensive guidelines supported by the Health Resources and Services Administration; and
4. with respect to women, such additional preventive care and screenings not described in paragraph number one as provided for in comprehensive guidelines supported by the Health Resources and Services Administration.

More detailed information, such as medical management programs or limitations, on Services that are covered under the Preventive Health Services category is available in the Preventive Services Guide located on our website at www.floridablue.com/healthresources. Drugs or Supplies covered as

Preventive Services are described in the Medication Guide. In order to be covered as a Preventive Health Service under this section the Service must be provided as described in the Preventive Services Guide or, for Drugs and Supplies, in the Medication Guide.

Note: From time to time medical standards that are based on the recommendations of the entities listed in numbers 1 through 4 above change. Services may be added to the recommendations and sometimes may be removed. It is important to understand that your coverage for these preventive Services is based on what is in effect on your Effective Date. If any of the recommendations or guidelines change after your Effective Date, your coverage will not change until your Group's first Anniversary Date one year after the recommendations or guidelines go into effect.

For example, if the USPSTF adds a new recommendation for a preventive Service that we do not cover and you are already covered under this Benefit Booklet; that new Service will not be a Covered Service under this category right away. The coverage for a new Service will start on your Group's Anniversary Date one year after the new recommendation goes into effect.

Exclusion:

Routine vision and hearing examinations and screenings are not covered, except as required under paragraph one above.

Prosthetic Devices

The following Prosthetic Devices are covered when prescribed by a Physician and designed and fitted by a Prosthetist:

1. artificial hands, arms, feet, legs and eyes, including permanent implanted lenses following cataract surgery, cardiac pacemakers and prosthetic devices incident to a Mastectomy;
2. appliances needed to effectively use artificial limbs or corrective braces; or
3. penile prosthesis.

Covered Prosthetic Devices (except cardiac pacemakers, and Prosthetic Devices incident to Mastectomy) are limited to the first such permanent prosthesis (including the first temporary prosthesis if it is determined to be necessary) prescribed for each specific Condition.

Benefits may be provided for necessary replacement of a Prosthetic Device which is owned by you when due to irreparable damage, wear, or a change in your Condition, or when necessitated due to growth of a child.

Exclusion:

Expenses for cosmetic enhancements to artificial limbs.

Self-Administered Prescription Drugs

Unless otherwise covered under a BCBSF Pharmacy Program Endorsement to this Benefit Booklet, only Self-Administered Prescription Drugs used in the treatment of diabetes, cancer, conditions requiring immediate stabilization (e.g. anaphylaxis), or in the administration of dialysis are covered.

Skilled Nursing Facilities

The following Health Care Services may be Covered Services when you are an inpatient in a Skilled Nursing Facility:

1. room and board;
2. respiratory, pulmonary, or inhalation therapy (e.g., oxygen);
3. Drugs and medicines administered while an inpatient (except take-home Drugs);
4. intravenous solutions;
5. administration and cost of whole blood or blood products (except as outlined in the Drugs exclusion of the “What Is Not Covered?” section);
6. dressings, including ordinary casts;
7. transfusion supplies and equipment;
8. diagnostic Services, including radiology, ultrasound, laboratory, pathology and approved machine testing (e.g., EKG);
9. chemotherapy treatment for proven malignant disease; and
10. Physical, Speech, and Occupational Therapies.

A treatment plan from your Physician may be required in order to determine coverage and payment.

Exclusion:

Expenses for an inpatient admission to a Skilled Nursing Facility for purposes of Custodial Care, convalescent care, or any other Service primarily for the convenience of you and/or your family members or the Provider are excluded. Expenses for any inpatient days beyond the per person maximum number of days per Benefit Period listed on the Schedule of Benefits are also excluded.

Surgical Assistant Services

Services rendered by a Physician, Registered Nurse First Assistant or Physician Assistant when acting as a surgical assistant (provided no intern, resident, or other staff physician is available) when the assistant is necessary are covered.

Surgical Procedures

Surgical procedures performed by a Physician may be covered including the following:

1. sterilization (tubal ligations and vasectomies), regardless of Medical Necessity;
2. surgery to correct deformity which was caused by disease, trauma, birth defects, growth defects or prior therapeutic processes;
3. oral surgical procedures for excisions of tumors, cysts, abscesses, and lesions of the mouth;
4. surgical procedures involving bones or joints of the jaw (e.g., temporomandibular joint TMJ) and facial region if, under accepted medical standards, such surgery is necessary to treat Conditions caused by congenital or developmental deformity, disease, or injury;
5. Services of a Physician for the purpose of rendering a second surgical opinion and related diagnostic Services to help determine the need for surgery; and

6. surgical procedures performed on a Covered Plan Participant for the treatment of Morbid Obesity (e.g., intestinal bypass, stomach stapling, balloon dilation) and the associated care provided the Covered Plan Participant has not previously undergone the same or similar procedure in the lifetime of this Group Health Plan.

Exclusion:

Expenses for the following are excluded:

a) Surgical procedures for the treatment of Morbid Obesity including: intestinal bypass; stomach stapling; balloon dilation and associated care for the surgical treatment of Morbid Obesity, if the Covered Plan Participant has previously undergone the same or similar procedures in the lifetime of this Group Health Plan.

b) Surgical procedures performed to revise, or correct defects related to, a prior intestinal bypass, stomach stapling or balloon dilation are also excluded.

Payment Guidelines for Surgical Procedures

1. Payment for multiple surgical procedures performed in addition to the primary surgical procedure, on the same or different areas of the body, during the same operative session will be based on 50 percent of the Allowed Amount for any secondary surgical procedure(s) performed. In addition the Coinsurance or Copayment (if any) indicated in your Schedule of Benefits will apply. This guideline is applicable to all bilateral procedures and all surgical procedures performed on the same date of service.
2. Payment for incidental surgical procedures is limited to the Allowed Amount for the primary procedure, and there is no additional payment for any incidental procedure. An "incidental surgical procedure" includes surgery where one, or more than one, surgical procedure is performed through the same incision or operative approach as the primary surgical procedure which, in BCBSF's or Monroe County BOCC's opinion, is not clearly identified and/or does not add significant time or complexity to the surgical session. For example, the removal of a normal appendix performed in conjunction with a Medically Necessary hysterectomy is an incidental surgical procedure (i.e., there is no payment for the removal of the normal appendix in the example).
3. Payment for surgical procedures for fracture care, dislocation treatment, debridement, wound repair, unna boot, and other related Health Care Services, is included in the Allowed Amount of the surgical procedure.

Transplant Services

Transplant Services, limited to the procedures listed below, may be covered when performed at a facility acceptable to BCBSF or Monroe County BOCC, subject to the conditions and limitations described below.

Transplant includes pre-transplant, transplant and post-discharge Services, and treatment of complications after transplantation. Benefits will only be paid for Services, care and treatment received or provided in connection with a:

1. Bone Marrow Transplant, as defined herein, which is specifically listed in the rule 59B-12.001 of the Florida Administrative Code or any successor or similar rule or covered by Medicare as described in the most recently published Medicare Coverage Issues Manual issued by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. Coverage will be provided for the expenses incurred for the donation of bone marrow by a donor to the same extent such expenses would be covered for you and will be subject to the same limitations and exclusions as would be applicable to you. Coverage for the reasonable expenses of searching for the donor will be limited to a search among immediate family members and donors identified through the National Bone Marrow Donor Program;
2. corneal transplant;

3. heart transplant;
4. heart-lung combination transplant;
5. liver transplant;
6. kidney transplant;
7. pancreas;
8. pancreas transplant performed simultaneously with a kidney transplant; or
9. lung-whole single or whole bilateral transplant.

Coverage will be provided for donor costs and organ acquisition for transplants, other than Bone Marrow Transplants, provided such costs are not covered in whole or in part by any other insurance carrier, organization or person other than the donor's family or estate.

You may call the customer service phone number indicated in this Booklet or on your Identification Card in order to determine which Bone Marrow Transplants are covered under this Booklet.

Exclusion:

Expenses for the following are excluded:

1. transplant procedures not included in the list above, or otherwise excluded under this Booklet (e.g., Experimental or Investigational transplant procedures);
2. transplant procedures involving the transplantation or implantation of any non-human animal organ or tissue;
3. transplant procedures related to the donation or acquisition of an organ or tissue for a recipient who is not covered under this Benefit Booklet;
4. transplant procedures involving the implant of an artificial organ, including the implant of the artificial organ tissue, except for an approved artificial heart device that meets our Medical Necessity criteria then in effect;
5. any organ, tissue, marrow, or stem cells which is/are sold rather than donated;
6. any Bone Marrow Transplant, as defined herein, which is not specifically listed in rule 59B-12.001 of the Florida Administrative Code or any successor or similar rule or covered by Medicare pursuant to a national coverage decision made by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services as evidenced in the most recently published Medicare Coverage Issues Manual;
7. any Service in connection with the identification of a donor from a local, state or national listing, except in the case of a Bone Marrow Transplant; and
8. any non-medical costs, including but not limited to, temporary lodging or transportation costs for you and/or your family to and from the approved facility.

Virtual Visits

Your plan covers Virtual Visits between you and a Virtual Care Provider when rendered consistent with Florida laws, regulations and our payment policies in effect at the time Services are rendered. Not all Conditions can be treated through Virtual Visits. The Virtual Care Provider should let you know if a Condition requires a face-to-face visit with a Physician.

Coverage includes Virtual Visits between you and an In-Network Provider who offers Virtual Visits at the time the Services are rendered. The Cost Shares for Virtual Care Provider Services are listed in your Schedule of Benefits.

Virtual Care Provider

Coverage includes Virtual Visits between you and an In-Network Provider who offers Virtual Visits at the time the Services are rendered. The Cost Shares for Virtual Care Provider Services are listed in your Schedule of Benefits.

Virtual Only Provider

Coverage includes Virtual Visits between you and a Virtual Only Provider that is designated by us and has a contract with us to provide Virtual Visits at the time the Services are rendered. Cost Share amounts for Covered Services rendered by Virtual Only Providers are listed below.

General medicine and urgent care (per visit)..... $0

Exclusion:

1. Expenses for failure to keep a scheduled Virtual Visit.
2. Virtual Visits rendered by any Provider other than a Virtual Care Provider, as defined in the DEFINITIONS section.

Section 3: What Is Not Covered?

Introduction

Your Booklet expressly excludes expenses for the following Health Care Services, supplies, drugs or charges. The following exclusions are in addition to any exclusions specified in the "What Is Covered?" section or any other section of the Booklet.

Abortions which are elective.

Arch Supports, shoe inserts designed to effect conformational changes in the foot or foot alignment, orthopedic shoes, over-the-counter, custom-made or built-up shoes, cast shoes, sneakers, ready-made compression hose or support hose, or similar type devices/appliances regardless of intended use, except for therapeutic shoes (including inserts and/or modifications) for the treatment of severe diabetic foot disease.

Assisted Reproductive Therapy (Infertility) including, but not limited to, associated Services, supplies, and medications for In Vitro Fertilization (IVF); Gamete Intrafallopian Transfer (GIFT) procedures; Zygote Intrafallopian Transfer (ZIFT) procedures; Artificial Insemination (AI); embryo transport; surrogate parenting; donor semen and related costs including collection and preparation; and infertility treatment medication.

Autopsy or postmortem examination Services, unless specifically requested by BCBSF or Monroe County BOCC.

Complementary or Alternative Medicine including, but not limited to, self-care or self-help training; homeopathic medicine and counseling; Ayurvedic medicine such as lifestyle modifications and purification therapies; traditional Oriental medicine including acupuncture; naturopathic medicine; environmental medicine including the field of clinical ecology; chelation therapy; thermography; mind-body interactions such as meditation, imagery, yoga, dance, and art therapy; prayer and mental healing; Massage except as listed in the WHAT IS COVERED? section; manual healing methods such as the Alexander technique, aromatherapy, Ayurvedic massage, craniosacral balancing, Feldenkrais method, Hellerwork, polarity therapy, Reichian therapy, reflexology, rolfing, shiatsu, Swedish massage, traditional Chinese massage, Trager therapy, trigger-point myotherapy, and biofield therapeutics; Reiki, SHEN therapy, and therapeutic touch; bioelectromagnetic applications in medicine; and herbal therapies.

Contraceptive medications, devices, appliances, or other Health Care Services when provided for contraception, except when indicated as covered under the Preventive Health Services category of the "What Is Covered?" section.

Cosmetic Services, including any Service to improve the appearance or self-perception of an individual (except as covered under the Breast Reconstructive Surgery category), including and without limitation: cosmetic surgery and procedures or supplies to correct hair loss or skin wrinkling (e.g., Minoxidil, Rogaine, Retin-A), and hair implants/transplants, or services used to improve the gender specific appearance of an individual including, but not limited to breast augmentation and reduction mammoplasty except as specifically indicated as a Covered Service elsewhere in this Booklet, reduction thyroid chondroplasty, liposuction, rhinoplasty, facial bone reconstruction, face lift, blepharoplasty, voice modification surgery, and hair removal/hairplasty.

Costs related to telephone consultations (except as indicated as covered under the Preventive Health Services category of the "What Is Covered?" section), failure to keep a scheduled appointment, or completion of any form and /or medical information.

Custodial Care and any Service of a custodial nature, including and without limitation: Health Care Services primarily to assist in the activities of daily living; rest homes; home companions or sitters; home parents; domestic maid services; respite care; and provision of Services which are for the sole purposes of allowing a family member or caregiver of a Covered Person to return to work.

Dental Services or treatment of the teeth or their supporting structures or gums, or dental procedures, including but not limited to: extraction of teeth, restoration of teeth with or without fillings, crowns or other materials, bridges, cleaning of teeth, dental implants, dentures, periodontal or endodontic procedures, orthodontic treatment (e.g., braces), intraoral prosthetic devices, palatal expansion devices, bruxism appliances, and dental x-rays. This exclusion also applies to Phase II treatments (as defined by the American Dental Association) for TMJ dysfunction. This exclusion does not apply to an Accidental Dental Injury or the Child Cleft Lip and Cleft Palate Treatment Services category as described in the "What Is Covered?" section.

Diabetic Equipment and Supplies used for the treatment of diabetes except as indicated as covered in the "What Is Covered?" section.

Drugs

1. Prescribed for uses other than the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved label indications. This exclusion does not apply to any Drug that has been proven safe, effective and accepted for the treatment of the specific medical Condition for which the Drug has been prescribed, as evidenced by the results of good quality controlled clinical studies published in at least two or more peer-reviewed full length articles in respected national professional medical journals. This exclusion also does not apply to any Drug prescribed for the treatment of cancer that has been approved by the FDA for at least one indication, provided the Drug is recognized for treatment of your particular cancer in a Standard Reference Compendium or recommended for treatment of your particular cancer in Medical Literature. Drugs prescribed for the treatment of cancer that have not been approved for any indication are excluded.
2. All Drugs dispensed to, or purchased by, you from a pharmacy. This exclusion does not apply to Drugs dispensed to you when:
    a) you are an inpatient in a Hospital, Ambulatory Surgical Center, Skilled Nursing Facility, Psychiatric Facility or a Hospice facility;
    b) you are in the outpatient department of a Hospital;
    c) dispensed to your Physician for administration to you in the Physician's office and prior coverage authorization has been obtained (if required); and
    d) defined by, and covered under, a BCBSF Pharmacy Program Endorsement to this Booklet.
3. Any non-Prescription medicines, remedies, vaccines, biological products (except insulin), pharmaceuticals or chemical compounds, vitamins, mineral supplements, fluoride products, over-the-counter drugs, products, or health foods, except as described in the Preventive Health Services category of the "What Is Covered?" section.
4. Any Drug which is indicated or used for sexual dysfunction (e.g., Cialis, Levitra, Viagra, Caverject). The exception described in exclusion number two above does not apply to sexual dysfunction Drugs excluded under this paragraph.
5. Any Self-Administered Prescription Drug which is otherwise covered under a BCBSF Pharmacy Program Endorsement to this Benefit Booklet except when indicated as covered in the "What Is Covered?" section of this Benefit Booklet.
6. Blood or blood products used to treat hemophilia, except when provided to you for:
    a) emergency stabilization;
    b) during a covered inpatient stay, or

c) when proximately related to a surgical procedure.

The exceptions to the exclusion for Drugs purchased or dispensed by a pharmacy described in subparagraph number two do not apply to hemophilia Drugs excluded under this subparagraph.

7. Drugs, which require prior coverage authorization when prior coverage authorization is not obtained.
8. New Prescription Drug(s), as defined in the Definitions section.
9. Convenience Kits, as defined in the Definitions section of the Booklet.
10. Drugs that are FDA approved, but lack proven benefits and/or efficacy as defined in the product prescribing information or noted in our coverage policy as an output from our Medical Policy Committee or any other nationally recognized source.

Experimental or Investigational Services, except as otherwise covered under the Bone Marrow Transplant provision of the Transplant Services category.

Food and Food Products whether prescribed or not, except as covered in the Enteral Formulas subsection of the "What Is Covered?" section.

Foot Care which is routine, including any Health Care Service, in the absence of disease. This exclusion includes, but is not limited to: non-surgical treatment of bunions; flat feet; fallen arches; chronic foot strain; trimming of toenails corns, or calluses.

General Exclusions include, but are not limited to:

1. any Health Care Service received prior to your Effective Date or after the date your coverage terminates;
2. any Service to diagnose or treat any Condition resulting from or in connection with your job or employment;
3. any Health Care Services not within the Service categories described in the "What Is Covered?" section or Endorsement attached hereto, unless such Services are specifically required to be covered by applicable law;
4. any Health Care Service you render to yourself or those rendered by a Physician or other health care Provider related to you by blood or marriage;
5. any Health Care Service which is not Medically Necessary as determined by us or Monroe County BOCC and defined in this Booklet . The ordering of a Service by a health care Provider does not, in itself, make such Service Medically Necessary or a Covered Service;
6. any Health Care Services rendered at no charge;
7. expenses for claims denied because we did not receive information requested from you regarding whether or not you have other coverage and the details of such coverage;
8. any Health Care Services to diagnose or treat a Condition which, directly or indirectly, resulted from or is in connection with:
   a) war or an act of war, whether declared or not;
   b) your participation in, or commission of, any act punishable by law as a felony whether or not you are charged or convicted, or which constitutes riot, or rebellion except for an injury resulting from an act of domestic violence or a medical condition;
   c) your engaging in an illegal occupation, except for an injury resulting from an act of domestic violence or a medical Condition;
   d) Services received at military or government facilities to treat a condition arising out of your service in the armed forces, reserves and/or National Guard; or

e) Services received to treat a Condition arising out of your service in the armed forces, reserves and/or National Guard;

f) Services that are not patient-specific, as determined solely by us.

9. Health Care Services rendered because they were ordered by a court, unless such Services are Covered Services under this Benefit Booklet; and
10. any Health Care Services rendered by or through a medical or dental department maintained by or on behalf of an employer, mutual association, labor union, trust, or similar person or group.

Genetic screening, including the evaluation of genes to determine if you are a carrier of an abnormal gene that puts you at risk for a Condition, except as provided under the Preventive Health Services category of the "What Is Covered?" section.

Hearing Aids (external or implantable) and Services related to the fitting or provision of hearing aids, including tinnitus maskers, batteries, and cost of repair.

Immunizations except those covered under the Preventive Health Services category of the "What Is Covered?" section.

Motor Vehicle Accidents Injuries and Services you incur due to an accident involving any motor vehicle for which no-fault insurance is available.

Oral Surgery except as provided under the "What Is Covered?" section.

Orthomolecular Therapy including nutrients, vitamins, and food supplements.

Oversight of a medical laboratory by a Physician or other health care Provider. "Oversight" as used in this exclusion shall, include, but is not limited to, the oversight of:

1. the laboratory to assure timeliness, reliability, and/or usefulness of test results;
2. the calibration of laboratory machines or testing of laboratory equipment;
3. the preparation, review or updating of any protocol or procedure created or reviewed by a Physician or other health care Provider in connection with the operation of the laboratory; and
4. laboratory equipment or laboratory personnel for any reason.

Personal Comfort, Hygiene or Convenience Items and Services deemed to be not Medically Necessary and not directly related to your treatment including, but not limited to:

1. beauty and barber services;
2. clothing including support hose;
3. radio and television;
4. guest meals and accommodations;
5. telephone charges;
6. take-home supplies;
7. travel expenses (other than Medically Necessary Ambulance Services);
8. motel/hotel accommodations;
9. air conditioners, furnaces, air filters, air or water purification systems, water softening systems, humidifiers, dehumidifiers, vacuum cleaners or any other similar equipment and devices used for environmental control or to enhance an environmental setting;

10. hot tubs, Jacuzzis, heated spas, pools, or memberships to health clubs;
11. heating pads, hot water bottles, or ice packs;
12. physical fitness equipment;
13. hand rails and grab bars; and
14. Massages except as covered in the “What Is Covered?” section of this Booklet.

Private Duty Nursing Care rendered at any location.

Rehabilitative Therapies provided on an inpatient or outpatient basis, except as provided in the Hospital, Skilled Nursing Facility, Home Health Care, and Outpatient Cardiac, Occupational, Physical, Speech, Massage Therapies and Spinal Manipulation categories of the “What Is Covered?” section. Rehabilitative Therapies provided for the purpose of maintaining rather than improving your Condition are also excluded.

Reversal of Voluntary, Surgically-Induced Sterility including the reversal of tubal ligations and vasectomies.

Services to Treat Complications of Non-Covered Services, including any Services(s) to diagnose or treat any Condition which would not have occurred but for your receipt of a non-Covered Service such as, for example, treatment for a complication of cosmetic surgery (e.g. an implant leakage or capsular contracture after cosmetic breast augmentation unrelated to breast cancer reconstruction surgery requiring removal, repair, and/or replacement of the implant; repair of cosmetic or functional abnormalities as a result of cosmetic surgery complications). This exclusion applies when the Service(s) from which the complication resulted was/were not a Covered Service(s) under this Booklet or another BCBSF/HOI policy. It also applies if the non-Covered Service(s) was/were performed while you were covered by a previous carrier or self-funded plan at any time prior to coverage under this Booklet even if the Service(s) were covered under the prior carrier or self-funded plan.

Smoking Cessation Programs including any service to eliminate or reduce the dependency on, or addiction to, tobacco, including but not limited to nicotine withdrawal programs and nicotine products (e.g., gum, transdermal patches, etc.), except as indicated as covered under the Preventive Health Services category of the “What Is Covered?” section.

Sports-Related devices and Services used to affect performance primarily in sports-related activities; all expenses related to physical conditioning programs such as athletic training, bodybuilding, exercise, fitness, flexibility, and diversion or general motivation.

Training and Educational Programs, or materials, including, but not limited to programs or materials for pain management and vocational rehabilitation, except as provided under the “Diabetes Outpatient Self Management” category of the “What Is Covered?” section.

Travel or vacation expenses even if prescribed or ordered by a Provider.

Virtual Visits, except as described in the “What Is Covered?” section. Services rendered by a Virtual Care Provider that is not designated by us to provide Virtual Visits under this Booklet.

Volunteer Services or Services which would normally be provided free of charge and any charges associated with Deductible, Coinsurance, or Copayment (if applicable) requirements which are waived by a health care Provider.

Weight Control Services including any Service to lose, gain, or maintain weight regardless of the reason for the Service or whether the Service is part of a treatment plan for a Condition, except as indicated as covered under the Preventive Health Services category of the “What Is Covered?” section. This exclusion

includes, but is not limited to weight control/loss programs; appetite suppressants and other medications; dietary regimens; food or food supplements; exercise programs; exercise or other equipment; gastric or stomach bypass or stapling, intestinal bypass, gastric balloons, jaw wiring, jejunal bypass, gastric shunts, and procedures designed to restrict your ability to assimilate food. Complications of any kind arising from,or related to, weight control surgery, as determined by us, are not covered. Complications of weightcontrol surgery are excluded when the preceding weight control surgery was not a Covered Service underthis Booklet or another BCBSF/HOI policy and it also applies if the surgery was performed while you werecovered by a previous carrier or self-funded plan at any time prior to coverage under this Booklet even ifthe Service(s) was/were covered under the prior carrier or self-funded plan.

Wigs and/or cranial prosthesis.

Wilderness Treatment Programs whether provided as part of a Residential Treatment Facility or not, if the primary Services provided:

1. can be provided without a Residential Treatment Facility license under Florida law or a similar applicable law of another state; and/or
2. constitute Services that are provided by:
    a) a licensed outdoor youth program, and/or
    b) a school or any such related or similar programs. This includes but is not limited to: educational and therapeutic programs within a school setting, health resorts, outdoor skills programs, and relaxation or lifestyle programs.

Work Related Health Care Services to treat a work-related Condition to the extent you are covered; or required to be covered by Workers' Compensation law. Any Service to diagnose or treat any Condition resulting from or in connection with your job or employment will be excluded, except for Medically Necessary services (not otherwise excluded) for an individual who is not covered by Workers' Compensation and that lack of coverage did not result from any intentional action or omission by that individual.

Section 4: Medical Necessity

In order for Health Care Services to be covered under this Booklet, such Services must meet all of the requirements to be a Covered Service, including being Medically Necessary, as defined by this Benefit Booklet. **As a self-funded plan, Monroe County BOCC is ultimately responsible for determining whether expenses incurred for medical care are covered under this Booklet. However, it is important to note that under our ASA; Monroe County BOCC has asked us to use our Medical Necessity criteria and guidelines currently in effect.**

It is important to remember that any review of Medical Necessity BCBSF or Monroe County BOCC undertakes is solely for the purposes of determining coverage, benefits, or payment under the terms of this Booklet and not for the purpose of recommending or providing medical care. In conducting a review of Medical Necessity, BCBSF or Monroe County BOCC may review specific medical facts or information pertaining to you. Any such review, however, is strictly for the purpose of determining whether a Health Care Service provided or proposed meets the definition of Medical Necessity in this Booklet. In applying the definition of Medical Necessity in this Booklet to a specific Health Care Service, coverage and payment guidelines then in effect may be applied by BCBSF or Monroe County BOCC.

All decisions that require or pertain to independent professional medical/clinical judgment or training, or the need for medical Services, are solely your responsibility and that of your treating Physicians and health care Providers. You and your Physicians are responsible for deciding what medical care should be rendered or received and when that care should be provided. Monroe County BOCC retains ultimate responsibility for determining whether expenses incurred for medical care are covered under this Booklet. In making coverage decisions, neither BCBSF nor Monroe County BOCC will be deemed to participate in or override your decisions concerning your health or the medical decisions of your health care Providers.

Examples of hospitalization and other Health Care Services that are not Medically Necessary include, but are not limited to:

1. staying in the Hospital because arrangements for discharge have not been completed;
2. use of laboratory, x-ray, or other diagnostic testing that has no clear indication, or is not expected to alter your treatment;
3. staying in the Hospital because supervision in the home, or care in the home, is not available or is inconvenient; or being hospitalized for any Service which could have been provided adequately in an alternate setting (e.g., Hospital outpatient department or at home with Home Health Care Services); or
4. inpatient admissions to a Hospital, Skilled Nursing Facility, or any other facility for the purpose of Custodial Care, convalescent care, or any other Service primarily for the convenience of the patient or his or her family members or a Provider.

Note: Whether or not a Health Care Service is specifically listed as an exclusion, the fact that a Provider may prescribe, recommend, approve, or furnish a Health Care Service does not mean that the Service is Medically Necessary (as defined by this Benefit Booklet) or a Covered Service. Please refer to the “Definitions” section for the definition of “Medically Necessary” or “Medical Necessity”.

Section 5: Understanding Your Share of Health Care Expenses

This section explains what your share of the health care expenses will be for Covered Services you receive. In addition to the information explained in this section, it is important that you refer to your Schedule of Benefits to determine your share of the cost with regard to Covered Services.

WARNING: LIMITED BENEFITS WILL BE PAID WHEN NONPARTICIPATING PROVIDERS ARE USED. You should be aware that when you elect to utilize the services of a nonparticipating provider for a covered nonemergency service, benefit payments to the provider are not based upon the amount the provider charges. The basis of the payment will be determined according to your policy's out-of-network reimbursement benefit. Nonparticipating providers may bill you for any difference in the amount. YOU MAY BE REQUIRED TO PAY MORE THAN THE COINSURANCE OR COPAYMENT AMOUNT. Participating providers have agreed to accept discounted payments for services with no additional billing to you other than coinsurance, copayment, and deductible amounts. You may obtain further information about the providers who have contracted with your health plan by consulting your health plan's website.

Deductible Requirement

Individual Deductible

This amount, when applicable, must be satisfied by you and each of your Covered Dependents each Benefit Period, before any payment will be made by the Plan. Only those charges indicated on claims we receive for Covered Services will be credited toward the individual Deductible and only up to the applicable Allowed Amount. Please see your Schedule of Benefits for more information.

Family Deductible

If your plan includes a family Deductible, after the family Deductible has been met by your family, neither you nor your Covered Dependents will have any additional Deductible responsibility for the remainder of that Benefit Period. The maximum amount that any one Covered Person in your family can contribute toward the family Deductible, if applicable, is the amount applied toward the individual Deductible. Please see your Schedule of Benefits for more information.

Copayment Requirements

Covered Services rendered by certain Providers or at certain locations or settings will be subject to a Copayment requirement. This is the dollar amount you have to pay when you receive these Services. Please refer to your Schedule of Benefits for the specific Covered Services which are subject to a Copayment. Listed below is a brief description of some of the Copayment requirements that may apply to your plan. If the Allowed Amount or the Provider’s actual charge for a Covered Service rendered is less than the Copayment amount, you must pay the lesser of the Allowed Amount or the Provider’s actual charge for the Covered Service.

1. Office Services Copayment

   The Copayment for Covered Services rendered in the office (when applicable) must be satisfied by you, for each office Service before any payment will be made. The office Services Copayment applies regardless of the reason for the office visit and applies to all Covered Services rendered in the

office, with the exception of Durable Medical Equipment, Medical Pharmacy, Prosthetics, and Orthotics.

Generally, if more than one Covered Service that is subject to a Copayment is rendered during the same office visit, you will be responsible for a single Copayment which will not exceed the highest Copayment specified in the Schedule of Benefits for the particular Health Care Services rendered.

2. Inpatient Facility Copayment:

   The Copayment for inpatient facility Services, if applicable to your plan, must be satisfied by you, for each inpatient admission to a Hospital, Psychiatric Facility, or Substance Abuse Facility, before any payment will be made for any claim for inpatient Covered Services. The Copayment for inpatient facility Services, if applicable to your plan, applies regardless of the reason for the admission, and applies to all inpatient admissions to a Hospital, Psychiatric Facility or Substance Abuse Facility in or outside the state of Florida. Additionally, you will be responsible for out-of-pocket expenses for Covered Services provided by Physicians and other health care professionals for inpatient admissions.

   Note: Copayments for inpatient facility Services vary depending on the facility chosen. Please see the Schedule of Benefits for more information.

3. Outpatient Facility Copayment:

   The Copayment for outpatient facility Services, if applicable to your plan, must be satisfied by you, for each outpatient visit to a Hospital, Ambulatory Surgical Center, Independent Diagnostic Testing Facility, Psychiatric Facility or Substance Abuse Facility, before any payment will be made for any claim for outpatient Covered Services. The Copayment for outpatient facility Services, if applicable to your plan, applies regardless of the reason for the visit, and applies to all outpatient visits to a Hospital, Ambulatory Surgical Center, Independent Diagnostic Testing Facility, Psychiatric Facility or Substance Abuse Facility in or outside the state of Florida. Additionally, you will be responsible for out-of-pocket expenses for Covered Services provided by Physicians and other healthcare professionals.

   Note: Copayments for outpatient facility Services vary depending on the facility chosen. Please see the Schedule of Benefits for more information.

4. Copayment for Emergency Room Facility Services:

   The Copayment for emergency room facility Services, if applicable to your plan, applies regardless of the reason for the visit, is in addition to any applicable Coinsurance amount, and applies to emergency room facility Services in or outside the state of Florida. The Copayment for emergency room facility Services, if applicable to your plan, must be satisfied by you for each visit. If you are admitted to the Hospital as an inpatient at the time of the emergency room visit, you will pay the Cost Share that applies to inpatient facility Services, as listed in your Schedule of Benefits.

Coinsurance Requirements

All applicable Deductible or Copayment amounts must be satisfied before any portion of the Allowed Amount will be paid for Covered Services. For Services that are subject to Coinsurance, the Coinsurance percentage of the applicable Allowed Amount you are responsible for is listed in the Schedule of Benefits.

Out-of-Pocket Maximums

Individual out-of-pocket maximum

Once you have reached the individual out-of-pocket maximum amount listed in the Schedule of Benefits, you will have no additional out-of-pocket responsibility for the remainder of that Benefit Period and the Plan will pay 100 percent of the Allowed Amount for Covered Services rendered during the remainder of that Benefit Period.

Family out-of-pocket maximum

If your plan includes a family out-of-pocket maximum, once your family has reached the family out-of-pocket maximum amount listed in the Schedule of Benefits, neither you nor your covered family members will have any additional out-of-pocket responsibility for the remainder of that Benefit Period and the Plan will pay 100 percent of the Allowed Amount for Covered Services rendered during the remainder of that Benefit Period. The maximum amount any one Covered Person in your family can contribute toward the family out-of-pocket maximum, if applicable, is the amount applied toward the individual out-of-pocket maximum. Please see your Schedule of Benefits for more information.

Note: The Deductible, any applicable Copayments and Coinsurance amounts will accumulate toward the out-of-pocket maximums. Any benefit penalty reductions, non-covered charges or any charges in excess of the Allowed Amount will not accumulate toward the out-of-pocket maximums. If the Group has purchased Prescription Drug coverage, any applicable Cost Share under the Prescription Drug coverage, will only apply to the out-of-pocket maximums under this Booklet.

Prior Coverage Credit

You will be given credit for the satisfaction or partial satisfaction of any Deductible and Coinsurance maximums met by you under a prior group insurance, blanket insurance, franchise insurance or group Health Maintenance Organization (HMO) policy maintained by the Group if the coverage provided hereunder replaces such a policy or plan. This provision only applies if the prior group insurance, blanket insurance, franchise insurance or HMO coverage purchased by the Group was in effect immediately preceding the Effective Date of this Benefit Booklet. This provision is only applicable for you during the initial Benefit Period of coverage under this Benefit Booklet and the following rules apply:

Prior Coverage Credit for Deductible

For the initial Benefit Period of coverage under this Benefit Booklet only, charges credited by the Group's prior insurer, toward your Deductible requirement, for Services rendered during the 90-day period immediately preceding the Effective Date of this Benefit Booklet, will be credited to the Deductible requirement under this Booklet.

Prior Coverage Credit for Coinsurance

Charges credited by the Group's prior insurer, toward your Coinsurance maximum, for Services rendered during the 90-day period immediately preceding the Effective Date of this Benefit Booklet, will be credited to your out-of-pocket maximum under this Booklet.

Prior coverage credit toward the Deductible or out-of-pocket maximums will only be given for Health Care Services, which would have been Covered Services under this Booklet.

Prior coverage credit under this Booklet only applies at the initial enrollment of the entire Group. You and/or the Group are responsible for providing us with any information necessary for us to apply this prior coverage credit.

Benefit Maximum Carryover

If immediately before the Effective Date of coverage under this Benefit Booklet, you were covered under a prior group policy issued by BCBSF to Monroe County BOCC, amounts applied to your benefit maximums under the prior BCBSF policy, will be applied toward your benefit maximums under this Booklet, unless otherwise specified on your Schedule of Benefits.

Calculation of Cost Share

You can get an estimate on our website at www.floridablue.com, of the Cost Share amount you will have to pay for certain Covered Services, as required under section 627.6385 of the Florida Statutes.

Additional Expenses You Must Pay

In addition to your share of the expenses described above, you are also responsible for:

1. any applicable Copayments;
2. expenses incurred for non-covered Services;
3. charges in excess of any maximum benefit limitation listed in the Schedule of Benefits (e.g., the Benefit Period maximums);
4. charges in excess of the Allowed Amount for Covered Services rendered by Providers who have not agreed to accept the Allowed Amount as payment in full;
5. any benefit reductions;
6. payment of expenses for claims denied because we did not receive information requested from you regarding whether or not you have other coverage and the details of such coverage; and
7. charges for Health Care Services which are excluded.

Additionally, you are responsible for any contribution amount required by Monroe County BOCC.

Surprise Billing

Sometimes you may receive Covered Services from Out-of-Network Providers who will not accept our payment as payment in full. Out-of-Network Providers in the specific situations described below are prohibited from balance billing you for amounts over what we pay. Should you receive a bill for more than your Cost Share (as described below) from the Out-of-Network Provider in these situations, please send that information to us at the address on your ID card and we will attempt to work with the Out-of-Network Provider to appropriately honor their obligation to not balance bill you, if applicable.

Out-of-Network Services where I should not be balance billed

Please note, in the following specific circumstances federal and/or Florida state law prohibits Out-of-Network Providers from balance billing you for receipt of Covered Services.

- **Emergency Services for an Emergency Medical Condition** provided at an Out-of-Network facility to Stabilize you (which may include part or all of an inpatient admission from the Emergency Room of an Out-of-Network Hospital); and
- **Certain non-Emergency Services or ancillary Services** provided by an Out-of-Network Provider at an In-Network facility including but not limited to:
  - Surgery
  - Pathology
  - Hospital Services
  - Anesthesiology
  - Radiology
  - Laboratory Services

  Note: If the Out-of-Network Provider rendering the non-Emergency Services referenced above has given you the following, in advance: (a) the estimated charges for the Covered Services to be rendered; (b) notice that the Provider is an Out-of-Network Provider; and (c) notice for your approval in writing to the treatment to be rendered by the Out-of-Network Provider, then the Provider **may** be able to balance bill you and this Surprise Billing subsection will not apply.
- **Air Ambulance Services** if the Services are Covered Services under this Benefit Booklet regardless of whether or not the Services are due to an Emergency Medical Condition.

Please note that an authorization is never required for Covered Services for the treatment of an Emergency Medical Condition. Not all Air Ambulance Services are Covered Services under this Benefit Booklet. Please refer to the Ambulance Services category in the WHAT IS COVERED? section of this Benefit Booklet.

Facility, as used above means:

- hospital (as defined in section 1861 of the Social Security Act)
- hospital outpatient department
- critical access hospital (as defined in section 1861(mm)(1) of the Social Security Act)
- an ambulatory surgical center (as defined in section 1833(i)(1)(A) of the Social Security Act)
- and for an Emergency Medical Condition only, an independent freestanding emergency medical department

How Much we will Pay Out-of-Network Providers

Generally, Florida state law prohibits Out-of-Network Providers rendering Covered Services subject to this Surprise Billing section from balance billing you. If section 627.64194(4), Florida Statutes applies, then the Allowed Amount (i.e., the amount we base payment on) will generally be calculated in accordance with the definition within this Benefit Booklet. In certain circumstances, the Allowed Amount will be calculated for Out-of-Network Providers, including all Covered Services rendered by Out-of-Network Air Ambulance Providers, based upon the Median Contracted Rate. The term "Median Contracted Rate" as used here means, generally:

1. The rate that is the median contracted rate for all In-Network Providers for the same or similar item(s) or Service(s) for all plans offered by us:
   a) in the same insurance market (i.e., individual, small group or large group); and,
   b) provided in the same geographic region as the Covered Service provided to you.

Important Note: The above definition of "Median Contracted Rate" has been simplified here to make it easier to understand. The term "Median Contracted Rate", as defined by federal law, is complicated. We will calculate the "Median Contracted Rate" more specifically in accordance with the federal law (and regulations then in effect) known as the federal No Surprises Act (H.R. 133, P.L. 116-260).

Calculating Your Share of the Cost

If you receive Covered Services subject to this Surprise Billing subsection, your Cost Share (e.g., Deductibles and/or Coinsurance) will be calculated based upon the Allowed Amount we initially paid the Out-of-Network Provider as described above. Should we decide to pay more, or if the federal Independent Dispute Resolution Process results in us paying the Out-of-Network Provider more, your Cost Share will not change.

Any Cost Share you paid with respect to Covered Services identified in this subsection will be applied toward your In-Network Deductible and out-of-pocket maximum, if applicable. We will provide notice of payment or denial no later than 30 calendar days after receipt of the bill from the Provider.

Important Note: It is not a surprise bill when you knowingly choose to go to an Out-of-Network Provider for a planned Service or have signed a consent as noted above, in advance for the Covered Services. In such a case, you are responsible for all charges.

How Benefit Maximums Will Be Credited

Only amounts actually paid for Covered Services will be credited towards any applicable benefit maximums. The amounts paid which are credited towards your benefit maximums will be based on the Allowed Amount for the Covered Services provided. Benefit maximums are listed in the Schedule of Benefits.

Section 6: Physicians, Hospitals and Other Provider Options

Introduction

It is important for you to understand how the Provider you select and the setting in which you receive Health Care Services affects how much you are responsible for paying under this Booklet. This section, along with the Schedule of Benefits and BCBSF's Provider Directory, describes the health care Provider options available to you and the payment rules for Services you receive.

As used throughout this section "out-of-pocket expenses" or "out-of-pocket" refers to the amounts you are required to pay including any applicable Copayments, the Deductible and/or Coinsurance amounts for Covered Services.

You are entitled to preferred provider type benefits when you receive Covered Services from In-Network Providers. You are entitled to traditional program type benefits at the point of service when you receive Covered Services from Traditional Program Providers or BlueCard Traditional Program Providers, in conformity with the "BlueCard Program" section of this Benefit Booklet.

Provider Participation Status

With BlueOptions, you may choose to receive Services from any Provider. However, you may be able to lower the amount you have to pay for Covered Services by receiving care from an In-Network Provider.

Primary Care Provider Program

We encourage you to select and develop a relationship with an In-Network Primary Care Provider ("PCP"). There are several advantages to selecting a PCP (Family Practitioners, General Practitioners, Internal Medicine doctors and Pediatricians).

- PCPs are trained to provide a broad range of medical care and can be a valuable resource to coordinate your overall healthcare needs.
- Developing and continuing a relationship with a PCP allows the Provider to become knowledgeable about you and your family's health history.
- A PCP can help you determine when you need to visit a specialist and also help you find one based on their knowledge of you and your specific health care needs.
- Care rendered by PCPs usually results in lower out-of-pocket expenses for you.

We will check our records periodically to see if you have visited a PCP. If not, we may provide your name and contact information to an In-Network PCP who will call you and offer to schedule a wellness visit. This program is completely voluntary and although we encourage you to schedule this visit, you are not obligated to do so. The applicable PCP Cost Share will apply to this visit.

You are responsible for checking to see if a Provider is In-Network for your plan prior to receiving Services. To find out if a Provider is In-Network, refer to the current Provider directory at www.floridablue.com or call the customer service phone number on your ID Card.

Location of Service

In addition to the participation status of the Provider, the location or setting where you receive Services can affect the amount you pay. For example, the amount you are responsible for paying out-of-pocket will

vary whether you receive Services in a Hospital, a Provider's office, or an Ambulatory Surgical Center. Please refer to your Schedule of Benefits for specific information regarding your out-of-pocket expenses for such situations. After you and your Physician have determined the plan of treatment most appropriate for your care, you should refer to the "What Is Covered?" section and your Schedule of Benefits to find out if the specific Health Care Services are covered and how much you will have to pay. You should also consult with your Physician to determine the most appropriate setting based on your health care and financial needs.

To verify if a Provider is In-Network for your plan you can:

1. review your current BlueOptions Provider Directory;
2. access the BlueOptions Provider directory at BCBSF's web-site at www.floridablue.com; and/or
3. call the customer service phone number in this Booklet or on your Identification Card.

In-Network Providers

When you use In-Network Providers, your out-of-pocket expenses for Covered Services will be lower. Payment will based on the Allowed Amount and your share of the cost will be at the In-Network benefit level listed in the Schedule of Benefits.

Please remember that changes to Provider network participation can occur at any time. Consequently, it is your responsibility to determine whether a specific Provider is In-Network at the time you receive Covered Services.

Out-of-Network Providers

When you use Out-of-Network Providers your out-of-pocket expenses for Covered Services will be higher. Payment will be based on the Allowed Amount and will be at the Coinsurance percentage listed in the Schedule of Benefits. Further, if the Out-of-Network Provider is a Traditional Program Provider or a BlueCard Traditional Program Provider, payment to such Provider may be under the terms of that Provider's contract. If your Schedule of Benefits and BlueOptions Provider directory do not include a Provider as In-Network under your benefit plan, the Provider is considered Out-of-Network.

	In-Network	Out-of-Network
What expenses are you responsible for paying?	• Any applicable Copayments, Deductible(s) and/or Coinsurance requirements; • Expenses for Services which are not covered; • Expenses for Services in excess of any benefit maximum limitations; • Expenses for claims denied because we did not receive information requested from you regarding whether or not you have other coverage and the details of such coverage; and • Expenses for Services which are excluded.	

	In-Network	Out-of-Network
Who is responsible for filing your claims?	• The Provider will file the claim for you and payment will be made directly to the Provider.	• You are responsible for filing the claim and payment will be made directly to the Covered Plan Participant. If you receive Services from a Provider who participates in our Traditional Program or is a BlueCard Traditional Program Provider, the Provider will file the claim for you. In those instances payment will be made directly to the Provider.
Can you be billed the difference between what we pay the Provider and the Provider's charge?	• **NO.** You are protected from being billed for the difference in our Allowed Amount and the Provider's charge when you use In-Network Providers. The Provider will accept the Allowed Amount as payment in full for Covered Services except as otherwise permitted under the terms of the Provider's contract and this Booklet.	• **YES.** You are responsible for paying the difference between the Allowed Amount and the Provider's charge. However, if you receive Services from a Provider who participates in BCBSF's Traditional Program, the Provider will accept the Allowed Amount as payment in full for Covered Services since such Traditional Program Providers have agreed not to bill you for the difference. Further, under the BlueCard Program, when you receive Services from a BlueCard Traditional Program Provider, you may be responsible for paying the difference between what the Host Blue pays and the Provider's billed charge.

Note: You are solely responsible for selecting a Provider when obtaining Health Care Services and for verifying whether that Provider is In-Network or Out-of-Network at the time Health Care Services are rendered. You are also responsible for determining the corresponding payment options, if any, at the time the Health Care Services are rendered.

Physicians

When you receive Covered Services from a Physician, several factors will determine your out-of-pocket expenses including whether the Physician is In-Network or Out-of-Network, the location of Service, the type of Service rendered, and the Physician's specialty, as determined by us.

Remember that the location or setting where a Service is rendered can affect the amount you are responsible for paying out-of-pocket. After you and your Physician have determined the plan of treatment most appropriate for your care, you should refer to the Schedule of Benefits and consult with your Physician to determine the most appropriate setting based on your health care and financial needs.

Hospitals

Each time you receive inpatient or outpatient Covered Services at a Hospital, in addition to any out-of-pocket expenses related to Physician Services, you will be responsible for out-of-pocket expenses related to Hospital Services.

In-Network Hospitals have been divided into two groups that are referred to as “options” on the Schedule of Benefits. The amount you are responsible for paying out-of-pocket is different for each of these options. Remember that there are also different out-of-pocket expenses for Out-of-Network Hospitals.

Since not all Physicians admit patients to every Hospital, it is important when choosing a Physician, that you determine the Hospitals where your Physician has admitting privileges. You can find out what Hospitals your Physician admits to by contacting the Physician’s office. This will provide you with information that will help you determine a portion of what your out-of-pocket costs may be in the event you are hospitalized.

Specialty Pharmacy

Certain medications, such as injectable, oral, inhaled and infused therapies used to treat complex medical Conditions are typically more difficult to maintain, administer and monitor when compared to traditional Drugs. Specialty Drugs may require frequent dosage adjustments, special storage and handling and may not be readily available at local pharmacies or routinely stocked by Physicians' offices, mostly due to the high cost and complex handling they require.

Value Choice Providers

Some Providers, designated by us, may provide Services other than maternity and Medical Pharmacy at a lower Cost Share. The Deductible will be waived for these Services and your Cost Share is lower when they are rendered in the Value Choice Provider’s office or Independent Diagnostic Testing Centers designated as Value Choice Providers. The chart below lists the Services included and the Cost Share amounts:

Value Choice Provider Type	Services Included	Cost Share
Primary Care Provider	• Office Visits* • Advanced Imaging Services (CT/CAT Scans, MRAs, MRIs, PET Scans and nuclear medicine) • Allergy Testing and Injections • Occupational Therapy and Physical Therapy	$0
Specialist Physician	• Office Visits* • Advanced Imaging Services (CT/CAT Scans, MRAs, MRIs, PET Scans and nuclear medicine) • Allergy Testing and Injections • Occupational Therapy and Physical Therapy	$20**

Value Choice Provider Type	Services Included	Cost Share
Dietitian / Nutritionist	Covered Services such as Diabetic Education	$0
Independent Diagnostic Testing Center	Advanced Imaging Services (CT/CAT Scans, MRAs, MRIs, PET Scans and nuclear medicine)	$20**
Urgent Care Center	Covered urgent care Services for the first 2 visits per Covered Person, per Benefit Period	$0 for first 2 visits***

*Maternity and Medical Pharmacy Services will remain at the Cost Share listed on your Schedule of Benefits.

** Or the Specialist Physician office Cost Share listed on your Schedule of Benefits; whichever is lower.

***After the first 2 visits, the urgent care Cost Share listed on your Schedule of Benefits will apply.

Value Choice Providers are available in certain Florida counties only and not all Services are available at all locations. To find a Value Choice Provider, access our website at www.floridablue.com and click on "find a doctor" and search for a doctor near you. When using the filter options, click on "Programs" and select "Value Choice Providers".

Other Providers

With BlueOptions you have access to other Providers in addition to the ones previously described in this section. Other Providers include facilities that provide alternative outpatient settings or other persons and entities that specialize in a specific Service(s). While these Providers may be recognized for payment, they may not be included as In-Network Providers for your plan. Additionally, all of the Services that are within the scope of certain Providers' licenses may not be Covered Services under this Booklet. Please refer to the "What Is Covered?" and "What Is Not Covered?" sections of this Booklet and your Schedule of Benefits to determine your out-of-pocket expenses for Covered Services rendered by these Providers.

You may be able to receive certain outpatient Services at a location other than a Hospital. The amount you are responsible for paying for Services rendered at some alternative facilities is generally less than if you had received those same Services at a Hospital.

Remember that the location of Service can impact the amount you are responsible for paying out-of-pocket. After you and your Physician have determined the plan of treatment most appropriate for your care, you should refer to the Schedule of Benefits and consult with your Physician to determine the most appropriate setting based on your health care and financial needs. When Services are rendered at an outpatient facility other than a Hospital there may be an out-of-pocket expense for the facility Provider as well as an out-of-pocket expense for other types of Providers.

Continuity of Coverage and Care Upon Termination of a Provider Contract Under Federal Law

Federal law (42 U.S. Code § 300gg –113) provides for continuity of Services for enrollees of health plans when there is a change in the plans' Provider network resulting in a Provider no longer being In-Network for the enrollee's benefit plan. These protections extend to individuals defined as a "Continuing Care Patient" and include patients who are undergoing a course of treatment for:

1. a serious or complex Condition,

a) in the case of an acute illness, a Condition that is serious enough to require specialized medical treatment to avoid the reasonable possibility of death or permanent harm, or

b) in the case of a chronic illness or Condition, a Condition that:

i. is life-threatening, degenerative, potentially disabling, or congenital; and

ii. requires specialized medical care over a prolonged period of time.

2. institutional or inpatient care,
3. a scheduled non-elective surgery including postoperative care.
4. pregnancy; or
5. a terminal illness.

Such patients will have up to 90 days of continued coverage at the In-Network Cost Share to allow for a transition of care to an In-Network Provider.

Assignment of Benefits to Providers

Except as set forth in the last paragraph of this section, any of the following assignments, or attempted assignments, by you to any Provider will not be honored:

- an assignment of the benefits due to you for Covered Services under this Benefit Booklet;
- an assignment of your right to receive payments for Covered Services under this Benefit Booklet; or
- an assignment of a claim for damage resulting from a breach, or an alleged breach, of the terms of this Benefit Booklet.

We specifically reserve the right to honor an assignment of benefits or payment by you to a Provider who: 1) is In-Network under your plan of coverage; 2) is a NetworkBlue Provider even if that Provider is not in the panel for your plan of coverage; 3) is a Traditional Program Provider; 4) is a BlueCard PPO Program Provider; 5) is a BlueCard Traditional Program Provider; 6) when applicable, honor an assignment of your right to receive payment for Covered Services to an Out-of-Network Provider in accordance with Section 627.638(2) Florida Statutes or other applicable statute then in effect. A written attestation of the assignment of benefits may be required.

Section 7: BlueCard® Program

Out-of-Area Services

Overview

We have a variety of relationships with other Blue Cross and/or Blue Shield Licensees. Generally, these relationships are called "Inter-Plan Arrangements." These Inter-Plan Arrangements work based on rules and procedures issued by the Blue Cross Blue Shield Association ("Association"). Whenever you access Health Care Services outside Florida, the claim for those Services may be processed through one of these Inter-Plan Arrangements. The Inter-Plan Arrangements are described below.

When you receive care outside of Florida, you will receive it from one of two kinds of Providers. Most Providers ("Participating Providers") contract with the local Blue Cross and/or Blue Shield Licensee in that geographic area ("Host Blue"). Some Providers ("Nonparticipating Providers") don't contract with the Host Blue. We explain below how both kinds of Providers are paid.

Inter-Plan Arrangements Eligibility – Claim Types

All claim types are eligible to be processed through Inter-Plan Arrangements, as described above, except for all dental care benefits except when paid as medical claims/benefits, and those prescription drug benefits or vision care benefits that may be administered by a third party contracted by us to provide the specific Service or Services.

BlueCard Program

Under the BlueCard Program, when you receive Covered Services within the geographic area served by a Host Blue, we will remain responsible for fulfilling our contractual obligations to you. However, the Host Blue is responsible for contracting with and generally handling all interactions with its Participating Providers.

When you receive Covered Services outside of Florida and the claim is processed through the BlueCard Program, the amount you pay for Covered Services is calculated based on the lower of:

- The billed charges for Covered Services; or
- The negotiated price that the Host Blue makes available to us.

Often, this "negotiated price" will be a simple discount that reflects an actual price that the Host Blue pays to your Provider. Sometimes, it is an estimated price that takes into account special arrangements with your Provider or Provider group that may include types of settlements, incentive payments and/or other credits or charges. Occasionally, it may be an average price, based on a discount that results in expected average savings for similar types of Providers after taking into account the same types of transactions as with an estimated price.

Estimated pricing and average pricing also take into account adjustments to correct for over- or underestimation of past pricing of claims, as noted above. However, such adjustments will not affect the price we have used for your claim because they will not be applied after a claim has already been paid.

Special Cases: Value-Based Programs

If you receive Covered Services under a Value-Based Program inside a Host Blue's service area, you will not be responsible for paying any of the Provider Incentives, risk-sharing, and/or Care Coordinator Fees that are a part of such an arrangement, except when a Host Blue passes these fees to us through average pricing or fee schedule adjustments. Additional information is available upon request.

Inter-Plan Programs: Federal/State Taxes/Surcharges/Fees

Federal or state laws or regulations may require a surcharge, tax or other fee that applies to self-funded accounts. If applicable, we will include any such surcharge, tax or other fee as part of the claim charge passed on to you.

Nonparticipating Providers Outside Florida

When Covered Services are provided outside of Florida by Nonparticipating Providers, payment will be based on the Allowed Amount, as defined in the DEFINITIONS section of the Benefit Booklet.

Blue Cross Blue Shield Global Core® Program

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

If you need medical assistance services (including locating a doctor or hospital) outside the BlueCard Service Area, you should call the Blue Cross Blue Shield Global Core Service Center at 1.800.810.BLUE (2583) or call collect at 804-673-1177, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. An assistance coordinator, working with a medical professional, can arrange a physician appointment or hospitalization, if necessary.

Inpatient Services

In most cases, if you contact the Blue Cross Blue Shield Global Core Service Center for assistance, hospitals will not require you to pay for inpatient Covered Services, except for your Cost Share amounts. In such cases, the hospital will submit your claims to the Blue Cross Blue Shield Global Core Service Center to begin claims processing. However, if you paid in full at the time of Service, you must submit a claim to receive reimbursement for Covered Services. **You must notify us of any non-emergency inpatient Services.**

Outpatient Services

Physicians, Urgent Care Centers and other outpatient Providers located outside the BlueCard Service Area will typically require you to pay in full at the time of Service. You must submit a claim to obtain reimbursement for Covered Services.

Submitting a Blue Cross Blue Shield Global Core Claim

When you pay for Covered Services outside the BlueCard Service Area, you must submit a claim to obtain reimbursement. For institutional and professional claims, you should complete a Blue Cross Blue Shield Global Core International claim form and send the claim form with the Provider's itemized bill(s) to the Blue Cross Blue Shield Global Core Service Center (the address is on the form) to initiate claims processing. Following the instructions on the claim form will help ensure timely processing of your claim. The claim form is available from the Blue Cross Blue Shield Global Core Service Center or online at www.bcbsglobalcore.com. If you need assistance with your claim submission, you should call the Blue Cross Blue Shield Global Core Service Center at 800-810-BLUE (2583) or call collect at 804-673-1177, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Section 8: Blueprint for Health Programs

Introduction

BCBSF has established (and from time to time establishes) various customer-focused health education and information programs as well as benefit utilization management and utilization review programs. Under the terms of the ASO Agreement between BCBSF and Monroe County BOCC, BCBSF has agreed to make these programs available to you. These programs, collectively called the Blueprint for Health Programs, are designed to 1) provide you with information that will help you make more informed decisions about your health; 2) help facilitate the management and review of coverage and benefits provided under this Booklet; and 3) present opportunities, as explained below, to mutually agree upon alternative benefits or payment alternatives for cost-effective medically appropriate Health Care Services.

Admission Notification

The admission notification requirements vary depending on whether you are admitted to a Hospital, Psychiatric Facility, Substance Abuse Facility or Skilled Nursing Facility which is In-Network or Out-of-Network.

In-Network

Under the admission notification requirement, we must be notified of all inpatient admissions (i.e., elective, planned, urgent or emergency) to In-Network Hospitals, Psychiatric Facilities, Substance Abuse Facilities or Skilled Nursing Facilities. While it is the sole responsibility of the In-Network Provider located in Florida to comply with the admission notification requirements, you should ask the Hospital, Psychiatric Facility, Substance Abuse Facility or Skilled Nursing Facility (as applicable) if we have been notified of your admission. For an admission outside of Florida, you or the Hospital, Psychiatric Facility, Substance Abuse Facility or Skilled Nursing Facility (as applicable) should notify us of the admission. Making sure that we are notified of your admission will enable us to provide you information about the Blueprint for Health Programs available to you. You or the Hospital, Psychiatric Facility, Substance Abuse Facility or Skilled Nursing Facility (as applicable) may notify us of your admission by calling the toll free customer service number on your Identification card.

Out-of-Network

For admissions to an Out-of-Network Hospital, Psychiatric Facility, Substance Abuse Facility or Skilled Nursing Facility, you or the Hospital, Psychiatric Facility, Substance Abuse Facility or Skilled Nursing Facility should notify BCBSF of the admission. Notifying BCBSF of your admission will enable BCBSF to provide you information about the Blueprint for Health Programs available to you. You or the Hospital may notify BCBSF of your admission by calling the toll free customer service number on your ID card.

Inpatient Facility Program

Under the inpatient facility program, we may review Hospital stays, Hospice, Inpatient Rehabilitation, LTAC and Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF) Services, and other Health Care Services rendered during the course of an inpatient stay or treatment program. We may conduct this review while you are inpatient, after your discharge, or as part of a review of an episode of care when you are transferred from one level of inpatient care to another for ongoing treatment. The review is conducted solely to determine whether we should provide coverage and/or payment for a particular admission or Health Care Services rendered during that admission. Using our established criteria then in effect, a concurrent review of the inpatient stay may occur at regular intervals, including in advance of a transfer from one inpatient facility to another. We will provide notification to your Physician when inpatient coverage criteria are no longer met. In administering the inpatient facility program, we may review specific medical facts or information and assess, among other things, the appropriateness of the Services being rendered, health care setting

and/or the level of care of an inpatient admission or other health care treatment program. Any such reviews by us, and any reviews or assessments of specific medical facts or information which we conduct, are solely for purposes of making coverage or payment decisions under this Benefit Booklet and not for the purpose of recommending or providing medical care.

Provider Focused Utilization Management Program

Certain NetworkBlue Providers have agreed to participate in our focused utilization management program. This pre-service review program is intended to promote the efficient delivery of medically appropriate Health Care Services by NetworkBlue Providers. Under this program we may perform focused prospective reviews of all or specific Health Care Services proposed for you. In order to perform the review, we may require the Provider to submit to us specific medical information relating to Health Care Services proposed for you. These NetworkBlue Providers have agreed not to bill, or collect, any payment whatsoever from you or us, or any other person or entity, with respect to a specific Health Care Service if:

1. they fail to submit the Health Care Service for a focused prospective review when required under the terms of their agreement with us; or
2. we perform a focused review under the focused utilization management program and we determine that a Health Care Service is not Medically Necessary in accordance with our Medical Necessity criteria or inconsistent with our benefit guidelines then in effect unless the following exception applies.

Exception for Certain NetworkBlue Physicians

Certain NetworkBlue Physicians licensed as Doctors of Medicine (M.D.) or Doctors of Osteopathy (D.O.) only may bill you for Services determined to be not Medically Necessary by BCBSF under this focused utilization management program if, before you receive the Service:

a) they give you a written estimate of your financial obligation for the Service;

b) they specifically identify the proposed Service that BCBSF has determined not to be Medically Necessary; and

c) you agree to assume financial responsibility for such Service.

Prior Coverage Authorization/Pre-Service Notification Programs

It is important for you to understand our prior coverage authorization programs and how the Provider you select and the type of Service you receive affects these requirements and ultimately how much you will have to pay under this Booklet.

You or your Physician will be required to obtain prior coverage authorization from us for Covered Services listed below. You are solely responsible for getting any required authorization before Services are rendered regardless of whether the Service is being rendered by an In-Network Provider or Out-of-Network Provider.

For details on how to obtain prior coverage authorization for these Services, please call the customer service phone number on your ID Card.

Services that Require Prior Authorization

Advanced Diagnostic Imaging Services

You must obtain an authorization for advanced diagnostic imaging Services such as CT scans, MRIs, MRA and nuclear imaging, when rendered or referred by a Provider **before** the advanced diagnostic imaging Services are provided. **If you do not obtain prior coverage authorization this plan will deny coverage for the Services and not make any payment for such Services**.

Applied Behavioral Analysis

You must obtain an authorization for Applied Behavioral Analysis for Autism Spectrum Disorder or Down Syndrome, **before** the Services are provided. **If you do not obtain prior coverage authorization this plan will not make any payment for such Services**.

Approved Clinical Trials

You must obtain an authorization for Services rendered in connection with Approved Clinical Trials, when rendered or referred by a Provider **before** you obtain routine patient care provided in connection with an Approved Clinical Trial. **If you do not obtain prior coverage authorization this plan will not make any payment for such Services**.

Prescription Drugs

In the case of Prescription Drugs, it is your sole responsibility to obtain prior coverage authorization **before** the drug is purchased or administered. **If you do not obtain prior coverage authorization, this plan will deny coverage for the Prescription Drug and not make any payment for the drug or any Service related to the drug or its administration.**

All Prescription Drugs covered under the Medical Pharmacy category in the "What Is Covered?" section, require prior authorization. For a list of other medications that require prior coverage authorization and details on how to get an authorization, please refer to the Medication Guide.

Other Health Care Services

In the case of other Health Care Services under a prior coverage authorization or pre-service notification program, you must obtain an authorization or comply with any pre-service notification requirements when rendered or referred by a Provider, **before** the Services are provided.

We will inform you of any Health Care Service that is or will become subject to a prior coverage authorization or pre-service notification program, including how you can obtain prior coverage authorization and/or provide the pre-service notification for such Service. This information will be provided to you upon enrollment, or at least 30 days prior to such Services becoming subject to a prior coverage authorization or pre-service notification program. Such information may be provided to you electronically, if you have elected the delivery of notifications from us in that manner. Changes to the list of other Health Care Services that require prior authorization shall occur no more frequently than twice in a Calendar Year.

Additional Information

Once the necessary medical documentation has been received from you and/or the Provider, Florida Blue or a designated vendor, will review the information and make a prior coverage authorization decision, based on our established criteria then in effect. You will be notified of the prior coverage authorization decision.

If you do not obtain authorization or provide pre-service notification, we may:

1. deny payment of the claim; or
2. apply a benefit penalty when the claim is presented to us for payment consisting of one of the following:
   a) $500;
   b) 20% of the total Allowed Amount of the claim; or
   c) The lesser of $500 or 20% of the total Amount of the claim.

The decision to apply a penalty or deny the claim will be made uniformly and the applicable denial/penalty will be identified in the notice describing the prior coverage authorization and pre-service notification programs.

Note:

1. Prior coverage authorization is not required when Emergency Services are rendered for the treatment of an Emergency Medical Condition.
2. Prior coverage authorizations expire on the earlier of, but not to exceed 12 months:
   a) the termination date of your plan, or
   b) the period authorized by us, as indicated in the letter you receive from us.

Subject to our review and approval, we may authorize continued coverage of a previously approved Service. To request a continuation we must receive appropriate documentation from your Provider. The fact that we may have previously authorized coverage does not guarantee a continued authorization.

Member Focused Programs

The Blueprint for Health Programs may include voluntary programs for certain members. These programs may address health promotion, prevention and early detection of disease, chronic illness management programs, case management programs and other member focused programs.

Personal Case Management Program

The personal case management program focuses on members who suffer from a catastrophic illness or injury. In the event you have a catastrophic or chronic Condition, BCBSF may, in its sole discretion, assign a personal case manager to you to help coordinate coverage, benefits, or payment for Health Care Services you receive. Your participation in this program is completely voluntary.

Under the personal case management program, you may be offered alternative benefits or payment for cost-effective Health Care Services. These alternative benefits or payments may be made available on a case-by-case basis when you meet BCBSF's case management criteria then in effect. Such alternative benefits or payments, if any, will be made available in accordance with a treatment plan with which you, or your representative, and your Physician agree to in writing. In addition, Monroe County BOCC will be required to specifically agree to such treatment plan and the alternative benefits or payments.

The fact that certain Health Care Services under the personal case management program have been provided or payment has been made in no way obligates BCBSF, Monroe County BOCC, or the Group Health Plan to continue to provide or pay for the same or similar Services. Nothing contained in this section shall be deemed a waiver of our right to enforce this Benefit Booklet in strict accordance with its terms. The terms of this Booklet will continue to apply, except as specifically modified in writing in accordance with the personal case management program rules then in effect

Health Information, Promotion, Prevention and Illness Management Programs

These Blueprint for Health Programs may include health information that supports member education and choices for healthcare issues. These programs focus on keeping you well, help to identify early preventive measures of treatment and help members with chronic problems to enjoy lives that are as productive and healthy as possible. These programs may include prenatal educational programs and illness management programs for conditions such as diabetes, cancer and heart disease. These programs are voluntary and are designed to enhance your ability to make informed choices and decisions for your unique health care needs. You may call the toll free customer service number on your Identification card for more information. Your participation in this program is completely voluntary.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION RELATING TO BCBSF'S BLUEPRINT FOR HEALTH PROGRAMS

All decisions that require or pertain to independent professional medical/clinical judgment or training, or the need for medical Services, are solely your responsibility and the responsibility of your Physicians and other health care Providers. You and your Physicians are responsible for deciding what medical care should be rendered or received, and when and how that care should be provided. Monroe County BOCC is ultimately responsible for determining whether expenses, which have been or will be incurred for medical care are, or will be, covered under this Booklet. In fulfilling this responsibility, neither BCBSF nor Monroe County BOCC will be deemed to participate in or override the medical decisions of your health care Provider.

Please note that the hospital admission notification requirement and any Blueprint for Health Program may be discontinued or modified at any time without notice to you or your consent.

Coverage Protocol Exemption Request

In some cases, Services under this Booklet require you to complete use of another Prescription Drug, medical procedure, or course of treatment other than the one requested by your treating Physician, before coverage will be authorized/granted. Florida Statute 627.42393 permits you to request a protocol exemption in order to receive coverage without completing our coverage protocol for the Prescription Drug, medical procedure, or course of treatment. If we deny the coverage protocol exemption request, we will provide you with a written explanation of the reason for the denial, the clinical rationale that supports the denial, and the procedure for appealing the denial. In some instances, the process for appealing a denied coverage protocol exemption request will be your formal appeal of an Adverse Benefit Determination process as outlined in the CLAIMS PROCESSING section of this Booklet.

Information on how to request a coverage protocol exemption or to appeal a denial of a request for exemption can be found on our website at https://www.floridablue.com/docview/coverage-protocol-exemption-request/.

Section 9: Eligibility for Coverage

Each employee or other individual who is eligible to participate in the Group Health Plan, and who meets and continues to meet the eligibility requirements described in this Booklet, shall be entitled to apply for coverage under this Booklet. These eligibility requirements are binding upon you and/or your eligible family members. No changes in the eligibility requirements will be permitted except as permitted by Monroe County BOCC. Acceptable documentation may be required as proof that an individual meets and continues to meet the eligibility requirements such as a court order naming the Covered Plan Participant as the legal guardian or appropriate adoption documentation described in the "Enrollment and Effective Date of Coverage" section.

Eligibility Requirements for Covered Plan Participants

In order to be eligible to enroll as a Covered Plan Participant, an individual must be an Eligible Employee. An Eligible Employee must meet each of the following requirements:

1. The employee must be a bona fide employee of Monroe County BOCC;
2. The employee's job must fall within a job classification identified by Monroe County BOCC;
3. The employee must have completed any applicable Waiting Period identified by Monroe County BOCC; and
4. The employee must meet any additional eligibility requirement(s) required by Monroe County BOCC.

Monroe County BOCC's Covered Plan Participant eligibility classification may be expanded to include:

1. retired employees and their Covered Dependents or the surviving Covered Dependents of adeceased retired employee;
2. additional job classifications;
3. employees of affiliated or subsidiary companies of Monroe County BOCC provided such companies and Monroe County BOCC are under common control; and
4. other individuals as determined by Monroe County BOCC (e.g., members of associations or labor unions).

Monroe County BOCC shall have sole discretion concerning the expansion of eligibility classifications.

Eligibility Requirements for Dependent(s)

An individual who meets the eligibility criteria specified below is an Eligible Dependent and is eligible to apply for coverage under this Booklet:

1. The Covered Plan Participant's spouse under a legally valid existing marriage.
2. The Covered Plan Participant's Domestic Partner when the Covered Plan Participant has completed and submitted any required forms to the Group and the Group has determined the Domestic Partnership eligibility requirements have been met.
3. The Covered Plan Participant's or Covered Domestic Partner's natural, newborn, adopted, Foster, or step child(ren) (or a child for whom the Covered Plan Participant has been court-appointed as legal guardian or legal custodian) who has not reached the end of the Calendar Year in which he or she reaches age 30 (or in the case of a Foster Child, is no longer eligible under the Foster Child Program), regardless of the dependent child's student or marital status, financial dependency on the

Covered Plan Participant, whether the dependent child resides with the Covered Plan Participant, or whether the dependent child is eligible for or enrolled in any other group health plan.

4. The newborn child of a Covered Dependent child. Coverage for such newborn child will automatically terminate 18 months after the birth of the newborn child.

   Note: It is the Covered Plan Participant's sole responsibility to establish that a child meets the applicable requirements for eligibility.

This eligibility shall terminate on the last day of the Calendar Year in which the dependent child reaches age 30.

Children with Disabilities

In the case of a dependent child with an intellectual or physical disability, such child is eligible to continue coverage as a Covered Dependent, beyond the age of 30 if the child is:

1. otherwise eligible for coverage under the Group Health Plan;
2. incapable of self-sustaining employment by reason of intellectual or physical disability; and
3. chiefly dependent upon the Covered Plan Participant for support and maintenance provided that the symptoms or causes of the child's intellectual or physical disability existed prior to the child's 30th birthday.

This eligibility will end on the last day of the month in which the dependent child no longer meets these requirements.

Section 10: Enrollment and Effective Date of Coverage

Eligible Employees and Eligible Dependents may enroll for coverage according to the provisions below.

Any Eligible Employee or Eligible Dependent who is not properly enrolled will not be covered under this Booklet. Neither BCBSF nor Monroe County BOCC will have any obligation whatsoever to any individual who is not properly enrolled.

Any Employee or Eligible Dependent who is eligible for coverage under this Booklet may apply for coverage according to the provisions set forth below.

Enrollment Forms/Electing Coverage

To apply for coverage, you as the Eligible Employee must:

1. complete and submit, through Monroe County BOCC, the Enrollment Form;
2. provide any additional information needed to determine eligibility, at the request of BCBSF or Monroe County BOCC;
3. pay any required contribution; and
4. complete and submit, through Monroe County BOCC an Enrollment Form to add Eligible Dependents.

When making application for coverage, you must elect one of the types of coverage available under Monroe County BOCC's program. Such types may include:

Employee Only Coverage - This type of coverage provides coverage for the Employee only.

Employee/Spouse Coverage - This type of coverage provides coverage for the Employee and the employee's spouse under a legally valid existing marriage.

Employee/Child(ren) Coverage - This type of coverage provides coverage for the Employee and the employee's covered child(ren) only.

Employee/Family Coverage - This type of coverage provides coverage for the Employee and the employee's Covered Dependents.

There may be additional contribution amounts for each Covered Dependent based on the coverage selected by Monroe County BOCC.

Enrollment Periods

The enrollment periods for applying for coverage are as follows:

Initial Enrollment Period is the period of time during which an Eligible Employee or Eligible Dependent is first eligible to enroll. It starts on the Eligible Employee’s or Eligible Dependent’s initial date of eligibility and ends no less than 30 days later.

Annual Open Enrollment Period is the period of time during which each Eligible Employee is given an opportunity to select coverage from among the alternatives included in Monroe County BOCC's health benefit program. The period is established by Monroe County BOCC, occurs annually, and will take place when specified by Monroe County BOCC.

Special Enrollment Period is the 30-day period of time immediately following a special circumstance during which an Eligible Employee or Eligible Dependent may apply for coverage. Special circumstances are described in the "Special Enrollment Period" subsection.

Employee Enrollment

1. An Eligible Employee must enroll during the Initial Enrollment Period in order to become covered as of the Effective Date of Monroe County BOCC. Eligible Dependents may also be enrolled during the Initial Enrollment Period. The Effective Date of coverage for an Eligible Dependent(s) will be the same as the Covered Plan Participant's Effective Date.
2. An individual who becomes an Eligible Employee after Monroe County BOCC's Effective Date (for example, newly-hired employees) must enroll before or within the Initial Enrollment Period. The Effective Date of coverage for such individual will begin on the date specified in writing by Monroe County BOCC.

Dependent Enrollment

An individual may be added upon becoming an Eligible Dependent of a Covered Plan Participant. Below are special rules for certain Eligible Dependents.

Newborn Child – To enroll a newborn child who is an Eligible Dependent, the Covered Plan Participant must submit an Enrollment Form to BCBSF through Monroe County BOCC during the 30-day period immediately following the date of birth. The Effective Date of coverage for a newborn child will be the date of birth.

If timely notice is given, no additional contribution will be charged for coverage of the newborn child for not less than 30 days after the birth of the child. If timely notice is not received, the applicable contribution will be charged from the date of birth. The applicable contribution for the child will be charged after the initial 30-day period in either case. Coverage will not be denied for a newborn child if the Covered Plan Participant provides notice to Monroe County BOCC and an Enrollment Form is received within the 60-day period of the birth of the child and any applicable contribution is paid back to the date of birth.

If the newborn is not enrolled within sixty days of the date of birth, the newborn child will not be covered, and may only be enrolled under this Benefit Booklet during an Annual Open Enrollment Period, or in the case of a Special Enrollment event, during the Special Enrollment Period.

Note: Coverage for a newborn child of a Covered Dependent will automatically terminate 18 months after the birth of the newborn child.

Adopted Newborn Child – To enroll an adopted newborn child, the Covered Plan Participant must submit an Enrollment Form through Monroe County BOCC to BCBSF during the 30-day period immediately following the date of birth. The Effective Date of coverage for an adopted newborn child, eligible for coverage, will be the moment of birth, provided that a written agreement to adopt such child has been entered into by the Covered Plan Participant prior to the birth of such child, whether or not such an agreement is enforceable. The Covered Plan Participant may be required to provide any information and/or documents, which are deemed necessary in order to administer this provision.

If timely notice is given, no additional contribution will be charged for coverage of the adopted newborn child for not less than 30 days after the birth of the child. If timely notice is not received, the applicable contribution will be charged from the date of birth. The applicable contribution for the child will be charged after the initial 30-day period in either case. Coverage will not be denied for an adopted newborn child if the Covered Plan Participant provides notice to Monroe County BOCC and an Enrollment Form is received within the 60-day period of the birth of the adopted newborn child and any applicable contribution is paid back to the date of birth.

If the adopted newborn child is not enrolled within sixty days of the date of birth, the adopted newborn child will not be covered, and may only be enrolled under this Benefit Booklet during an Annual Open Enrollment Period, or in the case of a Special Enrollment event, during the Special Enrollment Period.

If the adopted newborn child is not ultimately placed in the residence of the Covered Plan Participant, there shall be no coverage for the adopted newborn child. It is your responsibility as the Covered Plan Participant to notify Monroe County BOCC within ten calendar days of the date that placement was to occur if the adopted newborn child is not placed in your residence.

Adopted/Foster Children – To enroll an adopted or Foster Child, the Covered Plan Participant must submit an Enrollment Form during the 30-day period immediately following the date of placement. The Effective Date for an adopted or Foster Child (other than an adopted newborn child) will be the date such adopted or Foster Child is placed in the residence of the Covered Plan Participant in compliance with Florida law. The Covered Plan Participant may be required to provide any information and/or documents deemed necessary, in order to properly administer this section.

In the event Monroe County BOCC is not notified within 30 days of the date of placement, the child will be added as of the date of placement so long as Covered Plan Participant provides notice to Monroe County BOCC, and we receive the Enrollment Form within 60 days of the placement. If the adopted or Foster Child is not enrolled within sixty days of the date of placement, the adopted or Foster Child will not be covered, and may only be enrolled under this Benefit Booklet during an Annual Open Enrollment Period, or in the case of a Special Enrollment event, during the Special Enrollment Period.

For all children covered as adopted children, if the final decree of adoption is not issued, coverage shall not be continued for the proposed adopted Child. Proof of final adoption must be submitted to BCBSF through Monroe County BOCC. It is the responsibility of the Covered Plan Participant to notify BCBSF through Monroe County BOCC if the adoption does not take place. Upon receipt of this notification, we will terminate the coverage of the child as of the Effective Date of the adopted child upon receipt of the written notice.

If the Covered Plan Participant's status as a foster parent is terminated, coverage will end for any Foster Child. It is the responsibility of the Covered Plan Participant to notify BCBSF through Monroe County BOCC that the Foster Child is no longer in the Covered Plan Participant's care. Upon receipt of this notification, coverage for the child will be terminated on the date the Covered Plan Participant's status as a foster parent terminated.

Marital Status –The Covered Plan Participant may apply for coverage of an Eligible Dependent due to a legally valid marriage. To apply for coverage, the Covered Plan Participant must complete the Enrollment Form through Monroe County BOCC and forward it to BCBSF. The Covered Plan Participant must make application for enrollment within 30 days of the marriage. The Effective Date of coverage for an Eligible Dependent who is enrolled as a result of marriage is the date of the marriage.

Court Order – The Covered Plan Participant may apply for coverage for an Eligible Dependent outside of the Initial Enrollment Period and Annual Open Enrollment Period if a court has ordered coverage to be provided for a minor child under their plan. To apply for coverage, the Covered Plan Participant must complete an Enrollment Form through Monroe County BOCC and forward it to BCBSF. The Covered Plan Participant must make application for enrollment within 30 days of the court order. The Effective Date of coverage for an Eligible Dependent who is enrolled as a result of a court order is the date required by the court.

Annual Open Enrollment Period

Eligible Employees and/or Eligible Dependents who did not apply for coverage during the Initial Enrollment Period or a Special Enrollment Period may apply for coverage during an Annual Open Enrollment Period. The Eligible Employee may enroll by completing the Enrollment Form during the Annual Open Enrollment Period.

The Effective Date of coverage for an Eligible Employee and any Eligible Dependent(s) will be the date established by Monroe County BOCC.

Eligible Employees who do not enroll or change their coverage selection during the Annual Open Enrollment Period, must wait until the next Annual Open Enrollment Period, unless the Eligible Employee or the Eligible Dependent is enrolled due to a special circumstance as outlined in the "Special Enrollment Period" subsection of this section.

Special Enrollment Period

An Eligible Employee and/or the Employee's Eligible Dependent(s) may apply for coverage outside of the Initial Enrollment Period and Annual Enrollment Period as a result of a special enrollment event. To apply for coverage, the Eligible Employee and/or the Employee's Eligible Dependent(s) must complete the applicable Enrollment Form and forward it to the Group within the time periods noted below for each special enrollment event.

An Eligible Employee and/or the Employee's Eligible Dependent(s) may apply for coverage if one of the following special enrollment events occurs and the applicable Enrollment Form is submitted to the Group within the indicated time periods:

1. If you lose your coverage under another group health benefit plan (as an employee or dependent), or coverage under other health insurance (except in the case of loss of coverage under a Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) or Medicaid, see #3 below), or COBRA continuation coverage that you were covered under at the time of initial enrollment provided that:
    a) when offered coverage under this plan at the time of initial eligibility, you stated, in writing, that coverage under a group health plan or health insurance coverage was the reason for declining enrollment; and
    b) you lost your other coverage under a group health benefit plan or health insurance coverage (except in the case of loss of coverage under a CHIP or Medicaid, see #3 below) as a result of termination of employment, reduction in the number of hours you work, reaching or exceeding the maximum lifetime of all benefits under other health coverage, the employer ceased offering group health coverage, death of your spouse, divorce, legal separation or employer contributions toward such coverage was terminated; and
    c) you submit the applicable Enrollment Form to the Group within 30 days of the date your coverage was terminated

Note: Loss of coverage for failure to pay your required contribution/premium on a timely basis or for cause (such as making a fraudulent claim or an intentional misrepresentation of a material fact in connection with the prior health coverage) is not a qualifying event for special enrollment.

or

2. If when offered coverage under this plan at the time of initial eligibility, you stated, in writing, that coverage under a group health plan or health insurance coverage was the reason for declining enrollment; and you get married or obtain a dependent through birth, adoption or placement in anticipation of adoption and you submit the applicable Enrollment Form to the Group within 30 days of the date of the event.

   or

3. If you or your Eligible Dependent(s) lose coverage under a CHIP or Medicaid due to loss of eligibility for such coverage or become eligible for the optional state premium assistance program and you submit the applicable Enrollment Form to the Group within 60 days of the date such coverage was terminated or the date you become eligible for the optional state premium assistance program.

The Effective Date of coverage for you and your Eligible Dependents added as a result of a special enrollment event is the date of the special enrollment event. Eligible Employees or Eligible Dependents who do not enroll or change their coverage selection during the Special Enrollment Period must wait until the next Annual Open Enrollment Period (See the Dependent Enrollment subsection of this section for the rules relating to the enrollment of Eligible Dependents of a Covered Plan Participant).

Other Provisions Regarding Enrollment and Effective Date of Coverage

Rehired Employees

Individuals who are rehired as employees of Monroe County BOCC are considered newly hired employees for purposes of this section, unless the employer has indicated that the employee qualifies for the exception as described in the federal regulations. The provisions of the Group Health Plan (which includes this Booklet), which are applicable to newly hired employees and their Eligible Dependents (e.g., enrollment, Effective Dates of coverage, Pre-existing Condition exclusionary period, and Waiting Period) are applicable to rehired employees and their Eligible Dependents if the employee does not qualify for the federal exception.

Covered Dependents of Retirees

Coverage for a Covered Dependent will continue as long as the retired Covered Plan Participant is living and the retired Covered Plan Participant and the Covered Dependent continue to meet the eligibility criteria.

In the event that a retired Covered Plan Participant dies, his or her Covered Dependent spouse may elect to continue coverage as a new Covered Plan Participant. Covered Dependent children who continue to meet eligibility criteria may also continue coverage until the new Covered Plan Participant remarries, dies, or reaches age 65, as long as the Monroe County BOCC and BCBSF are properly notified on a timely basis and the appropriate contributions are paid to Monroe County BOCC.

Section 11: Termination of Coverage

Termination of a Covered Plan Participant's Coverage

A Covered Plan Participant's coverage will terminate at 12:01 a.m.:

1. on the date the Group Health Plan terminates;
2. on the date the Administrative Services Only Agreement between BCBSF and Monroe County BOCC terminates;
3. on the last day of the first month that the Covered Plan Participant fails to continue to meet any of the applicable eligibility requirements;
4. on the date the Covered Plan Participant's coverage is terminated for cause (see the "Termination of an Individual Coverage for Cause" subsection);
5. on the date specified by Monroe County BOCC that the Covered Plan Participant's coverage terminates; or
6. on the date the surviving spouse (new Covered Plan Participant) of a deceased retired employeeremarries, dies, or reaches age 65.

Termination of a Covered Dependent's Coverage

A Covered Dependent's coverage will terminate at 12:01 a.m. on the date:

1. the Group Health Plan terminates;
2. the Covered Plan Participant's coverage terminates for any reason, except in the case of a survivingspouse (new Covered Plan Participant) and Covered Dependent child(ren) of a deceased retiredCovered Plan Participant:
   a) Coverage for the spouse (who has become a new Covered Plan Participant) and CoveredDependent children terminates when the spouse (1) no longer meets the eligibility requirementsfor Covered Plan Participants; (2) remarries; (3) dies; (4) reaches age 65; or (5) no longerchooses to be covered under the Benefit Booklet.
   b) In addition to the above, coverage for a Covered Dependent child of a surviving spouse willterminate when that Covered Dependent child no longer meets the eligibility requirements for Dependent(s).
3. the Dependent becomes covered under an alternative health benefits plan which is offered through or in connection with the Group Health Plan;
4. last day of the Calendar Year that the Covered Dependent child no longer meets any of the applicable eligibility requirements;
5. the Dependent's coverage is terminated for cause (see the Termination of Individual Coverage for Cause subsection).

In the event you as the Covered Plan Participant wish to delete a Covered Dependent from coverage, an Enrollment Form should be forwarded to Monroe County BOCC prior to the termination date requested.

In the event you as the Covered Plan Participant wish to terminate a spouse's coverage, (e.g., in the case of divorce), you must submit an Enrollment Form to Monroe County BOCC, prior to the requested termination date or within 10 days of the date the divorce is final, whichever is applicable.

Domestic Partner and Domestic Partner's Dependent Children

In addition to the provisions stated in the Covered Dependent subsection, coverage under this Booklet for a covered Domestic Partner and his or her Covered Dependent children will terminate at 12:01 a.m. on the date that the Domestic Partnership terminates or the date of death of the Covered Domestic Partner. The Covered Plan Participant must notify the Group within 10 days of when the Domestic Partnership eligibility requirements are no longer met or within 10 days of the death of the Covered Domestic Partner.

Termination of an Individual's Coverage for Cause

In the event any of the following occurs, Monroe County BOCC may terminate an individual's coverage for cause:

1. fraud, material misrepresentation or omission in applying for coverage or benefits; or
2. you intentionally misrepresent, omit, or give false information on Enrollment Forms or other forms completed by you or on your behalf.

Notice of Termination

It is Monroe County BOCC's responsibility to immediately notify you of your termination or that of your Covered Dependents for any reason.

Group Health Plan Responsibilities Upon Termination of Your Coverage

Upon termination of coverage for you or your Covered Dependents for any reason, BCBSF and Monroe County BOCC will have no further liability or responsibility with respect to such individual, except as otherwise specifically set forth in this Booklet.

Section 12: Continuing Coverage Under COBRA

Federal Continuation of Coverage Law

A Federal continuation of coverage law, known as the Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1985 (COBRA), as amended, may apply to your Group Health Plan. If COBRA applies, you or your Covered Dependents may be entitled to continue coverage for a limited period of time, if you meet the applicable requirements, make a timely election, and pay the proper amount required to maintain coverage.

You must contact Monroe County BOCC to determine if you or your Covered Dependent are entitled to COBRA continuation of coverage. Monroe County BOCC is solely responsible for meeting all of the obligations under COBRA, including the obligation to notify all Covered Persons of their rights under COBRA. If you fail to meet your obligations under COBRA and this Benefit Booklet, Monroe County BOCC will not be liable for any claims incurred by you or your Covered Dependent(s) after termination of coverage.

A summary of your COBRA rights and the general conditions for qualification for COBRA continuation coverage is provided below.

The following is a summary of what you may elect, if COBRA applies to Monroe County BOCC and you are eligible for such coverage:

1. You may elect to continue this coverage for a period not to exceed 18 months* in the case of:
   a) termination of employment of the Covered Plan Participant other than for gross misconduct; or
   b) reduced hours of employment of the Covered Plan Participant.

   ***Note:** You and your Covered Dependents are eligible for an 11-month extension of the 18-month COBRA continuation option above (to a total of 29 months) if you or your Covered Dependent is totally disabled, as defined by the Social Security Administration (SSA) at the time of your termination, reduction in hours or within the first 60 days of COBRA continuation coverage. The Covered Person must supply notice of the disability determination to the Group within 18 months of becoming eligible for continuation coverage and no later than 60 days after the SSA's determination date.
2. Your Covered Dependent(s) may elect to continue their coverage for a period not to exceed 36 months in the case of:
   a) the Covered Plan Participant's entitlement to Medicare;
   b) divorce or legal separation of the Covered Plan Participant;
   c) death of the Covered Plan Participant;
   d) the employer filing bankruptcy (subject to bankruptcy court approval); or
   e) a Dependent child may elect the 36-month extension if the Dependent child ceases to be an Eligible Dependent under the terms of Monroe County BOCC's coverage.

Important Note: Covered Domestic Partners and their Covered Dependents are not entitled to continuing coverage but, may be entitled to apply for one of our conversion policies as set forth in the Conversion Privilege subsection later in this section.

Children born to, or placed for adoption with, the Covered Plan Participant during the continuation coverage periods noted above are also eligible for the remainder of the continuation period.

Additional requirements applicable to continuation of coverage under COBRA are set forth below:

1. Monroe County BOCC must notify you of your continuation of coverage rights under COBRA within 14 days of the event which creates the continuation option. If coverage would be lost due to Medicare entitlement, divorce, legal separation or the failure of a Covered Dependent child to meet eligibility requirements, you or your Covered Dependent must notify Monroe County BOCC, in writing, within 60 days of any of these events. Monroe County BOCC's 14-day notice requirement runs from the date of receipt of such notice.
2. You must elect to continue the coverage within 60 days of the later of:
   a) the date that the coverage terminates; or
   b) the date the notification of continuation of coverage rights is sent by Monroe County BOCC.
3. COBRA coverage will terminate if you become covered under any other group health insurance plan. However, COBRA coverage may continue if the new group health insurance plan contains exclusions or limitations due to a Pre-existing Condition that would affect your coverage.
4. COBRA coverage will terminate if you become entitled to Medicare.
5. If you are totally disabled and eligible and elect to extend your continuation of coverage, you may not continue such extension of coverage more than 30 days after a determination by the Social Security Administration that you are no longer disabled. You must inform Monroe County BOCC of the Social Security Administration's determination within 30 days of such determination.
6. You must meet all contribution requirements, and all other eligibility requirements described in COBRA, and, to the extent not inconsistent with COBRA, in the Group Health Plan.
7. Monroe County BOCC must continue to provide group health coverage to its employees.

An election by a Covered Plan Participant or Covered Dependent spouse shall be deemed to be an election for any other qualified beneficiary related to that Covered Plan Participant or Covered Dependent spouse, unless otherwise specified in the election form.

Note: This section shall not be interpreted to grant any continuation rights in excess of those required by COBRA and/or Section 4980B of the Internal Revenue Code. Additionally, this Benefit Booklet shall be deemed to have been modified, and shall be interpreted, so as to comply with COBRA and changes to COBRA that are mandatory with respect to Monroe County BOCC.

Section 13: Conversion Privilege

Eligibility Criteria for Conversion

You are entitled to apply for a BCBSF individual policy (hereinafter referred to as a "converted policy" or "conversion policy") if:

1. you were continuously covered for at least three months under the Group Health Plan, and/or under another group policy that provided similar benefits immediately prior to the Group Health Plan; and
2. your coverage was terminated for any reason, including discontinuance of the Group Health Plan in its entirety and termination of continued coverage under COBRA.

Notify us in writing or by telephone if you are interested in a conversion policy. Within 14 days of such notice, we will send you a conversion policy application, premium notice and outline of coverage. The outline of coverage will contain a brief description of the benefits and coverage, exclusions and limitations, and the applicable Deductible(s) and Coinsurance provisions.

We must receive a completed application for a converted policy, and the applicable premium payment, within the 63-day period beginning on the date the coverage under the Group Health Plan terminated. If coverage has been terminated due to the non-payment of employee contribution by Monroe County BOCC, we must receive the completed converted policy application and the applicable premium payment within the 63-day period beginning on the date notice was given that the Group Health Plan terminated.

In the event we do not receive the converted policy application and the initial premium payment within such 63-day period, your converted policy application will be denied and you will not be entitled to a converted policy.

Additionally, you are not entitled to a converted policy if

1. you are eligible for or covered under the Medicare program;
2. you failed to pay, on a timely basis, the contribution required for coverage under this Group Health Plan;
3. the Group Health Plan was replaced within 31 days after termination by any group policy, contract, plan, or program, including a self-insured plan or program, that provides benefits similar to the benefits provided under this Booklet; or
4. a) you fall under one of the following categories and meet the requirements of 4.b. below:
    i. you are covered under any hospital, surgical, medical or major medical policy or contract or under a prepayment plan or under any other plan or program that provides benefits which are similar to the benefits provided under this Booklet; or
    ii. you are eligible, whether or not covered, under any arrangement of coverage for individuals in a group, whether on an insured, uninsured, or partially insured basis, for benefits similar to those provided under this Booklet; or
    iii. benefits similar to the benefits provided under this Booklet are provided for or are available to you pursuant to or in accordance with the requirements of any state or federal law (e.g., COBRA, Medicaid); and

b) the benefits provided under the sources referred to in paragraph 4.a.i or the benefits provided or available under the source referred to in paragraph 4.a.ii. and 4.a.iii. above, together with the benefits provided by our converted policy would result in over insurance in accordance with our over insurance standards, as determined by us.

Neither Monroe County BOCC nor BCBSF has any obligation to notify you of this conversion privilege when your coverage terminates or at any other time. It is your sole responsibility to exercise this conversion privilege by submitting a BCBSF converted policy application and the initial premium payment to us within 63 days of the termination of your coverage under this Benefit Booklet. The converted policy may be issued without evidence of insurability and shall be effective the day following the day your coverage under this Benefit Booklet is terminated.

Note: Our converted policies are not a continuation of coverage under COBRA or any other states' similar laws. Coverage and benefits provided under a converted policy will not be identical to the coverage and benefits provided under this Booklet. When applying for our converted policy, you have two options: 1) a converted policy providing major medical coverage meeting the requirements of 627.6675(10) Florida Statutes or 2) a converted policy providing coverage and benefits identical to the coverage and benefits required to be provided under a small employer standard health benefit plan pursuant to Section 627.6699(12) Florida Statutes. In any event, we will not be required to issue a converted policy unless required to do so by Florida law. We may have other options available to you. Call the telephone number on your Identification card for more information.

Section 14: Extension of Benefits

Extension of Benefits and Continuity of Care

Continuity of Coverage and Care Upon Termination of a Group Policy Under Federal Law

Plans are required to ensure continuing care patients receive timely notification of changes in the network status of Providers and facilities.

Federal law (42 U.S. Code § 300gg–113) provides for continuity of Services for enrollees of health plans when there is a termination of a contract between a group and the group's insurer. These protections extend to individuals defined as a "Continuing Care Patient" and include patients who are undergoing a course of treatment for:

1. a serious or complex Condition,
    a) in the case of an acute illness, a Condition that is serious enough to require specialized medical treatment to avoid the reasonable possibility of death or permanent harm, or
    b) in the case of a chronic illness or Condition, a Condition that:
        i. is life-threatening, degenerative, potentially disabling, or congenital; and
        ii. requires specialized medical care over a prolonged period of time.
2. institutional or inpatient care;
3. a scheduled non-elective surgery including postoperative care;
4. pregnancy; or
5. a terminal illness.

Such patients will have up to 90 days of continued coverage at the In-Network Cost Share to allow for a transition of care to an In-Network Provider.

Continuity of Coverage and Care Upon Termination of a Group Policy Under State Law

In the event the Group Health Plan is terminated, coverage will not be provided under this Benefit Booklet for any Service rendered on or after the termination date. The extension of benefits provisions described below only apply when the entire Group Health Plan is terminated. The extension of benefits described in this section does not apply when your coverage terminates, if the Group Health Plan remains in effect. The extension of benefits provisions are subject to all of the other provisions, including the limitations and exclusions.

Note: It is your sole responsibility to provide acceptable documentation showing that you are entitled to an extension of benefits.

1. In the event you are totally disabled on the termination date of the Group Health Plan as a result of a specific Accident or illness incurred while you were covered under this Booklet, as determined by us, a limited extension of benefits will be provided under this Benefit Booklet for the disabled individual only. This extension of benefits is for Covered Services necessary to treat the disabling Condition only. This extension of benefits will only continue as long as the disability is continuous and uninterrupted. In any event, this extension of benefits will automatically terminate at the end of the 12-month period beginning on the termination date of the Group Health Plan.

    Note: For purposes of this section, you will be considered "totally disabled" only if, in our opinion, you are unable to work at any gainful job for which you are suited by education, training, or experience, and you require regular care and attendance by a Physician. You are totally disabled only if, in our

opinion, you are unable to perform those normal day-to-day activities which you would otherwise perform and you require regular care and attendance by a Physician.

2. In the event you are receiving covered dental treatment as of the termination date of the Group Health Plan, a limited extension of such covered dental treatment will be provided under this Benefit Booklet if:

   a) a course of dental treatment or dental procedures were recommended in writing and commenced in accordance with the terms specified herein while you were covered under the Group Health Plan;

   b) the dental procedures were procedures for other than routine examinations, prophylaxis, x-rays, sealants, or orthodontic Services; and

   c) the dental procedures were performed within 90 days after the Group Health Plan terminated.

   Note: This extension of benefits is for Covered Services necessary to complete the dental treatment only. This extension of benefits will automatically terminate at the end of the 90-day period beginning on the termination date of the Group Health Plan or on the date you become covered under a succeeding insurance, health maintenance organization or self-insured plan providing coverage or Services for similar dental procedures. You are not required to be totally disabled in order to be eligible for this extension of benefits.

   Please refer to the “Dental Care” category of the “What Is Covered?” section for a description of the dental care Services covered under this Booklet.

3. In the event you are pregnant as of the termination date of the Group Health Plan, a limited extension of the maternity expense benefits will be available, provided the pregnancy commenced while the pregnant individual was covered under the Group Health Plan, as determined by us. This extension of benefits is for Covered Services necessary to treat the pregnancy only. This extension of benefits will automatically terminate on the date of the birth of the child. You are not required to be totally disabled in order to be eligible for this extension of benefits.

Section 15: The Effect of Medicare Coverage/Medicare Secondary Payer Provisions

When you become covered under Medicare and continue to be eligible and covered under this Benefit Booklet, coverage under this Benefit Booklet will be primary and the Medicare benefits will be secondary, but only to the extent required by law. In all other instances, coverage under this Benefit Booklet will be secondary to any Medicare benefits. To the extent the benefits under this Benefit Booklet are primary, claims for Covered Services should be filed with BCBSF first.

Under Medicare, Monroe County BOCC MAY NOT offer, subsidize, procure or provide a Medicare supplement policy to you . Also, Monroe County BOCC MAY NOT induce you to decline or terminate your group health insurance coverage and elect Medicare as primary payer.

If you become 65 or become eligible for Medicare due to End Stage Renal Disease ("ESRD"), you must notify Monroe County BOCC.

Individuals With End Stage Renal Disease

If you are entitled to Medicare coverage because of ESRD, coverage under this Benefit Booklet will be provided on a primary basis for 30 months beginning with the earlier of:

1. the month in which you became entitled to Medicare Part A ESRD benefits; or
2. the first month in which you would have been entitled to Medicare Part A ESRD benefits if a timely application had been made.

If Medicare was primary prior to the time you became eligible due to ESRD, then Medicare will remain primary (i.e., persons entitled due to disability whose employer has less than 100 employees, retirees and/or their spouses over the age of 65). Also, if group health insurance coverage was primary prior to ESRD entitlement, then the group health insurance coverage will remain primary for the ESRD coordination period. If you become eligible for Medicare due to ESRD, coverage will be provided, as described in this section, on a primary basis for 30 months.

Disabled Active Individuals

If you are entitled to Medicare coverage because of a disability other than ESRD, Medicare benefits will be secondary to the benefits provided under this Benefit Booklet provided that:

Monroe County BOCC employed at least 100 or more full-time or part-time employees on 50% or more of its regular business days during the previous Calendar Year. If the Group Health Plan is a multi-employer plan, as defined by Medicare, Medicare benefits will be secondary if at least one employer participating in the plan covered 100 or more employees under the plan on 50% or more of its regular business days during the previous Calendar Year.

Miscellaneous

1. This section shall be subject to, modified (if necessary) to conform to or comply with, and interpreted with reference to the requirements of federal statutory and regulatory Medicare Secondary Payer provisions as those provisions relate to Medicare beneficiaries who are covered under this Benefit Booklet.
2. BCBSF will not be liable to Monroe County BOCC or to any individual covered under this Benefit Booklet on account of any nonpayment of primary benefits resulting from any failure of performance of Monroe County BOCC's obligations as described in this section.

Section 16: Duplication of Coverage Under Other Health Plans/Programs

Coordination of Benefits

Coordination of Benefits ("COB") is a limitation of coverage and/or benefits to be provided under this Benefit Booklet.

COB determines the manner in which expenses will be paid when you are covered under more than one health plan, program, or policy providing benefits for Health Care Services. COB is designed to avoid the costly duplication of payment for Covered Services. It is your responsibility to provide BCBSF and Monroe County BOCC with information concerning any duplication of coverage under any other health plan, program, or policy you or your Covered Dependents may have. This means you must notify BCBSF and Monroe County BOCC in writing if you have other applicable coverage or if there is no other coverage. You may be requested to provide this information at initial enrollment, by written correspondence annually thereafter, or in connection with a specific Health Care Service you receive. If the information is not received, claims may be denied and you will be responsible for payment of any expenses related to denied claims.

Health plans, programs or policies which may be subject to COB include, but are not limited to, the following which will be referred to as "plan(s)" for purposes of this section:

1. any group or non-group health insurance, group-type self-insurance, or HMO plan;
2. any group plan issued by any Blue Cross and/or Blue Shield organization(s);
3. any other plan, program or insurance policy, including an automobile PIP insurance policy and/or medical payment coverage in which the law permits us to coordinate benefits;
4. Medicare, as described in "The Effect of Medicare Coverage/Medicare Secondary Payer Provisions" section; and
5. to the extent permitted by law, any other government sponsored health insurance program.

The amount of our payment, if any, when benefits are coordinated under this section, is based on whether or not the benefits under this Benefit Booklet are primary. When primary, payment will be made for Covered Services without regard to coverage under other plans. When the benefits under this Benefit Booklet are not primary, payment for Covered Services may be reduced so that total benefits under all your plans will not exceed 100 percent of the total reasonable expenses actually incurred for Covered Services. For purposes of this section, in the event you receive Covered Services from a NetworkBlue Provider or an Out-of-Network Provider who participates in our Traditional Program, "total reasonable expenses" shall mean the amount required to be paid to the Provider pursuant to the applicable agreement BCBSF has with such Provider. **In the event that the primary payer's payment exceeds the Allowed Amount, no payment will be made for such Services.**

The following rules shall be used to establish the order in which benefits under the respective plans will be determined:

1. This plan always pays secondary to any medical payment, personal injury protection (PIP) coverage or no-fault coverage under any automobile policy available to you.
2. When this Plan covers you as a Covered Dependent and the other plan covers you as other than a dependent, we will be secondary.
3. When this Plan covers you as a dependent child and your parents are married (not separated or divorced):

a) the plan of the parent whose birthday, month and day, falls earlier in the year will be primary;

b) if both parents have the same birthday, month and day, and the other plan has covered one of the parents longer than us, we will be secondary.

4. When this Plan covers a dependent child whose parents are not married, or are separated or divorced:

   a) the plan of the parent with custody is primary;

   b) the plan of the remarried parent with custody is primary; the step-parent's plan is secondary regardless of whether the re-married parent is the employee or a dependent under the step-parent's plan; and

   c) the plan of the parent without custody is last;

   d) regardless of which parent has custody, when a court decree specifies the parent who is financially responsible for the child's health care expenses, the plan of that parent is always primary.

5. When an employee or the employee's dependent and you are covered under a plan that covers you as a laid off or retired employee or as the employee's dependent and the other plan covers you as a dependent:

   a) the plan that covers you by virtue of active employment, e.g. as the dependent spouse of an active employee, is primary;

   b) if the other plan is not subject to this rule, and if, as a result, such plan does not agree on the order of benefits, this paragraph shall not apply.

6. If you have continuation of coverage under COBRA or Florida Health Insurance Coverage Continuation Act (FHICCA or mini COBRA), and also under another group plan, the following order of benefits applies:

   a) first, the plan covering the person as an employee, or as the employee's dependent; and

   b) second, the coverage purchased under the plan covering the person as a former employee, or as the former employee's dependent provided according to the provisions of COBRA or FHICCA.

7. When rules 1 through 6 above do not establish an order of benefits, the plan which has covered the Covered Person the longest shall be primary.

8. If the other plan does not have rules that establish the same order of benefits as under this Booklet, the benefits under the other plan will be determined primary to the benefits under this Booklet.

We will not coordinate benefits against an indemnity-type policy, an excess insurance policy, a policy with coverage limited to specified illnesses or accidents, or a Medicare Supplement policy.

Non-Duplication of Government Programs and Workers' Compensation

The benefits under this Booklet shall not duplicate any benefits to which you or your Covered Dependents are entitled or eligible for under government programs (e.g., Medicare, Medicaid, Veterans Administration) or Workers' Compensation to the extent allowed by law, or under any extension of benefits of coverage under a prior plan or program which may be provided or required by law.

Section 17: Claims Processing

Introduction

This section is intended to:

- help you understand what you or your treating Providers must do, under the terms of this Benefit Booklet, in order to obtain payment for expenses for Covered Services they have rendered or will render to you; and
- provide you with a general description of the applicable procedures we will use for making Adverse Benefit Determinations, Concurrent Care Decisions and for notifying you when we deny benefits.

If your Group Plan is subject to the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA), your plan administrator is solely responsible for complying with ERISA. While the benefit determination timeliness standards set forth in this section are generally consistent with ERISA, we are not legally responsible for notifying you of any rights you may have under ERISA. If you are not sure of your rights under ERISA, you should contact your plan administrator or an attorney of your choice. We will follow the claim determination procedures and notice requirements set forth in this section even if your Group Plan is not subject to ERISA.

Under no circumstances will we be held responsible for, nor will we accept liability relating to, the failure of your Group Plan's sponsor or plan administrator to: 1) comply with ERISA's disclosure requirements; 2) provide you with a Summary Plan Description (SPD) as that term is defined by ERISA; or 3) comply with any other legal requirements. You should contact your plan sponsor or administrator if you have questions relating to your Group Plan's SPD. We are not your Group Plan's sponsor or plan administrator. In most cases, a plan's sponsor or plan administrator is the employer who establishes and maintains the plan.

Types of Claims

For purposes of this Benefit Booklet, there are three types of claims: 1) Pre-Service Claims; 2) Post-Service Claims; and 3) Claims Involving Urgent Care. It is important that you become familiar with the types of claims that can be submitted to us and the timeframes and other requirements that apply.

Post-Service Claims

How to File a Post-Service Claim

We have defined in this Benefit Booklet and described the three types of claims that may be submitted to us. Our experience shows that the most common type of claim we will receive from you or your treating Providers will likely be Post-Service Claims.

In-Network Providers have agreed to file Post- Service Claims for Services they render to you. In the event a Provider who renders Services to you does not file a Post-Service Claim for such Services, it is your responsibility to file it with us.

We must receive a Post-Service Claim within 90 days of the date the Health Care Service was rendered or, if it was not reasonably possible to file within such 90-day period, as soon as possible. In any event, no Post-Service Claim will be considered for payment if we do not receive it at the address indicated on your Identification Card within one year of the date the Service was rendered unless you were legally incapacitated.

For Post-Service Claims, we must receive an itemized statement from the health care Provider for the Service rendered along with a completed claim form. The itemized statement must contain the following information:

1. the date the Service was provided;
2. a description of the Service including any applicable procedure code(s);
3. the amount actually charged by the Provider;
4. the diagnosis including any applicable diagnosis code(s);
5. the Provider's name and address;
6. the name of the individual who received the Service; and
7. the Covered Plan Participant's name and contract number as they appear on the Identification Card.

The itemized statement and claim form must be received by us at the address indicated on your Identification Card.

Note: If your Group Plan has retail pharmacy prescription drug coverage, please refer to the Pharmacy Program Endorsement for information on the processing of prescription drug claims. Further, special claims processing rules may apply for Health Care Services you receive outside the state of Florida under the BlueCard Program (See the "BlueCard Program" section of this Booklet).

The Processing of Post-Service Claims

We will use our best efforts to pay, contest, or deny all Post-Service Claims for which we have all of the necessary information, as determined by us. Post-Service Claims will be paid, contested, or denied within the timeframes described below.

- Payment for Post-Service Claims

When payment is due under the terms of this Benefit Booklet, we will use our best efforts to pay (in whole or in part) for electronically submitted Post-Service Claims within 20 days of receipt. Likewise, we will use our best efforts to pay (in whole or in part) for paper Post-Service Claims within 40 days of receipt, however all claims subject to the No Surprises Act will be paid or denied within 30 days as stated in the Surprise Billing subsection of the UNDERSTANDING YOUR SHARE OF HEALTH CARE EXPENSES section of this Booklet. You may receive notice of payment for paper claims within 30 days of receipt. If we are unable to determine whether the claim or a portion of the claim is payable because we need more or additional information, we may contest the claim within the timeframes set forth below.

- Contested Post-Service Claims

In the event we contest an electronically submitted Post-Service Claim, or a portion of such a claim, we will use our best efforts to provide notice, within 20 days of receipt, that the claim or a portion of the claim is contested. In the event we contest a Post-Service Claim submitted on a paper claim form, or a portion of such a claim, we will use our best efforts to provide notice, within 30 days of receipt, that the claim or a portion of the claim is contested. Our notice may identify: 1) the contested portion or portions of the claim; 2) the reason(s) for contesting the claim or a portion of the claim; and 3) the date that we reasonably expect to notify you of the decision. The notice may also indicate whether additional information is needed in order to complete processing of the claim. If we request additional information, we must receive it within 45 days of our request for the information. **If we do not receive the requested information, the claim or a portion of the claim will be adjudicated based on the information in our possession at the time and may be denied.** Upon receipt of the requested information, we will use our best efforts to complete the processing of the Post-Service Claim within 15 days of receipt of the information.

- Denial of Post-Service Claims

In the event we deny a Post-Service Claim submitted electronically, we will use our best efforts to provide notice, within 20 days of receipt, that the claim or a portion of the claim is denied. In the event we deny a paper Post-Service Claim, we will use our best efforts to provide notice, within 30 days of receipt, that the claim or a portion of the claim is denied. The notice may identify the denied portion(s) of the claim and the reason(s) for denial. It is your responsibility to ensure that we receive all information determined by us as necessary to adjudicate a Post-Service Claim. **If we do not receive the necessary information, the claim or a portion of the claim may be denied.**

A Post-Service Claim denial is an Adverse Benefit Determination and is subject to the Adverse Benefit Determination standards and appeal procedures described in this section.

Additional Processing Information for Post-Service Claims

In any event, we will use our best efforts to pay or deny all: 1) electronic Post-Service Claims within 90 days of receipt of the completed claim; and 2) Post-Service paper claims within 120 days of receipt of the completed claim. Claims processing shall be deemed to have been completed as of the date the notice of the claims decision is deposited in the mail by us or otherwise electronically transmitted. Any claims payment relating to a Post-Service Claim that is not made by us within the applicable timeframe is subject to the payment of simple interest at the rate established by the Florida Insurance Code. If ERISA does not apply to the Group Health Plan, any claims payment relating to a Post-Service Claim that is not made within the applicable timeframe may be subject to the payment of simple interest at the rate established by the Florida Insurance Code.

We will investigate any allegation of improper billing by a Provider upon receipt of written notification from you. If we determine that you were billed for a Service that was not actually performed, any payment amount will be adjusted and, if applicable, a refund will be requested. In such a case, if payment to the Provider is reduced due solely to the notification from you, the Plan will pay you 20 percent of the amount of the reduction, up to a total of $500.

Pre-Service Claims

How to File a Pre-Service Claim

This Benefit Booklet may condition coverage, benefits, or payment (in whole or in part), for a specific Covered Service, on the receipt by us of a Pre-Service Claim as that term is defined herein. In order to determine whether we must receive a Pre-Service Claim for a particular Covered Service, please refer to the “What Is Covered?” section and other applicable sections of your Benefit Booklet. You may also call the customer service number on your Identification card for assistance.

We are not required to render an opinion or make a coverage or benefit determination with respect to a Service that has not actually been provided to you unless the terms of this Benefit Booklet require (or condition payment upon) approval by us for the Service before it is received.

Benefit Determinations on Pre-Service Claims Involving Urgent Care

For a Pre-Service Claim Involving Urgent Care, we will use our best efforts to provide notice of our determination (whether adverse or not) as soon as possible, but not later than 72 hours after receipt of the Pre-Service Claim unless additional information is required for a coverage decision. If additional information is necessary to make a determination, we will use our best efforts to provide notice within 24 hours of: 1) the need for additional information; 2) the specific information that you or your Provider may need to provide; and 3) the date that we reasonably expect to provide notice of the decision. If we request additional information, we must receive it within 48 hours of our request. We will use our best efforts to provide notice of the decision on your Pre-Service Claim within 48 hours after the earlier of: 1) receipt of the requested information; or 2) the end of the period you were afforded to provide the specified additional information as described above.

Benefit Determinations on Pre-Service Claims that Do Not Involve Urgent Care

We will use our best efforts to provide notice of a decision on a Pre-Service Claim not involving urgent care within 15 days of receipt provided additional information is not required for a coverage decision. This 15-day determination period may be extended by us one time for up to an additional 15 days. If such an extension is necessary, we will use our best efforts to provide notice of the extension and reasons for it. We will use our best efforts to provide notification of the decision on your Pre-Service claim within a total of 30 days of the initial receipt of the claim, if an extension of time was taken by us.

If additional information is necessary to make a determination, we will use our best efforts to: 1) provide notice of the need for additional information, prior to the expiration of the initial 15-day period; 2) identify the specific information that you or your Provider may need to provide; and 3) inform you of the date that we reasonably expect to notify you of our decision. If we request additional information, we must receive it within 45 days of our request for the information. We will use our best efforts to provide notification of the decision on your Pre-Service Claim within 15 days of receipt of the requested information.

A Pre-Service Claim denial is an Adverse Benefit Determination and is subject to the Adverse Benefit Determination standards and appeal procedures described in this section.

Concurrent Care Decisions

Reduction or Termination of Coverage or Benefits for Services

A reduction or termination of coverage or benefits for Services will be considered an Adverse Benefit Determination when:

- we have approved in writing coverage or benefits for an ongoing course of Services to be provided over a period of time or a number of Services to be rendered; and
- the reduction or termination occurs before the end of such previously approved time or number of Services; and
- the reduction or termination of coverage or benefits by us was not due to an amendment of this Benefit Booklet or termination of your coverage as provided by this Benefit Booklet.

We will use our best efforts to notify you of such reduction or termination in advance so that you will have a reasonable amount of time to have the reduction or termination reviewed in accordance with the Adverse Benefit Determination standards and procedures described below. In no event shall we be required to provide more than a reasonable period of time within which you may develop your appeal before we actually terminate or reduce coverage for the Services.

Requests for Extension of Services

Your Provider may request an extension of coverage or benefits for a Service beyond the approved period of time or number of approved Services. If the request for an extension is for a Claim Involving Urgent Care, we will use our best efforts to notify you of the approval or denial of such requested extension within 24 hours after receipt of your request, provided it is received at least 24 hours prior to the expiration of the previously approved number or length of coverage for such Services. We will use our best efforts to notify you within 24 hours if: 1) we need additional information; or 2) you or your representative failed to follow proper procedures in your request for an extension. If we request additional information, you will have 48 hours to provide the requested information. We may notify you orally or in writing, unless you or your representative specifically request that it be in writing. A denial of a request for extension of Services is considered an Adverse Benefit Determination and is subject to the Adverse Benefit Determination review procedure below.

Standards for Adverse Benefit Determinations

Manner and Content of a Notification of an Adverse Benefit Determination:

We will use our best efforts to provide notice of any Adverse Benefit Determination in writing. Notification of an Adverse Benefit Determination will include (or will be made available to you free of charge upon request):

1. the date the Service or supply was provided;
2. the Provider's name;
3. the dollar amount of the claim, if applicable;
4. the diagnosis codes included on the claim (e.g., ICD-9, DSM-IV), including a description of such codes;
5. the standardized procedure code included on the claim (e.g., Current Procedural Terminology), including a description of such codes;
6. the specific reason or reasons for the Adverse Benefit Determination, including any applicable denial code;
7. a description of the specific Benefit Booklet provisions upon which the Adverse Benefit Determination is based, as well as any internal rule, guideline, protocol, or other similar criterion that was relied upon in making the Adverse Benefit Determination;
8. a description of any additional information that might change the determination and why that information is necessary;
9. a description of the Adverse Benefit Determination review procedures and the time limits applicable to such procedures; and
10. if the Adverse Benefit Determination is based on the Medical Necessity or Experimental or Investigational limitations and exclusions, a statement telling you how to obtain the specific explanation of the scientific or clinical judgment for the determination.

If the claim is a Claim Involving Urgent Care, we may notify you orally within the proper timeframes, provided we follow-up with a written or electronic notification meeting the requirements of this subsection no later than three days after the oral notification.

How to Appeal an Adverse Benefit Determination

Except as described below, only you, or a representative designated by you in writing, have the right to appeal an Adverse Benefit Determination. An appeal of an Adverse Benefit Determination will be reviewed using the review process described below. Your appeal must be submitted to us in writing for an internal appeal within 365 days of the original Adverse Benefit Determination, except in the case of Concurrent Care Decisions which may, depending upon the circumstances, require you to file within a shorter period of time from notice of the denial. The following guidelines are applicable to reviews of Adverse Benefit Determinations:

1. You must cooperate fully with us in our effort to promptly review and resolve an appeal. In the event you do not fully cooperate with us, you will be deemed to have waived your right to have the appeal processed within the time frames set forth in this section.
2. You, or a Provider or a person acting on your behalf, must specifically request an expedited review. The expedited appeal process only applies to Pre-Service Claims or requests for extension of concurrent care Services made within 24 hours before the authorization for such Services expires. An expedited appeal will not be accepted for an Adverse Benefit Determination on a Post-Service Claim.
3. We must receive your appeal of an Adverse Benefit Determination in person or in writing.

4. You may review pertinent documents, upon request and free of charge, such as any internal rule, guideline, protocol, or similar criterion relied upon to make the determination, and submit issues or comments in writing.
5. If any new or additional information is received from anyone other than you, a copy must be provided to you free of charge and as soon as possible and sufficiently in advance of the date on which the final adverse notice is to be provided to give you a reasonable opportunity to respond prior to that date.
6. If the Adverse Benefit Determination is based on the lack of Medical Necessity of a particular Service or the Experimental or Investigational exclusion, you may request an explanation of the scientific or clinical judgment relied upon, if any, for the determination, that applies the terms of the Booklet to your medical circumstances. This information is provided free of charge.
7. During the review process, the Services in question will be reviewed without regard to the decision reached in the initial determination.
8. We may consult with appropriate Physicians in the same or similar specialty as typically manages the Condition, procedure, or treatment under review, as necessary.
9. Any independent medical consultant who reviews your Adverse Benefit Determination on our behalf will be identified upon request.
10. If the claim is a Claim Involving Urgent Care, you may request an expedited review orally or in writing in which case all necessary information on review may be transmitted between you and us by telephone, facsimile or other available expeditious method.
11. If your request for expedited review arises out of a concurrent review determination by us that a continued hospitalization is not Medically Necessary, coverage for the hospitalization will continue until you have been notified of the determination.
12. We will review the appeal and may make a decision based on medical records, additional information and input from health care professionals in the same or similar specialty as typically manages the Condition, procedure or treatment under review.
13. We will advise you of all appeal decisions in writing, as outlined in the Timing of Our Appeal Review on Adverse Benefit Determinations subsection.
14. If you wish to give someone else permission to appeal an Adverse Benefit Determination on your behalf, we must receive a completed Appointment of Representative form signed by you indicating the name of the person who will represent you with respect to the appeal. An Appointment of Representative form is not required if your Physician is appealing an Adverse Benefit Determination relating to a Claim Involving Urgent Care. Appointment of Representative forms are available at www.floridablue.com or by calling the number on your ID card.
15. If you are not satisfied with our decision, you have the right to an independent external review through an external review organization for certain appeals, as described in the How to Request External Review of Our Appeal Decision subsection below.

Appeals must be sent to the address below:

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Florida
Attention: Member Appeals
P.O. Box 44197
Jacksonville, Florida 32231-4197

Timing of Our Appeal Review on Adverse Benefit Determinations

We will use our best efforts to review your appeal of an Adverse Benefit Determination and communicate the decision in accordance with the following time frames:

- Pre-Service Claims: within 30 days of the receipt of your appeal; or
- Post-Service Claims: within 60 days of the receipt of your appeal; or
- Claims Involving Urgent Care (and requests to extend concurrent care Services made within 24 hours prior to the termination of the Services): within 72 hours of receipt of your request. If additional information is necessary we will notify you within 24 hours and we must receive the requested additional information within 48 hours of our request. After we receive the additional information, we will have an additional 48 hours to make a final determination.

Note: The nature of a claim for Services (i.e. whether it is "urgent care" or not) is judged as of the time of the benefit determination on review, not as of the time the Service was initially reviewed or provided.

Exhaustion of Internal Appeals Process

Generally, you must complete all appeal processes outlined in this Benefit Booklet before you can obtain independent external review or bring an action in litigation. However, if we do not strictly adhere to all claim determination and appeal requirements under applicable federal law, you are considered to have exhausted our appeal requirements ("Deemed Exhaustion") and may proceed with independent external review unless a minor exception applies. Minor exceptions are allowed when failure to adhere was non-prejudicial; attributable to good cause or matters beyond our control; in the context of on-going good-faith exchange of information; and not reflective of a pattern or practice of non-compliance.

External Review

You have a right to independent external review if we have denied your request for payment of a claim (in whole or in part) in the following circumstances:

1. Our decision involves a medical judgment, including, but not limited to, a decision based on Medical Necessity, appropriateness, health care setting, level of care or effectiveness of the Health Care Service or treatment you requested or a determination that the treatment is Experimental or Investigational;
2. Whether or not a Covered Service is subject to the federal No Surprises Act (H.R. 133, P.L. 116-260); and/or
3. The calculation of your Cost Sharing associated with a Covered Service that is subject to the federal No Surprises Act (H.R. 133, P.L. 116-260).

Your request will be reviewed by an independent third party with clinical and legal expertise ("External Reviewer") who has no association with us. If you have any questions or concerns during the external review process, please contact us at the phone number listed on your ID card or visit www.floridablue.com. You may submit additional written comments to External Reviewer. A letter with the mailing address will be sent to you when you file an external review. Please note that if you provide any additional information during the external review process it will be shared with us in order to give us the opportunity to reconsider the denial. Submit your request in writing on the External Review Request form within four months after receipt of your denial to the below address:

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Florida
Attention: Member External Reviews DCC9-5
Post Office Box 44197
Jacksonville, FL 32231-4197

If you have a medical Condition where the timeframe for completion of a standard external review would seriously jeopardize your life, health or ability to regain maximum function, you may file a request for an expedited external review. Generally, an urgent situation is one in which your health may be in serious jeopardy, or in the opinion of your Physician, you may experience pain that cannot be adequately controlled while you wait for a decision on the external review of your claim. Moreover expedited external reviews may be requested for an admission, availability of care, continued stay or Health Care Service for which you received Emergency Services, but have not been discharged from a facility. Please be sure your treating Physician completes the appropriate form to initiate this request type. If you have any questions or concerns during the external review process, please contact us at the phone number listed on your ID card or visit www.floridablue.com. You may submit additional written comments to the External Reviewer. A letter with the mailing address will be sent to you when you file an external review. Please note that if you provide any additional information during the external review process it will be shared with us in order to give us the opportunity to reconsider the denial. If you believe your situation is urgent, you may request an expedited review by sending your request to the address above or by fax to 904-565-6637.

If the External Reviewer decides to overturn our decision, coverage or payment will be provided for your health care item or Service.

You or someone you name to act for you may file a request for external review. To appoint someone to act on your behalf, please complete an Appointment of Representative form.

You are entitled to receive, upon written request and free of charge, reasonable access to, and copies of all documents relevant to your appeal including a copy of the actual benefit provision, guideline protocol or other similar criterion on which the appeal decision was based.

You may request and we will provide the diagnosis and treatment codes, as well as their corresponding meanings, applicable to this notice, if available.

Additional Claims Processing Provisions

1. Release of Information/Cooperation:

   In order to process claims, we may need certain information, including information regarding other health care coverage you may have. You must cooperate with us in our effort to obtain such information by, among other ways, signing any release of information form at our request. Failure by you to fully cooperate with us may result in a denial of the pending claim and we will have no liability for such claim.

2. Physical Examination:

   In order to make coverage and benefit decisions, we may, at our expense, require you to be examined by a health care Provider of our choice as often as is reasonably necessary while a claim is pending. Failure by you to fully cooperate with such examination shall result in a denial of the pending claim and we shall have no liability for such claim.

3. Legal Actions:

   No legal action arising out of or in connection with coverage under this Benefit Booklet may be brought against BCBSF or Monroe County BOCC within the 60-day period following our receipt of the completed claim as required herein. Additionally, no such action may be brought after expiration of the applicable statute of limitations.

4. Fraud, Misrepresentation or Omission in Applying for Benefits:

   The information provided on the itemized statement and the claim form is relied upon by BCBSF when processing a claim. All such information, therefore, must be accurate, truthful and complete. Any fraudulent statement, omission or concealment of facts, misrepresentation, or incorrect

information may result, in addition to any other available legal remedy, in denial of the claim or cancellation or rescission of your coverage.

5. Explanation of Benefits Form:

   All claims decisions, including denial and claims review decisions, will be communicated to you in writing either on an explanation of benefits form or some other written correspondence. This form may indicate:

   a) The specific reason or reasons for the Adverse Benefit Determination;

   b) Reference to the specific Benefit Booklet provisions upon which the Adverse Benefit Determination is based as well as any internal rule, guideline, protocol, or other similar criterion that was relied upon in making the Adverse Benefit Determination;

   c) A description of any additional information that would change the initial determination and why that information is necessary;

   d) A description of the applicable Adverse Benefit Determination review procedures and the time limits applicable to such procedures; and

   e) If the Adverse Benefit Determination is based on the Medical Necessity or Experimental or Investigational limitations and exclusions, a statement telling you how you can obtain the specific explanation of the scientific or clinical judgment for the determination.

6. Circumstances Beyond Our Control:

   To the extent that natural disaster, war, riot, civil insurrection, epidemic, or other emergency or similar event not within our control, results in facilities, personnel or our financial resources being unable to process claims for Covered Services, we will have no liability or obligation for any delay in the payment of claims for Covered Services, except that we will make a good faith effort to make payment for such Services, taking into account the impact of the event. For purposes of this paragraph, an event is not within our control if we cannot effectively exercise influence or dominion over its occurrence or non-occurrence.

Section 18: Relationships Between the Parties

BCBSF/Monroe County BOCC and Health Care Providers

Neither BCBSF nor Monroe County BOCC nor any of their respective officers, directors or employees provides Health Care Services to you. Rather, BCBSF and Monroe County BOCC are engaged in making coverage and benefit decisions under this Booklet. By accepting the Group health care coverage and benefits, you agree that making such coverage and benefit decisions does not constitute the rendering of Health Care Services and that health care Providers rendering those Services are not employees or agents of BCBSF or Monroe County BOCC. **In this regard, we and Monroe County BOCC hereby expressly disclaim any agency relationship, actual or implied, with any health care Provider.** BCBSF and Monroe County BOCC do not, by virtue of making coverage, benefit, and payment decisions, exercise any control or direction over the medical judgment or clinical decisions of any health care Provider. Any decisions made under the Group Health Plan concerning appropriateness of setting, or whether any Service is Medically Necessary, shall be deemed to be made solely for purposes of determining whether such Services are covered, and not for purposes of recommending any treatment or non-treatment. Neither BCBSF nor Monroe County BOCC will assume liability for any loss or damage arising as a result of acts or omissions of any health care Provider.

BCBSF and Monroe County BOCC

Neither Monroe County BOCC nor any person covered under this Booklet is BCBSF's agent or representative, and neither shall be liable for any acts or omissions by BCBSF's agents, servants, employees, or us. Additionally, neither BCBSF nor Monroe County BOCC will be liable, whether in tort or contract or otherwise, for any acts or omissions of any other person or organization with which we have made or hereafter make arrangements for the provision of Covered Services. BCBSF is not your agent, servant, or representative nor is BCBSF an agent, servant, or representative of Monroe County BOCC and we will not be liable for any acts or omissions, or those of Monroe County BOCC, its agents, servants, employees, or any person or organization with which Monroe County BOCC has entered into any agreement or arrangement. By acceptance of coverage and benefits hereunder, you agree to the foregoing.

Medical Treatment Decisions - Responsibility of Your Physician, Not BCBSF

Any and all decisions that require or pertain to independent professional medical judgment or training, or the need for medical Services or supplies, must be made solely by your family and your treating Physician in accordance with the patient/physician relationship. It is possible that you or your treating Physician may conclude that a particular procedure is needed, appropriate, or desirable, even though such procedure may not be covered.

Section 19: General Provisions

Access to Information

BCBSF and Monroe County BOCC have the right to receive, from you and any health care Provider rendering Services to you, information that is reasonably necessary, as determined by BCBSF and Monroe County BOCC, in order to administer the coverage and benefits provided, subject to all applicable confidentiality requirements listed below. By accepting coverage, you authorize every health care Provider who renders Services to you, to disclose to BCBSF and Monroe County BOCC or to entities affiliated with us, upon request, all facts, records, and reports pertaining to your care, treatment, and physical or mental Condition, and to permit BCBSF and/or Monroe County BOCC to copy any such records and reports so obtained.

Right to Receive Necessary Information

In order to administer coverage and benefits, BCBSF or Monroe County BOCC may, without the consent of, or notice to, any person, plan, or organization, obtain from any person, plan, or organization any information with respect to any person covered under this Booklet or applicant for enrollment which BCBSF or Monroe County BOCC deems to be necessary.

Right to Recovery

Whenever the Group Health Plan has made payments in excess of the maximum provided for under this Booklet, BCBSF or Monroe County BOCC will have the right to recover any such payments, to the extent of such excess, from you or any person, plan, or other organization that received such payments.

Compliance with State and Federal Laws and Regulations

The terms of coverage and benefits to be provided under this Benefit Booklet shall be deemed to have been modified and shall be interpreted, so as to comply with applicable state or federal laws and regulations dealing with benefits, eligibility, enrollment, termination, or other rights and duties.

Confidentiality

Except as otherwise specifically provided herein, and except as may be required in order for us to administer coverage and benefits, specific medical information concerning you, received by Providers, shall be kept confidential by us in conformity with applicable law. Such information may be disclosed to third parties for use in connection with bona fide medical research and education, or as reasonably necessary in connection with the administration of coverage and benefits, specifically including our quality assurance and Blueprint for Health Programs. Additionally, we may disclose such information to entities affiliated with us or other persons or entities we utilize to assist in providing coverage, benefits or Services under this Booklet. Further, any documents or information which are properly subpoenaed in a judicial proceeding, or by order of a regulatory agency, shall not be subject to this provision.

BCBSF's arrangements with a Provider may require that we release certain claims and medical information about persons covered under this Booklet to that Provider even if treatment has not been sought by or through that Provider. By accepting coverage, you hereby authorize us to release to Providers claims information, including related medical information, pertaining to you in order for any such Provider to evaluate your financial responsibility under this Booklet.

Evidence of Coverage

You have been provided with this Benefit Booklet and an Identification Card as evidence of coverage under Monroe County BOCC's Group Health Plan.

Modification of Provider Network and the Participation Status

NetworkBlue, and the participation status of individual Providers available under this Booklet, are subject to change at any time by BCBSF without prior notice to you or your approval or that of Monroe County BOCC. Additionally, BCBSF may, at any time, terminate or modify the terms of any Provider contract and may enter into additional Provider contracts without prior notice to you or your approval, or that of, Monroe County BOCC. It is your responsibility to determine whether a health care Provider is an In-Network Provider at the time the Health Care Service is rendered. Under this Booklet, your financial responsibility may vary depending upon a Provider's participation status.

Cooperation Required of You and Your Covered Dependents

You must cooperate with BCBSF and Monroe County BOCC, and must execute and submit to us any consents, releases, assignments, and other documents requested in order to administer, and exercise our rights hereunder. Failure to do so may result in the denial of claims and will constitute grounds for termination for cause (See the "Termination of an Individual's Coverage for Cause" subsection in the "Termination of Coverage" section).

Non-Waiver of Defaults

Any failure by BCBSF or Monroe County BOCC at any time, or from time to time, to enforce or to require the strict adherence to any of the terms or conditions described herein, will in no event constitute a waiver of any such terms or conditions. Further, it will not affect BCBSF's or Monroe County BOCC's right at any time to enforce any terms or conditions under this Benefit Booklet.

Notices

Any notice required or permitted hereunder will be deemed given if hand delivered or if mailed by United States Mail, postage prepaid, and addressed as listed below. Such notice will be deemed effective as of the date delivered or so deposited in the mail.

If to BCBSF:

To the address printed on the Identification Card.

If to you:

To the latest address provided by you or to your latest address on Enrollment Forms actually delivered to us.

You must notify us immediately of any address change.

If to Monroe County BOCC:

To the address indicated by Monroe County BOCC.

Our Obligations upon Termination

Upon termination of your coverage for any reason, there will be no further liability or responsibility to you under the Group Health Plan, except as specifically described herein.

Promissory Estoppel

No oral statements, representations, or understanding by any person can change, alter, delete, add, or otherwise modify the express written terms of this Booklet.

Florida Agency for Health Care Administration Performance Data

The performance outcome and financial data published by the Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA), pursuant to Florida Statute 408.05, or any successor statute, located at the web site address www.floridahealthfinder.gov, may be accessed through the link provided on the Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Florida corporate web site at www.floridablue.com.

Subrogation and Right of Recovery

The provisions of this section apply to all current or former plan participants and also to the parents, guardian, or other representative of a dependent child who incurs claims and is or has been covered by the plan. The plan's right to recover (whether by subrogation or reimbursement) shall apply to the personal representative of your estate, your decedents, minors, and incompetent or disabled persons. "You" or "your" includes anyone on whose behalf the plan pays benefits. No adult Covered Person hereunder may assign any rights that it may have to recover medical expenses from any tortfeasor or other person or entity to any minor child or children of said adult covered person without the prior express written consent of the Plan.

The plan's right of subrogation or reimbursement, as set forth below, extend to all insurance coverage available to you due to an injury, illness or condition for which the plan has paid medical claims (including, but not limited to, liability coverage, uninsured motorist coverage, underinsured motorist coverage, personal umbrella coverage, medical payments coverage, workers compensation coverage, no fault automobile coverage or any first party insurance coverage).

Your health plan is always secondary to automobile no-fault coverage, personal injury protection coverage, or medical payments coverage.

No disbursement of any settlement proceeds or other recovery funds from any insurance coverage or other source will be made until the health plan's subrogation and reimbursement interest are fully satisfied.

Subrogation

The right of subrogation means the plan is entitled to pursue any claims that you may have in order to recover the benefits paid by the plan. Immediately upon paying or providing any benefit under the plan, the plan shall be subrogated to (stand in the place of) all of your rights of recovery with respect to any claim or potential claim against any party, due to an injury, illness or condition to the full extent of benefits provided or to be provided by the Plan. The Plan may assert a claim or file suit in your name and take appropriate action to assert its subrogation claim, with or without your consent. The plan is not required to pay you part of any recovery it may obtain, even if it files suit in your name.

Reimbursement

If you receive any payment as a result of an injury, illness or condition, you agree to reimburse the plan first from such payment for all amounts the plan has paid and will pay as a result of that injury, illness or condition, up to and including the full amount of your recovery.

Constructive Trust

By accepting benefits (whether the payment of such benefits is made to you or made on your behalf to any provider) you agree that if you receive any payment as a result of an injury, illness or condition, you will serve as a constructive trustee over those funds. Failure to hold such funds in trust will be deemed a breach of your fiduciary duty to the plan. No disbursement of any settlement proceeds or other recovery funds from any insurance coverage or other source will be made until the health plan's subrogation and reimbursement interest are fully satisfied.

Lien Rights

Further, the plan will automatically have a lien to the extent of benefits paid by the plan for the treatment of the illness, injury or condition upon any recovery whether by settlement, judgment or otherwise, related to treatment for any illness, injury or condition for which the plan paid benefits. The lien may be enforced against any party who possesses funds or proceeds representing the amount of benefits paid by the plan including, but not limited to, you, your representative or agent, and/or any other source that possessed or will possess funds representing the amount of benefits paid by the plan.

Assignment

In order to secure the plan's recovery rights, you agree to assign to the plan any benefits or claims or rights of recovery you have under any automobile policy or other coverage, to the full extent of the plan's subrogation and reimbursement claims. This assignment allows the plan to pursue any claim you may have, whether or not you choose to pursue the claim.

First-Priority Claim

By accepting benefits from the plan, you acknowledge that the plan's recovery rights are a first priority claim and are to be repaid to the plan before you receive any recovery for your damages. The plan shall be entitled to full reimbursement on a first-dollar basis from any payments, even if such payment to the plan will result in a recovery which is insufficient to make you whole or to compensate you in part or in whole for the damages sustained. The plan is not required to participate in or pay your court costs or attorney fees to any attorney you hire to pursue your damage claim.

Applicability to All Settlements and Judgments

The terms of this entire subrogation and right of recovery provision shall apply and the plan is entitled to full recovery regardless of whether any liability for payment is admitted and regardless of whether the settlement or judgment identifies the medical benefits the plan provided or purports to allocate any portion of such settlement or judgment to payment of expenses other than medical expenses. The plan is entitled to recover from any and all settlements or judgments, even those designated as pain and suffering, non-economic damages and/or general damages only. The plan's claim will not be reduced due to your own negligence.

Cooperation

You agree to cooperate fully with the plan's efforts to recover benefits paid. It is your duty to notify the plan 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 your injury, illness or condition. You and your agents agree to provide the plan or its representative's notice of any recovery you or your agents obtain prior to receipt of such recovery funds or within 5 days if no notice was given prior to receipt. Further, you and your agents agree to provide notice prior to any disbursement of settlement or any other recovery funds obtained. You and your agents shall provide all information requested by the plan, the Claims Administrator or its representative including, but not limited to, completing and submitting any applications or other forms or statements as the plan may reasonably request and all documents related to or filed in personal injury litigation. Failure

to provide this information, failure to assist the plan in pursuit of its subrogation rights or failure to reimburse the plan from any settlement or recovery you receive may result in the denial of any future benefit payments or claim until the plan is reimbursed in full, termination of your health benefits or the institution of court proceedings against you.

You shall do nothing to prejudice the plan's subrogation or recovery interest or prejudice the plan's ability to enforce the terms of this plan provision. This includes, but is not limited to, refraining from making any settlement or recovery that attempts to reduce or exclude the full cost of all benefits provided by the plan or disbursement of any settlement proceeds or other recovery prior to fully satisfying the health plan's subrogation and reimbursement interest.

You acknowledge that the plan has the right to conduct an investigation regarding the injury, illness or condition to identify potential sources of recovery. The plan reserves the right to notify all parties and his/her agents of its lien. Agents include, but are not limited to, insurance companies and attorneys.

You acknowledge that the plan has notified you that it has the right pursuant to the Health Insurance Portability & Accountability Act ("HIPAA"), 42 U.S.C. Section 1301 et seq, to share your personal health information in exercising its subrogation and reimbursement rights.

Interpretation

In the event that any claim is made that any part of this subrogation and right of recovery provision is ambiguous or questions arise concerning the meaning or intent of any of its terms, the Claims Administrator for the plan shall have the sole authority and discretion to resolve all disputes regarding the interpretation of this provision.

Jurisdiction

By accepting benefits from the Plan, you agree that any court proceeding with respect to this provision may be brought in any court of competent jurisdiction as the plan may elect. By accepting such benefits, you hereby submit to each such jurisdiction, waiving whatever rights may correspond by reason of your present or future domicile. By accepting such benefits, you also agree to pay all attorneys' fees the plan incurs in successful attempts to recover amounts the plan is entitled to under this section.

Third Party Beneficiary

The terms and provisions of the Group Health Plan shall be binding solely upon, and inure solely to the benefit of, Monroe County BOCC and individuals covered under the terms of this Benefit Booklet, and no other person shall have any rights, interest or claims thereunder, or under this Benefit Booklet, or be entitled to sue for a breach thereof as a third-party beneficiary or otherwise. Monroe County BOCC hereby specifically expresses its intent that health care Providers that have not entered into contracts with BCBSF to participate in BCBSF's Provider networks shall not be third-party beneficiaries under the terms of the Monroe County BOCC Group Health Plan or this Benefit Booklet.

Customer Rewards Program

From time to time, we may offer programs to you that reward you for following the terms of the program. This includes shared savings incentive programs as defined under Florida law. We will tell you about any available rewards programs in general mailings, newsletters and/or on our website. Your participation in these programs is always completely voluntary and will in no way affect the coverage available to you under this Booklet. We reserve the right to offer rewards in excess of $100 per year as well as the right to discontinue or modify any reward program features or promotional offers at any time without your consent.

Your Rights and Responsibilities

We are committed to providing quality health care coverage at a reasonable cost while maintaining your dignity and integrity. Consistent with our commitment and recognizing that In-Network Providers are independent contractors and not our agents, the following statement of your Rights and Responsibilities has been adopted.

Rights

1. To be provided with information about our services, coverage and benefits, the In-Network Providers delivering care and members' rights and responsibilities.
2. To receive medical care and treatment from In-Network Providers who have met our credentialing standards.
3. To expect In-Network Providers to:
    a) discuss appropriate or Medically Necessary treatment options for your Condition, reguardless of cost or benefit coverage;
    b) permit you to participate in the major decisions about your health care, consistent with legal, ethical, and relevant patient-Provider relationship requirements.
    c) advise whether your medical care or treatment is part of a research experiment, and to give you the opportunity to refuse any experimental treatments; and
    d) inform you about any medications you are told to take, how to take them, and their possible side effects.
4. To expect courteous service from us and considerate care from our In-Network Providers with respect and concern for your dignity and privacy.
5. To voice your complaints and/or appeal unfavorable medical or administrative decisions by following the established appeal procedures found in this Booklet.
6. To inform In-Network Providers that you refuse treatment, and to expect them to honor your decision, if you choose to accept the responsibility and the consequences of your decision. In the event, members are encouraged (but not required) to:
    a) complete an advance directive, such as a living will and provide it to In-Network Providers; and
    b) have someone help make decisions, or to give another person the legal responsibility to make decisions about medical care on a member's behalf.
7. To have access to your medical records, and to be assured that the confidentiality of your medical records is maintained, in accordance with applicable law.
8. To call or write to us any time with helpful comments, questions and observations whether concerning something you like about our plan or something you feel is a problem area. You also may make recommendations regarding our rights and responsibilities policies. Please call the phone number on your ID Card or write to us at the address on your ID Card.

Responsibilities

1. To cooperate with anyone providing your care and treatment.
2. To be respectful of the rights, property, comfort, environment and privacy of other patients and not be disruptive.
3. To take responsibility for understanding your health problems and participate in developing mutually agreed upon treatment goals, to the extent possible, then following the plans and instructions about your care and to ask questions if you do not understand or need an explanation.

4. To provide accurate and complete information concerning your health problems and medical history and to answer all questions truthfully and completely.
5. To pay your Cost Share amounts and be financially responsible for non-covered Services and to provide current information concerning your coverage status to any In-Network Provider.
6. To follow the process for filing an appeal about medical or administrative decisions that you feel were made in error.
7. To request your medical records in accordance with our rules and procedures and in accordance with applicable law.
8. To review information regarding Covered Services, policies and procedures as stated in this Booklet.

Section 20: Definitions

The following definitions are used in this Benefit Booklet. Other definitions may be found in the particular section or subsection where they are used.

Accident means an unintentional, unexpected event, other than the acute onset of a bodily infirmity or disease, which results in traumatic injury. This term does not include injuries caused by surgery or treatment for disease or illness.

Accidental Dental Injury means an injury to sound natural teeth (not previously compromised by decay) caused by a sudden, unintentional, and unexpected event or force. This term does not include injuries to the mouth, structures within the oral cavity, or injuries to natural teeth caused by biting or chewing, surgery, or treatment for a disease or illness.

Administrative Services Only Agreement or **ASO Agreement** means an agreement between Monroe County BOCC and BCBSF. Under the Administrative Services Only Agreement, BCBSF provides claims processing and payment services, customer service, utilization review services and access to BCBSF's NetworkBlue and BCBSF's network of Traditional Insurance Providers.

Adverse Benefit Determination means any denial, reduction or termination of coverage, benefits, or payment (in whole or in part) under the Benefit Booklet with respect to a Pre-Service Claim or a Post-Service Claim. Any reduction or termination of coverage, benefits, or payment in connection with a Concurrent Care Decision, as described in the Claims Processing section, shall also constitute an Adverse Benefit Determination.

Allowed Amount means the maximum amount upon which payment will be based for Covered Services. The Allowed Amount may be changed at any time without notice to you or your consent.

1. In the case of an In-Network Provider located in Florida, this amount will be established in accordance with the applicable agreement between that Provider and BCBSF.
2. In the case of an In-Network Provider located outside of Florida, this amount will generally be established in accordance with the negotiated price that the on-site Blue Cross and/or Blue Shield Plan ("Host Blue") passes on to us, except when the Host Blue is unable to pass on its negotiated price due to the terms of its Provider contracts. See the "BlueCard Program" section for more details.
3. In the case of Out-of-Network Providers located in Florida who participate in the Traditional Program, this amount will be established in accordance with the applicable agreement between that Provider and BCBSF.
4. In the case of Out-of-Network Providers located outside of Florida who participate in the BlueCard Traditional Program, this amount will generally be established in accordance with the negotiated price that the Host Blue passes on to us, except when the Host Blue is unable to pass on its negotiated price due to the terms of its Provider contracts. See the "BlueCard Program" section for more details.
5. In the case of an Out-of-Network Provider that has not entered into an agreement with BCBSF to provide access to a discount from the billed amount of that Provider for the specific Covered Services provided to you, the Allowed Amount will be the lesser of that Provider's actual billed amount for the specific Covered Services or an amount established by BCBSF that may be based on several factors including (but not necessarily limited to): (i) payment for such Services under the Medicare and/or Medicaid programs; (ii) payment often accepted for such Services by that Out-of-Network Provider and/or by other Providers, either in Florida or in other comparable market(s), that BCBSF determines are comparable to the Out-of-Network Provider that provided the specific Covered Services (which may include payment accepted by such Out-of-Network Provider and/or by other Providers as participating providers in other provider networks of third-party payers which may include, for example, other insurance companies and/or health maintenance organizations); (iii) payment amounts which are consistent, as determined by BCBSF, with BCBSF's provider network strategies

(e.g., does not result in payment that encourages Providers participating in a BCBSF network to become non-participating); and/or, (iv) the cost of providing the specific Covered Services. In the case of an Out-of-Network Provider that has not entered into an agreement with another Blue Cross and/or Blue Shield organization to provide access to discounts from the billed amount for the specific Covered Services under the BlueCard Program, the Allowed Amount for the specific Covered Services provided to you may be based upon the amount provided to BCBSF by the other Blue Cross and/or Blue Shield organization where the Services were provided at the amount such organization would pay non-participating Providers in its geographic area for such Services.

6. In the case of Covered Services rendered by an Out-of-Network Provider where the Services are subject to either the federal No Surprises Act (H.R. 133, P.L. 116-260) or 627.64194(4) F.S., then the allowed amount will be calculated in accordance with the applicable statute. For clarity, if the Provider is located in Florida and 627.64194(4) F.S. applies, then the allowed amount calculated under 5. above is presumed to meet the requirements 627.64194(4) F.S.

If a particular Covered Service is not available from any provider that is in NetworkBlue, as determined by us, the Allowed Amount, whenever Florida Statute §627.6471 applies, means the usual and customary charge(s) of similar Providers in a geographical area established by us.

You may obtain an estimate of the Allowed Amount for particular Services by calling the customer service telephone number included in this Booklet or on your Identification Card. The fact that we may provide you with such information does not mean that the particular Service is a Covered Service. All terms and conditions included in your Booklet apply. You should refer to the "What Is Covered?" section of your Booklet and the Schedule of Benefits to determine what is covered and how much will be paid.

Please specifically note that, in the case of an Out-of-Network Provider that has not entered into an agreement with BCBSF to provide access to a discount from the billed amount of that Provider, the Allowed Amount for particular Services is often substantially below the amount billed by such Out-of-Network Provider for such Services. You will be responsible for any difference between such Allowed Amount and the amount billed for such Services by any such Out-of-Network Provider.

Ambulance means a ground or water vehicle, airplane or helicopter properly licensed pursuant to Chapter 401 of the Florida Statutes, or a similar applicable law in another state.

Ambulatory Surgical Center means a facility properly licensed pursuant to Chapter 395 of the Florida Statutes, or a similar applicable law of another state, the primary purpose of which is to provide elective surgical care to a patient, admitted to, and discharged from such facility within the same working day.

Applied Behavior Analysis means the design, implementation and evaluation of environmental modifications, using behavioral stimuli and consequences to produce socially significant improvement in human behavior, including, but not limited to, the use of direct observation, measurement and functional analysis of the relations between environment and behavior.

Approved Clinical Trial means a phase I, phase II, phase III, or phase IV clinical trial that is conducted in relation to the prevention, detection, or treatment of cancer or other Life-Threatening Disease or Condition and meets one of the following criteria:

1. The study or investigation is approved or funded by one or more of the following:
   a) The National Institutes of Health.
   b) The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.
   c) The Agency for Health Care Research and Quality.
   d) The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.
   e) cooperative group or center of any of the entities described in clauses (a) through (d) or the Department of Defense or the Department of Veterans Affairs.

f) A qualified non-governmental research entity identified in the guidelines issued by the National Institutes of Health for center support grants.

g) Any of the following if the conditions described in paragraph (2) are met:

i. The Department of Veterans Affairs.

ii. The Department of Defense.

iii. The Department of Energy.

2. The study or investigation is conducted under an investigational new drug application reviewed by the Food and Drug Administration.

3. The study or investigation is a drug trial that is exempt from having such an investigational new drug application.

For a study or investigation conducted by a Department the study or investigation must be reviewed and approved through a system of peer review that the Secretary determines: (1) to be comparable to the system of peer review of studies and investigations used by the National Institutes of Health, and (2) assures unbiased review of the highest scientific standards by qualified individuals who have no interest in the outcome of the review.

For purposes of this definition, the term “Life-Threatening Disease or Condition” means any disease or condition from which the likelihood of death is probable unless the course of the disease or condition is interrupted.

Artificial Insemination (AI) means a medical procedure in which sperm is placed into the female reproductive tract by a qualified health care provider for the purpose of producing a pregnancy.

Autism Spectrum Disorder means any of the following disorders as defined in the diagnostic categories of the International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Edition, Clinical Modification (ICD-9 CM), or their equivalents in the most recently published version of the American Psychiatric Association's Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders:

1. Autistic disorder;

2. Asperger's syndrome;

3. Pervasive developmental disorder not otherwise specified; and

4. Childhood Disintegrative Disorder.

Benefit Period means a consecutive period of time, specified by BCBSF and the Group, in which benefits accumulate toward the satisfaction of Deductibles, out-of-pocket maximums and any applicable benefit maximums. Your Benefit Period is listed on your Schedule of Benefits, and will not be less than 12 months unless indicated as such.

Birth Center means a facility or institution, other than a Hospital or Ambulatory Surgical Center, which is properly licensed pursuant to Chapter 383 of the Florida Statutes, or a similar applicable law of another state, in which births are planned to occur away from the mother’s usual residence following a normal, uncomplicated, low-risk pregnancy.

BlueCard® Program means a national Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association program available through Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Florida, Inc. Subject to any applicable BlueCard® Program rules and protocols, you may have access to the Provider discounts of other participating Blue Cross and/or Blue Shield plans.

BlueCard PPO Program means a national Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association program available through Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Florida, Inc. Subject to any applicable BlueCard Program rules and protocols, you may have access to the BlueCard PPO Program discounts of other participating Blue Cross and/or Blue Shield plans.

BlueCard Traditional Program means a national Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association program available through Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Florida, Inc. Subject to any applicable BlueCard Program rules and protocols, you may have access to the BlueCard Traditional Program discounts of other participating Blue Cross and/or Blue Shield plans.

BlueCard PPO Program Provider means a Provider designated as a BlueCard PPO Program Provider by the Host Blue.

BlueCard Traditional Program Provider means a Provider designated as a BlueCard Traditional Program Provider by the Host Blue.

Bone Marrow Transplant means human blood precursor cells administered to a patient to restore normal hematological and immunological functions following ablative or non-ablative therapy with curative or life-prolonging intent. Human blood precursor cells may be obtained from the patient in an autologous transplant, or an allogeneic transplant from a medically acceptable related or unrelated donor, and may be derived from bone marrow, the circulating blood, or a combination of bone marrow and circulating blood. If chemotherapy is an integral part of the treatment involving bone marrow transplantation, the term "Bone Marrow Transplant" includes the transplantation as well as the administration of chemotherapy and the chemotherapy drugs. The term "Bone Marrow Transplant" also includes any Services or supplies relating to any treatment or therapy involving the use of high dose or intensive dose chemotherapy and human blood precursor cells and includes any and all Hospital, Physician or other health care Provider Health Care Services which are rendered in order to treat the effects of, or complications arising from, the use of high dose or intensive dose chemotherapy or human blood precursor cells (e.g., Hospital room and board and ancillary Services).

Calendar Year begins January 1st and ends December 31st.

Cardiac Therapy means Health Care Services provided under the supervision of a Physician, or an appropriate Provider trained for Cardiac Therapy, for the purpose of aiding in the restoration of normal heart function in connection with a myocardial infarction, coronary occlusion or coronary bypass surgery.

Care Coordination means organized, information-driven patient care activities intended to facilitate the appropriate responses to a Covered Person's health care needs across the continuum of care.

Care Coordinator Fee means a fixed amount paid by a Blue Cross and/or Blue Shield Licensee to Providers periodically for Care Coordination under a Value-Based Program.

Certified Nurse Midwife means a person who is properly licensed pursuant to Chapter 467 of the Florida Statutes, or similar applicable laws of another state, as an advanced practice registered nurse and who is certified to practice midwifery by the American College of Nurse Midwives.

Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist means a person who is a properly licensed nurse who is a certified advanced practice registered nurse within the nurse anesthetist category pursuant to Chapter 464 of the Florida Statutes, or similar applicable laws of another state.

Claim Involving Urgent Care means any request or application for coverage or benefits for medical care or treatment that has not yet been provided to you with respect to which the application of time periods for making non-urgent care benefit determinations: (1) could seriously jeopardize your life or health or your ability to regain maximum function; or (2) in the opinion of a Physician with knowledge of your Condition, would subject you to severe pain that cannot be adequately managed without the proposed Services being rendered.

Coinsurance means your share of health care expenses for Covered Services. After your Deductible requirement is met, a percentage of the Allowed Amount will be paid for Covered Services, as listed in the Schedule of Benefits. The percentage you are responsible for is your Coinsurance.

Concurrent Care Decision means a decision by us to deny, reduce, or terminate coverage, benefits, or payment (in whole or in part) with respect to a course of treatment to be provided over a period of time, or a specific number of treatments, if we had previously approved or authorized in writing coverage, benefits, or payment for that course of treatment or number of treatments.

As defined herein, a Concurrent Care Decision shall not include any decision to deny, reduce, or terminate coverage, benefits, or payment under the personal case management program as described in the "Blueprint for Health Programs" section of the Benefit Booklet.

Condition means a disease, illness, ailment, injury, or pregnancy.

Continuing Care Patient means a patient who is undergoing a course of treatment for:

1. a serious or complex Condition:
    a) in the case of an acute illness, a Condition that is serious enough to require specialized medical treatment to avoid the reasonable possibility of death or permanent harm, or
    b) in the case of a chronic illness or Condition, a Condition that:
        i. is life-threatening, degenerative, potentially disabling, or congenital; and
        ii. requires specialized medical care over a prolonged period of time.
2. institutional or inpatient care;
3. a scheduled non-elective surgery including postoperative care;
4. pregnancy; or
5. a terminal illness.

Convenience Kits are prepackaged kits which may contain not only medication(s), but also non-Drug items including, but not limited to, alcohol prep pads, cotton balls, band aids, disposable sterile medical gloves, povidone-iodine swabs, adhesive bandages and gauze. We may provide coverage for the medication(s), but not other items included in the kit.

Convenient Care Center means a properly licensed ambulatory center that: (1) treats a limited number of common, low-intensity illnesses when ready-access to the patient's primary Physician is not possible; (2) shares clinical information about the treatment with the patient's primary Physician; (3) is usually housed in a retail business; and (4) is staffed by at least one master's level advanced practice registered nurse (APRN) who operates under a set of clinical protocols that strictly limit the Conditions the APRN can treat. Although no Physician is present at the convenient care center, medical oversight is based on a written collaborative agreement between a supervising Physician and the APRN.

Copayment means the dollar amount established solely by Monroe County BOCC which is required to be paid to a health care Provider by you at the time certain Covered Services are rendered by that Provider.

Cost Share means the dollar or percentage amount established solely by us, which must be paid to a health care Provider by you at the time Covered Services are rendered by that Provider. Cost Share may include, but is not limited to Coinsurance, Copayment, Deductible and/or Per Admission Deductible (PAD) amounts. Applicable Cost Share amounts are identified in your Schedule of Benefits.

Covered Dependent means an Eligible Dependent who meets and continues to meet all applicable eligibility requirements and who is enrolled, and actually covered, under the Group Health Plan other than as a Covered Plan Participant (See the “Eligibility Requirements for Dependent(s)” subsection of the “Eligibility for Coverage” section).

Covered Person means a Covered Plan Participant or a Covered Dependent.

Covered Plan Participant means an Eligible Employee or other individual who meets and continues to meet all applicable eligibility requirements and who is enrolled, and actually covered, under this Benefit Booklet other than as a Covered Dependent.

Covered Services means those Health Care Services which meet the criteria listed in the “What Is Covered?” section.

Custodial or **Custodial Care** means care that serves to assist an individual in the activities of daily living, such as assistance in walking, getting in and out of bed, bathing, dressing, feeding, and using the toilet, preparation of special diets, and supervision of medication that usually can be self-administered. Custodial Care essentially is personal care that does not require the continuing attention of trained medical or paramedical personnel. In determining whether a person is receiving Custodial Care, consideration is given to the frequency, intensity and level of care and medical supervision required and furnished. A determination that care received is Custodial is not based on the patient's diagnosis, type of Condition, degree of functional limitation, or rehabilitation potential.

Deductible means the amount of charges, up to the Allowed Amount, for Covered Services which you must actually pay to an appropriate licensed health care Provider, who is recognized for payment under this Booklet, before payment for Covered Services begins.

Detoxification means a process whereby an alcohol or drug intoxicated, or alcohol or drug dependent, individual is assisted through the period of time necessary to eliminate, by metabolic or other means, the intoxicating alcohol or drug, alcohol or drug dependent factors or alcohol in combination with drugs as determined by a licensed Physician or Psychologist, while keeping the physiological risk to the individual at a minimum.

Diabetes Educator means a person who is properly certified pursuant to Florida law, or a similar applicable law of another state, to supervise diabetes outpatient self-management training and educational services.

Dialysis Center means an outpatient facility certified by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMMS) and the Florida Agency for Health Care Administration or a similar regulatory agency of another state to provide hemodialysis and peritoneal dialysis Services and support.

Dietitian means a person who is properly licensed pursuant to Florida law or a similar applicable law of another state to provide nutrition counseling for diabetes outpatient self-management Services and appropriate behavioral health Conditions covered under this plan.

Domestic Partner means a person of the same or opposite gender with whom the Covered Plan Participant has established a Domestic Partnership.

Domestic Partnership means a relationship between a Covered Plan Participant and one other person of the same or opposite gender who meet, at a minimum, the following eligibility requirements:

1. both individuals are each other's sole Domestic Partner and intend to remain so indefinitely;
2. individuals are not related by blood to a degree of closeness (e.g., siblings) that would prohibit legal marriage in the state in which they legally reside;

3. both individuals are unmarried, at least 18 years of age, and are mentally competent to consent to the Domestic Partnership;
4. both individuals are financially interdependent and have resided together continuously in the same residence for at least six months prior to applying for coverage under the Group Health Plan and intend to continue to reside together indefinitely;
5. the Covered Plan Participant has submitted acceptable proof of evidence of common residence and joint financial responsibility to the Group; and
6. the Covered Plan Participant has completed and submitted any required forms to the Group and the Group has determined the Domestic Partnership eligibility requirements have been met.

Down Syndrome means a chromosomal disorder caused by an error in cell division which results in the presence of an extra whole or partial copy of chromosome 21.

Durable Medical Equipment means equipment furnished by a supplier or a Home Health Agency that: 1) can withstand repeated use; 2) is primarily and customarily used to serve a medical purpose; 3) is not for comfort or convenience; 4) generally is not useful to an individual in the absence of a Condition; and 5) is appropriate for use in the home.

Durable Medical Equipment Provider means a person or entity that is properly licensed, if applicable, under Florida law or a similar applicable law of another state to provide home medical equipment, oxygen therapy Services, or dialysis supplies in the patient's home under a Physician's prescription.

Effective Date means, with respect to Monroe County BOCC, 12:01 a.m. on the date the ASO Agreement went into effect. With respect to individuals covered under this Benefit Booklet, 12:01 a.m. on the date Monroe County BOCC specifies that the coverage will commence as further described in the "Enrollment and Effective Date of Coverage" section of this Benefit Booklet.

Eligible Dependent means an individual who meets and continues to meet all of the eligibility requirements described in the Eligibility Requirements for Dependent(s) subsection of the Eligibility for Coverage section in this Benefit Booklet, and is eligible to enroll as a Covered Dependent.

Eligible Employee means an individual who meets and continues to meet all of the eligibility requirements described in the "Eligibility Requirements for Covered Plan Participants" subsection of the "Eligibility for Coverage" section in this Benefit Booklet and is eligible to enroll as a Covered Plan Participant. Any individual who is an Eligible Employee is not a Covered Plan Participant until such individual has actually enrolled with, and been accepted for coverage as a Covered Plan Participant by Monroe County BOCC.

Emergency Medical Condition means a medical or psychiatric Condition or an injury manifesting itself by acute symptoms of sufficient severity (including severe pain) such that a prudent layperson, who possesses an average knowledge of health and medicine, could reasonably expect the absence of immediate medical attention to result in a condition described in clause (i), (ii), or (iii) of Section 1867(e)(1)(A) of the Social Security Act.

Emergency Services means, with respect to an Emergency Medical Condition:

1. a medical screening examination (as required under Section 1867 of the Social Security Act) that is within the capability of the emergency department of a Hospital, including ancillary Services routinely available to the emergency department to evaluate such Emergency Medical Condition;
2. within the capabilities of the staff and facilities available at the Hospital, such further medical examination and treatment as are required under Section 1867 of such Act to Stabilize the patient; and

3. items and Services that are furnished by an Out-of-Network Provider or Out-of-Network emergency facility (regardless of the department of the Hospital in which such items or Services are furnished) after the patient is stabilized and as part of the outpatient observation or an inpatient or outpatient stay with respect to the visit in which the medical screening examination Services described in number 1 are furnished.

Endorsement means an amendment to the Group Health Plan or this Benefit Booklet.

Enrollment Date means the date of enrollment of the individual under the Group Health Plan or, if earlier, the first day of the Waiting Period of such enrollment.

Enrollment Forms means those forms, electronic (where available) or paper, which are used to maintain accurate enrollment files under this Benefit Booklet.

Experimental or **Investigational** means any evaluation, treatment, therapy, or device which involves the application, administration or use of procedures, techniques, equipment, supplies, products, remedies, vaccines, biological products, drugs, pharmaceuticals, or chemical compounds if, as determined solely by BCBSF or Monroe County BOCC:

1. such evaluation, treatment, therapy, or device cannot be lawfully marketed without approval of the United States Food and Drug Administration or the Florida Department of Health and approval for marketing has not, in fact, been given at the time such is furnished to you; or
2. such evaluation, treatment, therapy, or device is provided pursuant to a written protocol which describes as among its objectives the following: determinations of safety, efficacy, or efficacy in comparison to the standard evaluation, treatment, therapy, or device; or
3. such evaluation, treatment, therapy, or device is delivered or should be delivered subject to the approval and supervision of an institutional review board or other entity as required and defined by federal regulations; or
4. credible scientific evidence shows that such evaluation, treatment, therapy, or device is the subject of an ongoing Phase I or II clinical investigation, or the experimental or research arm of a Phase III clinical investigation, or under study to determine: maximum tolerated dosage(s), toxicity, safety, efficacy, or efficacy as compared with the standard means for treatment or diagnosis of the Condition in question; or
5. credible scientific evidence shows that the consensus of opinion among experts is that further studies, research, or clinical investigations are necessary to determine: maximum tolerated dosage(s), toxicity, safety, efficacy, or efficacy as compared with the standard means for treatment or diagnosis of the Condition in question; or
6. credible scientific evidence shows that such evaluation, treatment, therapy, or device has not been proven safe and effective for treatment of the Condition in question, as evidenced in the most recently published Medical Literature in the United States, Canada, or Great Britain, using generally accepted scientific, medical, or public health methodologies or statistical practices; or
7. there is no consensus among practicing Physicians that the treatment, therapy, or device is safe and effective for the Condition in question; or
8. such evaluation, treatment, therapy, or device is not the standard treatment, therapy, or device utilized by practicing Physicians in treating other patients with the same or similar Condition.

"Credible scientific evidence" shall mean (as determined by BCBSF or Monroe County BOCC):

1. records maintained by Physicians or Hospitals rendering care or treatment to you or other patients with the same or similar Condition;
2. reports, articles, or written assessments in authoritative medical and scientific literature published in the United States, Canada, or Great Britain;

3. published reports, articles, or other literature of the United States Department of Health and Human Services or the United States Public Health Service, including any of the National Institutes of Health, or the United States Office of Technology Assessment;
4. the written protocol or protocols relied upon by the treating Physician or institution or the protocols of another Physician or institution studying substantially the same evaluation, treatment, therapy, or device;
5. the written informed consent used by the treating Physician or institution or by another Physician or institution studying substantially the same evaluation, treatment, therapy, or device; or
6. the records (including any reports) of any institutional review board of any institution which has reviewed the evaluation, treatment, therapy, or device for the Condition in question.

Note: Health Care Services which are determined by BCBSF or Monroe County BOCC to be Experimental or Investigational are excluded (see the "What Is Not Covered?" section). In determining whether a Health Care Service is Experimental or Investigational, BCBSF or Monroe County BOCC may also rely on the predominant opinion among experts, as expressed in the published authoritative literature, that usage of a particular evaluation, treatment, therapy, or device should be substantially confined to research settings or that further studies are necessary in order to define safety, toxicity, effectiveness, or effectiveness compared with standard alternatives.

FDA means the United States Food and Drug Administration.

Foster Child means a person who is placed in your residence and care under the Foster Care Program by the Florida Department of Health & Rehabilitative Services in compliance with Florida Statutes or by a similar regulatory agency of another state in compliance with that state's applicable laws.

Gamete Intrafallopian Transfer (GIFT) means the direct transfer of a mixture of sperm and eggs into the fallopian tube by a qualified health care provider. Fertilization takes place inside the tube.

Generally Accepted Standards of Medical Practice means standards that are based on credible scientific evidence published in peer-reviewed medical literature generally recognized by the relevant medical community, Physician Specialty Society recommendations, and the views of Physicians practicing in relevant clinical areas and any other relevant factors.

Group means the employer, labor union, trust, association, partnership, or corporation, department, other organization or entity through which coverage and benefits are provided, and through which you and your Covered Dependents become entitled to coverage and benefits for the Covered Services described herein.

Group Health Plan or **Group Plan** means the plan established and maintained by Monroe County BOCC for the provision of health care coverage and benefits to the individuals covered under this Benefit Booklet.

Health Care Services or **Services** includes treatments, therapies, devices, procedures, techniques, equipment, supplies, products, remedies, vaccines, biological products, Drugs, pharmaceuticals, chemical compounds, and other Services rendered or supplied, by or at the direction of, Providers.

Home Health Agency means a properly licensed agency or organization which provides Health Care Services in the home pursuant to Chapter 400 of the Florida Statutes, or a similar applicable law of another state.

Home Health Care or **Home Health Care Services** means Physician-directed professional, technical and related medical and personal care Services provided on an intermittent or part-time basis directly by (or indirectly through) a Home Health Agency in your home or residence. For purposes of this definition, a Hospital, Skilled Nursing Facility, nursing home or other facility will not be considered an individual's home or residence.

Hospice means a public agency or private organization which is duly licensed by the state of Florida under applicable law, or a similar applicable law of another state, to provide hospice services. In addition, such licensed entity must be principally engaged in providing pain relief, symptom management, and supportive services to terminally ill persons and their families.

Hospital means a facility properly licensed pursuant to Chapter 395 of the Florida Statutes, or a similar applicable law of another state, that: offers services which are more intensive than those required for room, board, personal services and general nursing care; offers facilities and beds for use beyond 24 hours; and regularly makes available at least clinical laboratory services, diagnostic x-ray services and treatment facilities for surgery or obstetrical care or other definitive medical treatment of similar extent.

The term Hospital does not include: an Ambulatory Surgical Center; a Skilled Nursing Facility; a stand-alone Birthing Center; a Psychiatric Facility; a Substance Abuse Facility; a convalescent, rest or nursing home; or a facility which primarily provides Custodial, educational, or Rehabilitative Therapies.

Note: If Services specifically for the treatment of a physical disability are provided in a licensed Hospital which is accredited by The Joint Commission, the American Osteopathic Association, or the Commission on the Accreditation of Rehabilitative Facilities, payment for these Services will not be denied solely because such Hospital lacks major surgical facilities and is primarily of a rehabilitative nature. Recognition of these facilities does not expand the scope of Covered Services; it only expands the setting where Covered Services can be performed for coverage purposes.

Identification Card means the card(s) issued to Covered Plan Participants. The card is not transferable to another person. Possession of such card in no way guarantees that a particular individual is eligible for, or covered under, this Benefit Booklet.

Independent Clinical Laboratory means a laboratory properly licensed pursuant to Chapter 483 of the Florida Statutes, or a similar applicable law of another state, where examinations are performed on materials or specimens taken from the human body to provide information or materials used in the diagnosis, prevention, or treatment of a Condition.

Independent Diagnostic Testing Facility means a facility, independent of a Hospital or Physician's office, which is a fixed location, a mobile entity, or an individual non-Physician practitioner where diagnostic tests are performed by a licensed Physician or by licensed, certified non-Physician personnel under appropriate Physician supervision. An Independent Diagnostic Testing Facility must be appropriately registered with the Agency for Health Care Administration and must comply with all applicable Florida law or laws of the state in which it operates. Further, such an entity must meet our criteria for eligibility as an Independent Diagnostic Testing Facility.

In-Network means, when used in reference to Covered Services, the level of benefits payable to an In-Network Provider as designated on the Schedule of Benefits under the heading “In-Network”. Otherwise, In-Network means, when used in reference to a Provider, that, at the time Covered Services are rendered, the Provider is an In-Network Provider under the terms of this Benefit Booklet.

In-Network Provider means any health care Provider who, at the time Covered Services were rendered to you, was under contract with BCBSF to participate in BCBSF’s NetworkBlue and included in the panel of providers designated by BCBSF as “In-Network” for your specific plan. (Please refer to your Schedule of Benefits). For payment purposes under this Benefit Booklet only, the term In-Network Provider also refers, when applicable, to any health care Provider located outside the state of Florida who or which, at the time Health Care Services were rendered to you, participated as a BlueCard PPO Program Provider under the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association’s BlueCard Program.

Intensive Outpatient Treatment means treatment in which an individual receives at least 3 clinical hours of institutional care per day (24-hour period) for at least 3 days a week and returns home or is not treated as an inpatient during the remainder of that 24-hour period. A Hospital shall not be considered a "home" for purposes of this definition.

In Vitro Fertilization (IVF) means a process in which an egg and sperm are combined in a laboratory dish to facilitate fertilization. If fertilized, the resulting embryo is transferred to the woman's uterus.

Licensed Practical Nurse means a person properly licensed to practice practical nursing pursuant to Chapter 464 of the Florida Statues, or a similar applicable law of another state.

Massage Therapist means a person properly licensed to practice Massage, pursuant to Chapter 480 of the Florida Statutes, or a similar applicable law of another state.

Massage or **Massage Therapy** means the manipulation of superficial tissues of the human body using the hand, foot, arm, or elbow. For purposes of this Benefit Booklet, the term Massage or Massage Therapy does not include the application or use of the following or similar techniques or items for the purpose of aiding in the manipulation of superficial tissues: hot or cold packs; hydrotherapy; colonic irrigation; thermal therapy; chemical or herbal preparations; paraffin baths; infrared light; ultraviolet light; Hubbard tank; or contrast baths.

Mastectomy means the removal of all or part of the breast for Medically Necessary reasons as determined by a Physician.

Medical Literature means scientific studies published in a United States peer-reviewed national professional journal.

Medically Necessary or **Medical Necessity** means that, with respect to a Health Care Service, a Provider, exercising prudent clinical judgment, provided, or is proposing or recommending to provide the Health Care Service to you for the purpose of preventing, evaluating, diagnosing or treating an illness, injury, disease or its symptoms, and that the Health Care Service was/is:

1. in accordance with Generally Accepted Standards of Medical Practice;
2. clinically appropriate, in terms of type, frequency, extent, site of Service, duration, and considered effective for your illness, injury, or disease or symptoms;
3. not primarily for your convenience, your family's convenience, your caregiver's convenience or that of your Physician or other health care Provider, and
4. not more costly than the same or similar Service provided by a different Provider, by way of a different method of administration, an alternative location (e.g., office vs. inpatient), and/or an alternative Service or sequence of Services at least as likely to produce equivalent therapeutic or diagnostic results as to the diagnosis or treatment of your illness, injury, disease or symptoms.

   When determining whether a Service is not more costly than the same or similar Service as referenced above, we may, but are not required to, take into consideration various factors including, but not limited to, the following:

   a) the Allowed Amount for Service at the location for the delivery of the Service versus an alternate setting;

   b) the amount we have to pay to the proposed particular Provider versus the Allowed Amount for a Service by another Provider including Providers of the same and/or different licensure and/or specialty; and/or,

   c) an analysis of the therapeutic and/or diagnostic outcomes of an alternate treatment versus the recommended or performed procedure including a comparison to no treatment. Any such analysis may include the short and/or long-term health outcomes of the recommended or performed treatment versus alternate treatments including an analysis of such outcomes as the

ability of the proposed procedure to treat comorbidities, time to disease recurrence, the likelihood of additional Services in the future, etc.

Note: The distance you have to travel to receive a Health Care Service, time off from work, overall recovery time, etc. are not factors that we are required to consider when evaluating whether or not a Health Care Service is not more costly than an alternative Service or sequence of Services.

Reviews we perform of Medical Necessity may be based on comparative effectiveness research, where available, or on evidence showing lack of superiority of a particular Service or lack of difference in outcomes with respect to a particular Service. In performing Medical Necessity reviews, we may take into consideration and use cost data which may be proprietary.

It is important to remember that any review of Medical Necessity by us is solely for the purpose of determining coverage or benefits under this Booklet and not for the purpose of recommending or providing medical care. In this respect, we may review specific medical facts or information pertaining to you. Any such review, however, is strictly for the purpose of determining, among other things, whether a Service provided or proposed meets the definition of Medical Necessity in this Benefit Booklet as determined by us. In applying the definition of Medical Necessity in this Booklet, we may apply our coverage and payment guidelines then in effect. You are free to obtain a Service even if we deny coverage because the Service is not Medically Necessary; however, you will be solely responsible for paying for the Service.

Medicare means the federal health insurance provided under Title XVIII of the Social Security Act and all amendments thereto.

Medication Guide for the purpose of this Benefit Booklet means the guide then in effect issued by us where you may find information about Specialty Drugs, Prescription Drugs that require prior coverage authorization and Self-Administered Prescription Drugs that may be covered under this plan.

Note: The Medication Guide is subject to change at any time. Please refer to our website at www.floridablue.com for the most current guide or you may call the customer service phone number on your Identification Card for current information.

Mental Health Professional means a person properly licensed to provide Mental Health Services, pursuant to Chapter 491 of the Florida Statutes, or a similar applicable law of another state. This professional may be a clinical social worker, mental health counselor or marriage and family therapist. A Mental Health Professional does not include members of any religious denomination who provide counseling Services.

Mental and Nervous Disorder means any disorder listed in the diagnostic categories of the International Classification of Disease (ICD-9 CM or ICD 10 CM), or their equivalents in the most recently published version of the American Psychiatric Association's Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, regardless of the underlying cause, or effect, of the disorder.

Midwife means a person properly licensed to practice midwifery pursuant to Chapter 467 of the Florida Statutes, or a similar applicable law of another state.

NetworkBlue means, or refers to, the preferred provider network established and so designated by BCBSF which is available to individuals covered under this Benefit Booklet. Please note that BCBSF’s Preferred Patient Care (PPC) preferred provider network is not available to individuals covered under this Benefit Booklet.

New Prescription Drug(s) means an FDA approved Prescription Drug or a new dosage form of a previously FDA approved Prescription Drug that has not yet been reviewed by our Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee (or, in the case of medical benefits, our Medical Policy Committee). Coverage for all New Prescription Drugs will be delayed until a review is completed by our Pharmacy and

Therapeutics Committee (or, in the case of medical benefits, our Medical Policy Committee), resulting in a final coverage determination. The New Prescription Drug Coverage delay begins on the date the Prescription Drug, or new dosage form, is approved by the FDA and ends on the earlier of the following dates:

1. The date the Prescription Drug is assigned to a tier by our Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee (or, in the case of medical benefits, the date our Medical Policy Committee makes a final coverage determination).

   or

2. December 31st of the following Calendar Year.

Occupational Therapist means a person properly licensed to practice Occupational Therapy pursuant to Chapter 468 of the Florida Statutes, or a similar applicable law of another state.

Occupational Therapy means a treatment that follows an illness or injury and is designed to help a patient learn to use a newly restored or previously impaired function.

Orthotic Device means any rigid or semi-rigid device needed to support a weak or deformed body part or restrict or eliminate body movement.

Out-of-Network means, when used in reference to Covered Services, the level of benefits payable to an Out-of-Network Provider as designated on the Schedule of Benefits under the heading “Out-of-Network”. Otherwise, Out-of-Network means, when used in reference to a Provider, that, at the time Covered Services are rendered, the Provider is not an In-Network Provider under the terms of this Benefit Booklet.

Out-of-Network Provider means a Provider who, at the time Health Care Services were rendered:

1. did not have a contract with us to participate in NetworkBlue but was participating in our Traditional Program; or
2. did not have a contract with a Host Blue to participate in its local PPO Program for purposes of the BlueCard PPO Program but was participating, for purposes of the BlueCard Program, as a BlueCard Traditional Program Provider; or
3. did have a contract to participate in NetworkBlue but was not included in the panel of Providers designated by us to be In-Network for your Plan; or
4. did not have a contract with us to participate in NetworkBlue or our Traditional Program; or
5. did not have a contract with a Host Blue to participate for purposes of the BlueCard Program as a BlueCard Traditional Program Provider.

Outpatient Rehabilitation Facility means an entity which renders, through providers properly licensed pursuant to Florida law or the similar law or laws of another state: outpatient Physical Therapy; outpatient Speech Therapy; outpatient Occupational Therapy; outpatient Cardiac Therapy; and outpatient Massage for the primary purpose of restoring or improving a bodily function impaired or eliminated by a Condition. Further, such an entity must meet BCBSF’s criteria for eligibility as an Outpatient Rehabilitation Facility. The term Outpatient Rehabilitation Facility, as used herein, shall not include any Hospital including a general acute care Hospital, or any separately organized unit of a Hospital, which provides comprehensive medical rehabilitation inpatient Services, or rehabilitation outpatient Services, including, but not limited to, a Class III “specialty rehabilitation hospital” described in Chapter 59A, Florida Administrative Code or the similar law or laws of another state.

Pain Management includes, but is not limited to, Services for pain assessment, medication, physical therapy, biofeedback, and/or counseling. Pain rehabilitation programs are programs featuring multidisciplinary Services directed toward helping those with chronic pain to reduce or limit their pain.

Partial Hospitalization means treatment in which an individual receives at least 6 clinical hours of institutional care per day (24-hour period) for at least 5 days per week and returns home or is not treated as an inpatient during the remainder of that 24-hour period. A Hospital shall not be considered a "home" for purposes of this definition.

Physical Therapist means a person properly licensed to practice Physical Therapy pursuant to Chapter 486 of the Florida Statutes, or a similar applicable law of another state.

Physical Therapy means the treatment of disease or injury by physical or mechanical means as defined in Chapter 486 of the Florida Statutes or a similar applicable law of another state. Such therapy may include traction, active or passive exercises, or heat therapy.

Physician means any individual who is properly licensed by the state of Florida, or a similar applicable law of another state, as a Doctor of Medicine (M.D.), Doctor of Osteopathy (D.O.), Doctor of Podiatry (D.P.M.), Doctor of Chiropractic (D.C.), Doctor of Dental Surgery or Dental Medicine (D.D.S. or D.M.D.), or Doctor of Optometry (O.D.).

Physician Assistant means a person properly licensed pursuant to Chapter 458 of the Florida Statutes, or a similar applicable law of another state.

Physician Specialty Society means a United States medical specialty society that represents diplomates certified by a board recognized by the American Board of Medical Specialties.

Post-Service Claim means any paper or electronic request or application for coverage, benefits, or payment for a Service actually provided to you (not just proposed or recommended) that is received by us on a properly completed claim form or electronic format acceptable to us in accordance with the provisions of this Benefit Booklet.

Pre-Service Claim means any request or application for coverage or benefits for a Service that has not yet been provided to you and with respect to which the terms of the Benefit Booklet condition payment for the Service (in whole or in part) on approval by us of coverage or benefits for the Service before you receive it. A Pre-Service Claim may be a Claim Involving Urgent Care. As defined herein, a Pre-Service Claim shall not include a request for a decision or opinion by us regarding coverage, benefits, or payment for a Service that has not actually been rendered to you if the terms of the Benefit Booklet do not require (or condition payment upon) approval by us of coverage or benefits for the Service before it is received.

Prescription Drug means any medicinal substance, remedy, vaccine, biological product, drug, pharmaceutical or chemical compound which can only be dispensed with a Prescription and/or which is required by state law to bear the following statement or similar statement on the label: "Caution: Federal law prohibits dispensing without a Prescription".

Preventive Services Guide means the guide then in effect issued by us that contains a listing of Preventive Health Services covered under your plan. **Note:** The Preventive Services Guide is subject to change. Please refer to our website at www.floridablue.com/healthresources for the most current guide.

Primary Care Provider or **Family Physician (PCP)** means a Provider who, at the time Covered Services are rendered, was under a primary care Provider contract with us. A primary care Provider may specialize in internal medicine, family practice, general practice, or pediatrics. Also, a gynecologist or obstetrician/ gynecologist, or APRN may elect to contract with us as a primary care Provider.

Prosthetist/Orthotist means a person or entity that is properly licensed, if applicable, under Florida law, or a similar applicable law of another state, to provide Services consisting of the design and fabrication of medical devices such as braces, splints, and artificial limbs prescribed by a Physician.

Prosthetic Device means a device which replaces all or part of a body part or an internal body organ or replaces all or part of the functions of a permanently inoperative or malfunctioning body part or organ.

Provider means any facility, person or entity recognized for payment under this Booklet.

Provider Incentive means an additional amount of compensation paid to a health care Provider by a Blue Cross and/or Blue Shield Plan, based on the Provider's compliance with agreed-upon procedural and/or outcome measures for a particular population of covered persons.

Psychiatric Facility means a facility properly licensed under Florida law, or a similar applicable law of another state, to provide for the care and treatment of Mental and Nervous Disorders. For purposes of this Booklet, a Psychiatric Facility is not a Hospital or a Substance Abuse Facility, as defined herein.

Psychologist means a person properly licensed to practice psychology pursuant to Chapter 490 of the Florida Statutes, or a similar applicable law of another state.

Registered Nurse means a person properly licensed to practice professional nursing pursuant to Chapter 464 of the Florida Statutes, or a similar applicable law of another state.

Registered Nurse First Assistant (RNFA) means a person properly licensed to perform surgical first assisting Services pursuant to Chapter 464 of the Florida Statutes or a similar applicable law of another state.

Rehabilitation Services means Services for the purpose of restoring function lost due to illness, injury or surgical procedures including but not limited to cardiac rehabilitation, pulmonary rehabilitation, Occupational Therapy, Speech Therapy, Physical Therapy and Massage Therapy.

Rehabilitative Therapies means therapies, the primary purpose of which, is to restore or improve bodily or mental functions impaired or eliminated by a Condition, and include, but are not limited to, Physical Therapy, Speech Therapy, Pain Management, pulmonary therapy or Cardiac Therapy.

Residential Treatment Facility means a facility properly licensed under Florida law or a similar applicable law of another state, to provide care and treatment of Mental and Nervous Disorders and Substance Dependency and meets all of the following requirements:

- Has Mental Health Professionals on-site 24 hours per day and 7 days per week;
- Provides access to necessary medical services 24 hours per day and 7 days per week;
- Provides access to at least weekly sessions with a behavioral health professional fully licensed for independent practice for individual psychotherapy;
- Has individualized active treatment plan directed toward the alleviation of the impairment that caused the admission;
- Provides a level of skilled intervention consistent with patient risk;
- Is not a wilderness treatment program or any such related or similar program, school and/or education service.

With regard to Substance Dependency treatment, in addition to the above, must meet the following:

- If Detoxification Services are necessary, provides access to necessary on-site medical services 24 hours per day and 7 days per week, which must be actively supervised by an attending physician;
- Ability to assess and recognize withdrawal complications that threaten life or bodily function and to obtain needed Services either on site or externally;
- Is supervised by an on-site Physician 24 hours per day and 7 days per week with evidence of close and frequent observation.

Residential Treatment Services means treatment in which an individual is admitted by a Physician overnight to a Hospital, Psychiatric Hospital or Residential Treatment Facility and receives daily face to face treatment by a Mental Health Professional for at least 8 hours per day, each day. The Physician must perform the admission evaluation with documentation and treatment orders within 48 hours and provide evaluations at least weekly with documentation. A multidisciplinary treatment plan must be developed within 3 days of admission and must be updated weekly.

Self-Administered Prescription Drug means an FDA-approved Prescription Drug that you may administer to yourself, as recommended by a Physician.

Skilled Nursing Facility means a facility or part thereof which is properly licensed under Florida law, or a similar applicable law of another state, to provide care and treatment of medical Conditions and meets all the following requirements;

1. is accredited as a Skilled Nursing Facility by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations or recognized as a Skilled Nursing Facility by the Secretary of Health and Human Services of the United States under Medicare, unless such accreditation or recognition requirement has been waived by BCBSF;
2. has nursing staff on-site 24 hours per day and 7 days per week;
3. provides access to necessary medical Services 24 hours per day and 7 days per week;
4. provides appropriate access to any Physician-ordered Services required for treatment of your Condition on at least a daily basis (and likely multiple times per day). These Services may consist of skilled nursing Services, (e.g., intravenous fluids and medication administration, wound care, etc.) and therapy Services (i.e., physical, occupational and speech);
5. has individualized active treatment plan (e.g., skilled nursing and therapy Services) directed toward the management and improvement of the Condition that caused the admission; and
6. provides a level of skilled care consistent with your Condition and care needs.

Sound Natural Teeth means teeth that are whole or properly restored (restoration with amalgams, resin or composite only); are without impairment, periodontal, or other conditions; and are not in need of Services provided for any reason other than an Accidental Dental Injury. Teeth previously restored with a crown, inlay, onlay, or porcelain restoration, or treated with endodontics, are not Sound Natural Teeth.

Specialty Drug means an FDA-approved Prescription Drug that has been designated, solely by us, as a Specialty Drug due to special handling, storage, training, distribution requirements and/or management of therapy. Specialty Drugs may be Provider administered or self-administered and are identified with a special symbol in the Medication Guide. The fact that a Pharmacy is an In-Network Pharmacy does not mean that it is a specialty pharmacy.

Specialty Pharmacy means a Pharmacy that has signed an agreement with us or our Pharmacy Benefit Manager to provide specific Prescription Drug products, as determined by us. In-Network Specialty Pharmacies are listed in the Medication Guide.

Speech Therapist means a person properly licensed to practice Speech Therapy pursuant to Chapter 468 of the Florida Statutes, or a similar applicable law of another state.

Speech Therapy means the treatment of speech and language disorders by a Speech Therapist including language assessment and language restorative therapy Services.

Stabilize shall have the same meaning with regard to Emergency Services as the term is defined in Section 1867 of the Social Security Act.

Standard Reference Compendium means: 1) the United States Pharmacopoeia Drug Information; 2) the American Medical Association Drug Evaluation; or 3) the American Hospital Formulary Service Hospital Drug Information.

Substance Abuse Facility means a facility properly licensed under Florida law, or a similar applicable law of another state, to provide necessary care and treatment for Substance Dependency. For the purposes of this Booklet, a Substance Abuse Facility is not a Hospital or a Psychiatric Facility, as defined herein.

Substance Dependency means a Condition where a person's use of alcohol or any other substance injures his or her health; interferes with his or her social or economic functioning; or causes the individual to lose self-control.

Traditional Program means, or refers to, BCBSF's provider contracting programs called Payment for Physician Services (PPS) and Payment for Hospital Services (PHS).

Traditional Program Providers means, or refers to, those health care Providers who are not NetworkBlue Providers, but who, or which, have entered into a contract, then in effect, to participate in BCBSF's Traditional Program as applicable in Florida or in certain counties outside of Florida when such programs exist.

Urgent Care Center means a facility properly licensed that: 1) is available to provide Services to patients at least 60 hours per week with at least twenty-five (25) of those available hours after 5:00 p.m. on weekdays or on Saturday or Sunday; 2) posts instructions for individuals seeking Health Care Services, in a conspicuous public place, as to where to obtain such Services when the Urgent Care Center is closed; 3) employs or contracts with at least one or more Board Certified or Board Eligible Physicians and Registered Nurses (RNs) who are physically present during all hours of operation. Physicians, RNs, and other medical professional staff must have appropriate training and skills for the care of adults and children; and 4) maintains and operates basic diagnostic radiology and laboratory equipment in compliance with applicable state and/or federal laws and regulations.

For purposes of this Benefit Booklet, an Urgent Care Center is not a Hospital, Psychiatric Facility, Substance Abuse Facility, Skilled Nursing Facility or Outpatient Rehabilitation Facility.

Value-Based Program means an outcomes-based payment arrangement and/or a coordinated care model facilitated with one or more local Providers that is evaluated against cost and quality metrics/factors and is reflected in Provider payment.

Virtual Care Provider means (1) an In-Network Provider that offers Virtual Visits at the time Services are rendered; or (2) a licensed Provider that is designated by us and has a contract with us to provide Virtual Visits at the time Services are rendered, unless otherwise designated by us or the Group as ineligible to provide Virtual Visits.

Virtual Only Provider is a licensed Provider that is designated by us and has a contract with us to provide Virtual Visits at the time Services are rendered. A Provider that is designated to offer Virtual Care will be indicated as such in the provider directory.

Virtual Visit, for purposes of this Benefit Booklet, means the lawful practice of medicine by a Virtual Care Provider where patient care, treatment or Services are rendered, in place of a face-to-face visit, through the use of medical information exchanged via electronic communications. Virtual Visits shall not include the provision of Health Care Services solely through (1) audio-only telephone; (2) email messages; (3) text messages; (4) facsimile transmission; (5) U.S. Mail or other parcel service; or (6) any combination thereof.

Waiting Period means the length of time specified by Monroe County BOCC which must be met by an individual before that individual becomes eligible for coverage under this Benefit Booklet.

Zygote Intrafallopian Transfer (ZIFT) means a process in which an egg is fertilized in the laboratory and the resulting zygote is transferred to the fallopian tube at the pronuclear stage (before cell division takes place). The eggs are retrieved and fertilized on one day and the zygote is transferred the following day.

BlueOptions ASO Values

Group Name	Monroe County BOCC
Document Type	
Effective Date	2220101
Effective Year	22
Sequence	00001
Grandfathered	N
HSA	N
PEP	Y
Generation	3
Responsible Steps	N
Government	Y
Pharmacy Options	
RXDiscount	N
Open Formulary	N
Closed Formulary	N
Generic Choices	N
RXCarveout	N
Mediscript	N
Generic Only	N
Integrated Condition Care	N
Integrated RX	N
Overage Dependent	30
OON Rider	N
Domestic Partner	
Same	N
Opposite	N
Both	N
SameWDep	N
OppositeWDep	N
BothWDep	Y