

**SUMMARY OF MATERIAL MODIFICATION
AND
AMENDMENT #1
TO THE
UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME
PPO PLAN (MEDICAL)
GROUP NO. 12785**

This Summary of Material Modification and Amendment describes changes to the University of Notre Dame PPO Plan (Medical) effective January 1, 2018. These changes are effective as of **July 1, 2018** and will remain in effect until amended in writing by the Plan Administrator.

This document should be read carefully and attached to the Plan Document and Summary Plan Description. Please contact the Plan Administrator identified in the Summary Plan Description if you have any questions regarding the changes described in this Summary of Material Modification.

University of Notre Dame du Lac (the "Plan Sponsor") is amending the University of Notre Dame PPO Plan (Medical) (the "Plan") as follows:

1. *The **Meritain Health, Inc.** address included on the **Cover Page** is hereby deleted and replaced with the following:*

Meritain Health, Inc.
P.O. Box 853921
Richardson, TX 75085-3921
(888) 668-6855
www.meritain.com

2. *In the **Eligible Medical Expenses** section, **Contraceptives** and **Family Planning** are hereby added alphabetically; and under number **(45) – Preventive Services and Routine Care**, item (F) under (a) (iv) is hereby deleted and replaced as follows; and item (v) are hereby deleted and not replaced:*

ELIGIBLE MEDICAL EXPENSES

- (#) **Contraceptives:** Contraceptive procedures and medications, limited to administration of contraceptive injections, intrauterine devices (IUDs), including insertion and removal but excluding copper IUDs. Also covered are implants and any office visit related to a covered contraceptive. The Plan does not cover contraceptive supplies or devices available without a Physician's prescription or contraceptives provided over-the-counter.
- (#) **Family Planning:** Office visits for natural family planning. Includes individual counseling and instruction, but excludes group sessions. Fertility monitors are also covered under this benefit.

(45) **Preventive Services and Routine Care:** The following preventive services and routine care are paid as shown in the Medical Schedule of Benefits:

(a) Preventive Services

(iv) Prevention for Women

(F) Contraceptive methods and counseling: This Plan is sponsored by an employer and is exempt from this requirement. As such, this Plan does not provide coverage under the Preventive Services benefit for contraceptive services, including without limitation, coverage for any of the following: contraceptive methods and counseling; FDA approved contraceptive methods; and sterilization procedures and patient education and counsel for women with reproductive capacity. See Contraceptives under Eligible Medical Expenses for information regarding this Plan's coverage of contraceptives.

NOTE: This Plan does not provide coverage for all contraceptives and family planning under the Preventive Services benefit. See Contraceptives and Family Planning under Eligible Medical Expenses for information regarding coverage for these services.

- 3. *Item number (7) – Contraceptives under the General Exclusions and Limitation section is hereby deleted and not replaced.*
- 4. *The Claim Procedures section of the Plan is hereby deleted and replaced as shown in Exhibit A.*
- 5. *Third Party Administrator under the Definitions section is hereby deleted and replaced with the following:*

DEFINITIONS

Third Party Administrator means Meritain Health, Inc., P.O. Box 853921, Richardson, TX 75085-3921.

- 6. *The Third Party Administrator section under General Plan Information is hereby deleted and replaced with the following:*

GENERAL PLAN INFORMATION

Third Party Administrator: Meritain Health, Inc.
P.O. Box 853921
Richardson, TX 75085-3921
(888) 668-6855

All other provisions of this Plan shall remain unchanged.

In Witness Whereof, University of Notre Dame du Lac has caused this Amendment to take effect, be attached to, and form a part of their PPO Plan (Medical).

Authorized Signature

Date

Title

Witness

Date

Title

EXHIBIT A

CLAIM PROCEDURES

You will receive an Employee identification card which will contain important information, including claim filing directions and contact information. The Employee identification card will show your Participating Provider Network and the Medical Management Administrator.

At the time you receive treatment, show the Employee identification card to your provider of service. In most cases, your provider will file your claim for you. You may file the claim yourself by sending it to the address listed on the Employee identification card. Other general information or inquiries should be sent to:

Meritain Health, Inc.
P.O. Box 853921
Richardson, TX 75085-3921
(888) 668-6855

Most claims under the Plan will be “post service claims.” A “post service claim” is a claim for a benefit under the Plan after the services have been rendered. Post service claims must include the following information in order to be considered filed with the Plan:

- (1) The date of service;
- (2) The name, address, telephone number and tax identification number of the provider of the services or supplies;
- (3) The place where the services were rendered;
- (4) The diagnosis and procedure codes;
- (5) The amount of charges (including Network repricing information);
- (6) The name of the Plan;
- (7) The name of the covered Employee; and
- (8) The name of the patient.

A call from a provider who wants to know if an individual is covered under the Plan or if a certain procedure or treatment is a Covered Expense before the treatment is rendered, is not a “claim” since an actual written claim for benefits is not being filed with the Plan. Likewise, presentation of a prescription to a pharmacy does not constitute a claim.

Timely Filing

All claims must be filed with the Third Party Administrator within 12 months following the date services were incurred. Claims filed after this time period will be denied.

Procedures for all Claims

The Plan's claim procedures are intended to reflect the Department of Labor's claims procedures regulations and should be interpreted accordingly. In the event of any conflict between this Plan and those Regulations, those Regulations will control. In addition, any changes in those Regulations shall be deemed to amend this Plan automatically, effective as of the date of those changes.

To receive benefits under the Plan, the claimant (i.e. you and your covered Dependents) must follow the procedures outlined in this section. There are 4 different types of claims: (1) Urgent Care Claims; (2) Concurrent Care Claims; (3) Pre-Service Claims; and (4) Post-Service Claims. The procedures for each type of claim are more fully described below:

- (1) **Urgent Care Claims.** If your claim is considered an urgent care claim, the Plan Administrator will notify you of the Plan's benefit determination (whether adverse or not) as soon as possible, taking into account the medical exigencies, but not later than 72 hours after the Plan receives the claim, unless you fail to provide sufficient information to determine whether or to what extent, benefits are covered or payable under the Plan. If you fail to provide sufficient information for the Plan to decide your claim, the Plan Administrator will notify you as soon as possible, but not later than 24 hours after the Plan receives the claim, of the specific information necessary to complete the claim. The notification may be oral unless written notification is requested by you. You will be afforded a reasonable amount of time, taking into account the circumstances, but not less than 48 hours, to provide the specified information. The Plan Administrator will notify you of the Plan's determination as soon as possible, but in no case later than 48 hours after the earlier of (1) the Plan's receipt of the specified additional information or (2) the end of the period afforded the claimant to provide the specified additional information.

A claim for benefits is considered an urgent care claim if the application of the time periods for making non-urgent care determinations could seriously jeopardize your life or health or your ability to regain maximum function or, in the opinion of a Physician with knowledge of your medical condition, would subject you to severe pain that could not be adequately managed without the care or treatment which is the subject of the claim. In determining if the initial claim for benefits should be treated as an urgent care claim, the Plan will defer to a determination, if any, by an attending provider that the claim should be treated as an urgent care claim, if that determination is timely provided to the Plan.

- (2) **Concurrent Care Claims.** If the Plan has approved an ongoing course of health care treatment to be provided over a period of time or number of treatments, any reduction or termination by the Plan of the previously approved course of treatment (other than by Plan amendment or termination) before the approved time period or number of treatments constitutes an adverse determination. In such a case, the Plan Administrator will notify you of the adverse determination at a time sufficiently in advance of the reduction or termination to allow you, the claimant, to appeal and obtain a determination on review of that adverse determination before reduction or termination of the benefit.

Any request by you to extend a previously approved course of urgent care treatment beyond the approved period of time or number of treatments shall be decided as soon as possible, taking into account the medical exigencies and the Plan Administrator will notify you of the benefit determination, whether adverse or not, within 24 hours after the Plan receives the claim provided that any such claim is made to the Plan at least 24 hours prior to the expiration of the prescribed period of time or number of treatments.

- (3) **Pre-Service Claims.** For a pre-service claim, the Plan Administrator will notify you of the Plan's benefit determination (whether adverse or not) within a reasonable period of time appropriate to the medical circumstances, but not later than 15 days after the Plan receives the claim. If, due to matters beyond the control of the Plan, the Plan Administrator needs additional time to process a claim, the Plan Administrator may extend the time to notify you of the Plan's benefit determination for up to 15 days provided that the Plan Administrator notifies you within 15 days after the Plan receives the claim, of those special circumstances and of when the Plan Administrator expects to make its decision. However, if such an extension is necessary due to your failure to submit the information necessary to decide the claim, the notice of extension must specifically describe the required information and you will be afforded at least 45 days from receipt of the notice within which to provide the specified information.

A claim for benefits is considered a pre-service claim if the claim requires approval, in part or in whole, in advance of obtaining the health care in question.

- (4) **Post-Service Claims.** For a post-service claim, the Plan Administrator will notify you of the Plan's adverse determination within a reasonable period of time, but not later than 30 days after receipt of the claim. If, due to special circumstances, the Plan Administrator needs additional time to process a claim, the Plan Administrator may extend the time for notifying you of the Plan's benefit determination on a one-time basis for up to 15 days provided that the Plan Administrator notifies you within 30 days after the Plan receives the claim, of those special circumstances and of the date by which the reviewer expects to make a decision. However, if such a decision is necessary due to your failure to submit the information necessary to decide the claim, the notice of extension will specifically describe the required information and you will be afforded at least 45 days from receipt of the notice within which to provide the specified information.

A claim for benefits is considered a post-service claim if it is a request for payment for services or other benefits that you have already received (or any other claim for health benefits that is not a pre-service claim or an urgent care claim).

Manner and Content of Notice of Initial Adverse Determination

If the Plan Administrator denies a claim, it must provide to you in writing or by electronic communication:

- (1) An explanation of the specific reasons for the denial;
- (2) A reference to the Plan provision or insurance contract provision upon which the denial is based;
- (3) A description of any additional information or material that you must provide in order to perfect the claim;
- (4) An explanation of why the additional material or information is necessary;
- (5) Notice that you have the right to request a review of the claim denial and information on the steps to be taken if you wish to request a review of the claim denial along with the time limits applicable to a request for review;
- (6) A statement describing your right to request an external review (or, if applicable, to request a second level appeal) or, if applicable, to bring an action under ERISA Section 502(a);
- (7) A copy of any rule, guideline, protocol or other similar criterion relied upon in making the adverse determination (or a statement that the same will be provided upon your request and without charge); and
- (8) If the adverse determination is based on the Plan's Medical Necessity, Experimental treatment or similar exclusion or limit, either: (a) an explanation of the scientific or clinical judgment applying the exclusion or limit to your medical circumstances or (b) a statement that the same will be provided upon your request and without charge.

Any notice of adverse determination also will include the following information:

- (1) Information sufficient to identify the claim involved, including the date of service, the health care provider and the claim amount (if applicable);
- (2) As part of the explanation of the determination, a discussion of the decision, as well as disclosure of any denial code used (and an explanation of its meaning) and a description of the Plan's standard, if any, that was used in denying the claim;
- (3) A description of available internal appeals and external review processes, including information regarding how to initiate an appeal;
- (4) Information (including contact information) about the availability of any applicable office of health insurance consumer assistance or ombudsmen established pursuant to the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA) to assist individuals with internal claims and appeals and external review processes; and
- (5) A statement describing the availability, upon request, of any applicable diagnosis code (and an explanation of its meaning) and any applicable treatment code (and an explanation of its meaning).

For an adverse determination concerning an urgent care claim, the information described in this Section may be provided to you orally within the permitted time frame provided that a written or electronic notification in accordance with this section is furnished to you no later than 3 days after the oral notification.

Internal Review of Initial Adverse Benefit Determination

If you submit a claim for Plan benefits and it is initially denied under the procedures described above, you may request a review of that denial under the procedures described below.

You have 180 days after you receive notice of an initial adverse determination within which to request a review of the adverse determination. For a request for a second level appeal, you have 60 days after you receive notice of an adverse determination at the first level of appeal to request a second level appeal of the adverse determination.

If you request a review of an adverse determination within the applicable time period, the review will meet the following requirements:

- (1) The Plan will provide a review that does not afford deference to the adverse determination that is being appealed and that is conducted by an appropriate named fiduciary of the Plan who did not make the adverse determination that is the subject of the appeal and who is not a subordinate of the individual who made that adverse determination.
- (2) The appropriate named fiduciary of the Plan will consult with a health care professional who has appropriate training and experience in the field of medicine involved in the medical judgment before making a decision on review of any adverse determination based in whole or in part on a medical judgment, including determinations with regard to whether a particular treatment, drug or other item is Experimental and/or Investigational or not Medically Necessary or appropriate. The professional engaged for purposes of a consultation in the preceding sentence will be an individual who is neither an individual who was consulted in connection with the adverse determination that is the subject of the appeal, nor a subordinate of any such individual.
- (3) The Plan will identify any medical or vocational experts whose advice is obtained on behalf of the Plan in connection with the Plan's review of an adverse determination, without regard to whether the advice is relied upon in making the adverse determination on review.
- (4) For a requested review of an adverse determination involving an urgent care claim, the review process will meet the expedited deadlines described below. Your request for such an expedited review may be submitted orally or in writing and all necessary information, including the Plan's determination on review, will be transmitted between the Plan and you by telephone, facsimile or other available similarly expeditious method.
- (5) The reviewer will afford you an opportunity to review and receive, without charge, all relevant documents, information and records relating to the claim and to submit issues and comments relating to the claim in writing to the Plan. The reviewer will take into account all comments, documents, records and other information submitted by the claimant relating to the claim regardless of whether the information was submitted or considered in the initial benefit determination.
- (6) You will be provided, free of charge, any new or additional evidence or rationale considered, relied upon or generated by the Plan in connection with the claim. Such evidence or rationale will be provided as soon as possible and sufficiently in advance of the Plan's deadline for providing notice of its determination on review to give you a reasonable opportunity to respond prior to such determination.
- (7) The Plan will ensure that all claims are adjudicated in a manner designed to ensure the independence and impartiality of the persons involved in making the decisions.
- (8) The Plan will provide you with continued coverage pending the outcome of an internal appeal.

All requests for review of initial adverse benefit determinations (including all relevant information) must be submitted to the following address:

Meritain Health, Inc.
Appeals Department
P. O. Box 41980
Plymouth, MN 55441-0970

Deadline for Internal Review of Initial Adverse Benefit Determinations

- (1) **Urgent Care Claims.** The Plan provides for 2 levels of appeal for urgent care claims. For each level of appeal, the reviewer will notify you of the Plan's determination on review as soon as possible, taking into account the medical exigencies, but not later than 36 hours after the Plan receives your request for review of the initial adverse determination (or of the first-level appeal adverse determination).
- (2) **Pre-Service Claims.** The Plan provides for 2 levels of appeal for a pre-service claim. At each level of appeal, the reviewer will notify you of the Plan's determination on review within a reasonable period of time appropriate to the medical circumstances, but in no event later than 15 days after the Plan receives your request for review of the initial adverse determination (or of the first-level appeal adverse determination).

- (3) Post-Service Claims. The Plan provides for 2 levels of appeal for a post-service claim. At each level of appeal, the reviewer will notify you of the Plan's determination on review within a reasonable period of time appropriate to the medical circumstances, but in no event later than 30 days after the Plan receives your request for review of the initial adverse determination (or of the first-level appeal adverse determination).

Manner and Content of Notice of Decision on Internal Review of Initial Adverse Benefit Determinations

Upon completion of its review of an initial adverse determination (or a first-level appeal adverse determination), the reviewer will give you, in writing or by electronic notification, a notice of its benefit determination. For an adverse determination, the notice will include:

- (1) A description of the Plan's decision;
- (2) The specific reasons for the decision;
- (3) The relevant Plan provisions or insurance contract provisions on which its decision is based;
- (4) A statement that you are entitled to receive, upon request and without charge, reasonable access to and copies of, all documents, records and other information in the Plan's files which is relevant to your claim for benefits;
- (5) A statement describing your right to request an external review (or, if applicable, to request a second level appeal) or, if applicable, to bring an action under ERISA Section 502(a);
- (6) If an internal rule, guideline, protocol or other similar criterion was relied upon in making the adverse determination on review, a statement that a copy of the rule, guideline, protocol or other similar criterion will be provided without charge to you upon request;
- (7) If the adverse determination on review is based on a Medical Necessity, Experimental treatment or similar exclusion or limit, either: (a) an explanation of the scientific or clinical judgment on which the determination was based, applying the terms of the Plan to the claimant's medical circumstances or (b) a statement that such an explanation will be provided without charge upon request; and
- (8) The following statement: "You and your Plan may have other voluntary alternative dispute resolution options, such as mediation. One way to find out what may be available is to contact your local U.S. Department of Labor Office and, if your benefit is an insured benefit, your state insurance regulatory agency."

Any notice of adverse determination will include the following information:

- (1) Information sufficient to identify the claim involved, including the date of service, the health care provider and the claim amount (if applicable);
- (2) As part of the explanation of the determination, a discussion of the decision, as well as disclosure of any denial code used (and an explanation of its meaning) and a description of the Plan's standard, if any, that was used in denying the claim;
- (3) A description of available internal appeals and external review processes, including information regarding how to initiate an appeal;
- (4) Information (including contact information) about the availability of any applicable office of health insurance consumer assistance or ombudsmen established pursuant to the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA) to assist individuals with internal claims and appeals and external review processes; and
- (5) A statement describing the availability, upon request, of any applicable diagnosis code (and an explanation of its meaning) and any applicable treatment code (and an explanation of its meaning).

Calculation of Time Periods

For purposes of the time periods described in the Plan's claim procedures, the period of time during which a benefit determination is required to be made begins at the time a claim (or a request for review of an adverse benefit determination) is filed in accordance with the Plan procedures without regard to whether all the information necessary to make a decision accompanies the request. If a period of time is extended due to your failure to submit all information necessary for a claim for non-urgent care benefits, the period for making the determination is "frozen" from the date the notification requesting the additional information is sent to you until the date you respond or, if earlier, until 45 days from the date you receive (or were reasonably expected to receive) the notice requesting additional information.

Adverse Determination

For purposes of the Plan's claim procedures, an "adverse determination" is a denial, reduction or termination of or a failure to provide or make payment (in whole or in part) for, a benefit, including any such denial, reduction, termination or failure to provide or make payment that is based on a determination of an individual's eligibility to participate in the Plan and including a denial, reduction or termination of or a failure to provide or make payment (in whole or in part) for, a benefit resulting from the application of any utilization review, as well as a failure to cover an item or service for which benefits are otherwise provided because it is determined to be Experimental and/or Investigational or not Medically Necessary or appropriate. Adverse determination also includes any rescission of coverage, whether or not, in connection with the rescission, there is an adverse effect on any particular benefit at the time of rescission.

Plan's Failure to Follow Procedures

If the Plan fails to follow the claim procedures described above, you will be deemed to have exhausted the Plan internal claim procedures and you will be entitled to pursue any available remedy (including any available external review process) under state or federal law on the basis that the Plan has failed to provide a reasonable claims procedure that would yield a decision on the merits of the claim.

However, the Plan will not be treated as failing to follow its claim procedures and you will not be deemed to have exhausted the Plan's administrative remedies merely because of a failure by the Plan that would be considered (based on applicable regulations) a "*de minimis* violation" that does not cause and is not likely to cause prejudice or harm to you as long as the Plan can demonstrate that the violation was for good cause or due to matters beyond the control of the Plan and that the violation occurred in the context of an ongoing, good faith exchange of information between the Plan and you. You may request a written explanation of any violation by the Plan of these procedures. If you request such an explanation, the Plan will provide it within 10 days and, if applicable, the explanation will include a specific description of the Plan's reasons for asserting that the violation does not cause the Plan's internal claim procedures to be exhausted. If a court or external review rejects your request for an immediate review (based on a claim that you should be deemed to have exhausted the Plan's internal claim procedures), because the court or external reviewer determines that the "*de minimis* violation" exception applies, the Plan will provide to you a notice of your right to resubmit your internal appeal with a reasonable time (no longer than 10 days) after the court or external reviewer makes such a determination. Any applicable time limit for you to re-file your claim will begin to run when you receive that notice from the Plan.

External Review of Adverse Benefit Determinations

If you have exhausted the Plan's internal appeal process (or if you are eligible to request an external review for any other reason under the above procedures), you may request an external review of the Plan's final adverse determination for certain health benefit claims.

The Plan will provide for an external review process in accordance with federal law.

Note that the federal external review process (including the expedited external review process described later in these procedures) is not available for review of all internal adverse determinations. Specifically, federal external review is not available for review of an internal adverse determination that is based on a determination that a claimant fails to meet the eligibility requirements under the terms of the Plan. Also, the federal external review process is available only for:

- (1) An adverse determination that involves medical judgment (including, but not limited to determinations based on the Plan's requirements for Medical Necessity, appropriateness, health care setting, level of care or effectiveness of a covered benefit; or the Plan's determination that a treatment is Experimental or Investigational), as determined by the external reviewer; and
- (2) A rescission of coverage.

For any adverse determination for which external review is available, the federal external review requirements are as follows:

- (1) You have 4 months following the date you receive notice of the Plan's final internal adverse determination within which to request an external review. The request for an external review must be submitted to the following address:

Meritain Health, Inc.
Appeals Department
P. O. Box 41980
Plymouth, MN 55441-0970

- (2) Within 5 business days following the date the Plan receives your external review request the Plan will complete a preliminary review. The Plan will notify you in writing within one business day after it completes the preliminary review whether the claim is eligible for the external review process:
 - (a) If the request is complete, but the claim is not eligible for external review, the notice will describe the reasons it is not eligible and will provide contact information for the Employee Benefits Security Administration.
 - (b) If the request is not complete, the notice will describe information or materials needed to make the request complete. If the request is not complete and additional information or materials are needed to complete the preliminary review, you will have until the later of (i) 48 hours following the date of receipt of the notification or (ii) the end of the 4-month deadline described in (1) above to provide the necessary additional information or materials.
- (3) Following the Plan's preliminary review, if the request is eligible for external review, the Plan will assign an independent review organization (IRO) (as soon as administratively feasible) to make a determination on the request for external review. Within 5 business days following assignment of the IRO, the Plan will forward to the IRO all information and materials relevant to the final internal adverse determination.
- (4) The assigned IRO will notify you in writing (within a reasonable period of time) of the request's eligibility and acceptance for external review. The notice will include a statement regarding your right to submit any additional information, within 10 business days from the date of receipt of the notice, for the IRO to consider as part of the external review process. Any such additional information received by the IRO will be forwarded on and shared with the Plan. The Plan, based upon any new information received, may reconsider its final internal adverse determination. Reconsideration by the Plan will not delay the external review process. If the Plan does not reconsider its final internal adverse benefits determination, the IRO will continue to proceed with the external review process.
- (5) Within 45 days after the IRO receives the external review request from the Plan, the IRO must provide written notice of its external review determination to you and the Plan. The IRO's notice is required to contain the following:
 - (a) A general description of the reason for the request for external review, including information sufficient to identify the claim, the diagnosis code and treatment code and the corresponding meaning for each and the reason for the previous denial;
 - (b) The date the IRO received the assignment to conduct the external review and the date of the IRO decision;

- (c) References to the evidence or documentation, including the specific coverage provisions and evidence based standards, considered in reaching its decision;
- (d) A discussion of the principal reason or reasons for its decision, including the rationale for its decision and any evidence-based standards that were relied on in making its decision;
- (e) A statement that the determination is binding except to the extent that other remedies may be available under state or federal law to either the group health plan or to you;
- (f) A statement that judicial review may be available to you; and
- (g) Current contact information, including telephone number, for any applicable office of health insurance consumer assistance or ombudsman established under the Public Health Service Act Section 2793.

Expedited External Review

You may request an expedited external review if you have received:

- (1) An initial internal adverse determination if the adverse determination involves a medical condition for which the time frame for completion of an expedited internal appeal under the Plan's internal claim procedures would seriously jeopardize your life or health or would jeopardize your ability to regain maximum function and you have filed a request for an expedited internal appeal; or
- (2) A final internal adverse determination, if you have a medical condition where the timeframe for completion of a standard external review would seriously jeopardize your life or health or would jeopardize your ability to regain maximum function or if the final internal adverse determination concerns an admission, availability of care, continued stay or health care item or service for which you received Emergency Services but have not been discharged from a facility.

The following requirements apply to an expedited external review:

- (1) Immediately following the date the Plan receives the external review request the Plan will complete a preliminary review. The Plan will notify you in writing immediately after completion of the preliminary review whether the request is eligible for the external review process.
 - (a) If the request is complete, but the claim is not eligible for external review, the notice will describe the reasons it is not eligible and will include contact information for the Employee Benefits Security Administration.
 - (b) If the request is not complete, the notice will describe any information or materials needed to make the request complete. If the request is not complete and additional information or materials is needed to complete the preliminary review, you will have until the later of (i) 48 hours following the date of receipt of the notification or (ii) the end of the 4-month deadline described in (1) above to provide the necessary additional information or materials.
- (2) Following the Plan's preliminary review, if the request is eligible for external review, the Plan will assign an independent review organization (IRO) to make a determination on the request for external review. The Plan will promptly forward to the IRO, by any available expeditious method (e.g. telephone, facsimile, etc.), all information and materials relevant to the final internal adverse determination.
- (3) The IRO must provide notice to the claimant and the Plan (either in writing or orally) as expeditiously as the claimant's medical condition or circumstance require and no later than 72 hours after it receives the expedited external review request from the Plan. If notice is not provided in writing, the IRO must provide written notice to you and the Plan as confirmation of the decision within 48 hours after the date of the notice. The IRO's notice is required to contain the following information:
 - (a) A general description of the reason for the request for external review, including information sufficient to identify the claim, the diagnosis code and treatment code and the corresponding meaning for each and the reason for the previous denial;

- (b) The date the IRO received the assignment to conduct the external review and the date of the IRO decision;
- (c) References to the evidence or documentation, including the specific coverage provisions and evidence based standards, considered in reaching its decision;
- (d) A discussion of the principal reason or reasons for its decision, including the rationale for its decision and any evidence-based standards that were relied on in making its decision;
- (e) A statement that the determination is binding except to the extent that other remedies may be available under state or federal law to either the group health plan or to you;
- (f) A statement that judicial review may be available to you; and
- (g) Current contact information, including telephone number, for any applicable office of health insurance consumer assistance or ombudsman established under the Public Health Service Act Section 2793.

Effect of External Review Determination

A determination on external review is binding on the Plan and the claimant, except to the extent that other remedies are available under applicable state or federal law. However, a decision by the external reviewer does not preclude the Plan from making payment or providing benefits on a claim at any time, including after a decision that denies the claim. When an external review decision requires the Plan to provide benefits or payment on a claim, the Plan will provide benefits or payment pursuant to the decision without unreasonable delay regardless of whether the Plan intends to seek judicial review of the decision, unless and until there is a judicial decision that provides otherwise.

Statute of Limitations for Plan Claims

Please note that no legal action may be commenced or maintained to recover benefits under the Plan more than 12 months after the final review/appeal decision by the Plan Administrator has been rendered (or deemed rendered).

Appointment of Authorized Representative

A Covered Person is permitted to appoint an authorized representative to act on his or her behalf with respect to a benefit claim or appeal of a denial. An assignment of benefits by a Covered Person to a provider will not constitute appointment of that provider as an authorized representative. To appoint such a representative, the Covered Person must complete a form which can be obtained from the Plan Administrator or the Third Party Administrator. However, in connection with a claim involving urgent care, the Plan will permit a health care professional with knowledge of the Covered Person's medical condition to act as the Covered Person's authorized representative without completion of this form. In the event a Covered Person designates an authorized representative, all future communications from the Plan will be with the representative, rather than the Covered Person, unless the Covered Person directs the Plan Administrator, in writing, to the contrary.

Physical Examinations

The Plan reserves the right to have a Physician of its own choosing examine any Covered Person whose Illness or Injury is the basis of a claim. All such examinations will be at the expense of the Plan. This right may be exercised when and as often as the Plan Administrator may reasonably require during the pendency of a claim. The Covered Person must comply with this requirement as a necessary condition for coverage.