

**Benefit Booklet  
For Postdocs of  
East Carolina University  
for  
Blue OPTIONS<sup>SM</sup>**



An Independent Licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association

## **BENEFIT BOOKLET**

This benefit booklet, along with the GROUP CONTRACT, is the legal contract between the group and Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina. **Please read this benefit booklet carefully.**

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina has directed that this Benefit Booklet be issued and signed by the President and the Secretary.



*Attest:*

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Donald P. ...".

*Interim Chief Executive Officer*

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Danielle C. Gray".

*Secretary*

**Important Cancellation Information - Please Read The Provision In This Benefit Booklet Entitled, "When Coverage Begins And Ends."**

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# RECENT CHANGES

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This section lists recent changes, which may include additions, deletions or revisions to your benefit booklet. These changes supersede language that appears elsewhere in your benefit booklet, and are effective at the start of your BENEFIT PERIOD (see "Summary of Benefits") unless otherwise noted.

## **Revisions to Your Mental Health/Substance Abuse Services (effective January 1, 2020)**

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina (Blue Cross NC) currently contracts with Magellan Behavioral Health (Magellan) to administer your mental health and substance abuse (behavioral health) services. Effective January 1, 2020, these behavioral health services will be provided by Blue Cross NC. Please note your behavioral health benefits are not changing as a result of Blue Cross NC administering these benefits. If you have any questions, you can call Blue Cross NC Customer Service at the number on the back of your ID CARD.

Any references to Magellan in your booklet no longer apply as of January 1, 2020.

Please see the information below for other changes to your benefit booklet:

### **Who To Contact?**

Within the section entitled Who To Contact? the mental health and substance abuse benefits vendor contact information for Magellan Behavioral Health is deleted in its entirety and replaced with the following:

<b>Behavioral Health:</b> 1-800-359-2422	For questions about your mental health and substance abuse benefits and claims.
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### **COVERED SERVICES**

#### **ADAPTIVE BEHAVIOR TREATMENT**

Within the section entitled "COVERED SERVICES," the ADAPTIVE BEHAVIOR TREATMENT service will no longer require PRIOR REVIEW and CERTIFICATION.

#### **Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services**

Any PRIOR REVIEW and CERTIFICATION requirements still apply to mental health and substance abuse services as well as any penalties. However, effective January 1, 2020, PRIOR REVIEW and CERTIFICATION must be requested and received from Blue Cross NC. Information about which services require PRIOR REVIEW can be found online at [www.bluecrossnc.com/providers/medical-policies-and-coverage/prior-plan-review](http://www.bluecrossnc.com/providers/medical-policies-and-coverage/prior-plan-review) or you can call Blue Cross NC Customer Service.

### **Need to Appeal a Decision?**

Within the section entitled "Need to Appeal a Decision?", "Delegated Appeals" is deleted from the Table of Contents and any reference to mental health and substance abuse or dental appeals being delegated to third party vendors will no longer apply.

Additionally, the "Need to Appeal a Decision?" section is further amended by deleting the following section in its entirety:

#### **Delegated Appeals**

##### **Mental Health and Substance Abuse**

Blue Cross NC delegates responsibility for the first level appeal for inpatient and outpatient mental health and substance abuse services to Magellan Behavioral Health. Magellan Behavioral Health is not associated with Blue Cross NC. Please forward written appeals to:

Magellan Behavioral Health  
Appeals Department  
PO Box 1619  
Alpharetta, GA 30009

Second level appeal, if eligible, is provided by Blue Cross NC.





# GETTING STARTED WITH BLUE OPTIONS

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## IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING THIS HEALTH BENEFIT PLAN:

In accordance with applicable federal law, Blue Cross NC will not discriminate against any health care PROVIDER acting within the scope of their license or certification, or against any person who has received a break on their premium, or taken any other action to endorse his or her right under applicable federal law. Further, Blue Cross NC shall not impose eligibility rules or variations in premiums based on any specified health status-related factors unless specifically permitted by law.

## **Getting Started**

This benefit booklet provides important information about your benefits and can help you understand how to maximize them. It's important that you read the entire booklet. If you need help or more information, it tells you how to contact us in the "Who to Contact" section.

## **Notes on Words**

As you read this benefit booklet, keep in mind that any word you see in small caps (SMALL CAPITAL LETTERS) is a **defined term** and appears in "Glossary" at the end of this benefit booklet.

The terms "we," "us," and "Blue Cross NC" refer to Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina. The term "student health center (SHC)" refers to the student or campus health services at the school associated with this health benefit plan.

## **This Booklet**

This booklet tells you about:

- your COVERED SERVICES and exclusions or services that are not covered
- how your health benefit plan works
- how we share expenses for COVERED SERVICES
- who is eligible to be covered under this health benefit plan and when this coverage starts and ends
- our UTILIZATION MANAGEMENT programs and the right to appeal the decision
- any Special Programs that may come with your health benefit plan.

## **PRIOR REVIEW and CERTIFICATION**

Certain services require PRIOR REVIEW and CERTIFICATION in order for you to avoid a full denial of benefits. General categories of services requiring PRIOR REVIEW and CERTIFICATION are noted in "COVERED SERVICES". To determine if a specific service requires PRIOR REVIEW and CERTIFICATION, visit our website at [www.studentbluenc.com](http://www.studentbluenc.com) for the PRIOR REVIEW list, which is updated when new services are added or when services are removed. You can also call Blue Cross NC Customer Service. See "PRIOR REVIEW (Pre-Service)" in "UTILIZATION MANAGEMENT" for information about the review process.

## **Exclusions and Limitations**

Exclusions and limitations apply to your coverage. Service-specific exclusions are stated along with the benefit description in "COVERED SERVICES." Exclusions that apply to many services are listed in "What Is Not Covered?" To understand the exclusions and limitations that apply to each service, read "COVERED SERVICES," "Summary of Benefits" and "What Is Not Covered?"

## **No Assignment of Benefits**

The benefits described in this benefit booklet are provided only for MEMBERS. These benefits, the right to receive payment under this health benefit plan, and the right to enforce any claim arising under this health benefit plan cannot be transferred or assigned to any other person or entity, including any PROVIDERS. PROVIDERS are not considered beneficiaries under this group health plan and do not have standing to sue under ERISA. Blue Cross NC may pay a PROVIDER directly. For example, Blue Cross NC pays IN-NETWORK PROVIDERS directly under applicable contracts with those PROVIDERS. However, any PROVIDER'S right to be paid directly is through such contract with Blue Cross NC, and not through this health benefit plan. Under this health benefit plan, Blue Cross NC has the sole right to determine whether payment for services is made to PROVIDER, to SUBSCRIBER, or allocated among both. Blue Cross NC's decision to pay a PROVIDER directly in no way reflects or creates any rights of the PROVIDER under this health benefit plan, including but not limited to benefits, payments, or procedures. For more information see "Additional Terms of Your Coverage."

## **More Information upon Request**

# GETTING STARTED WITH BLUE OPTIONS *(cont.)*

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You may receive, upon request, information about Blue Options, its services and DOCTORS, including a printed copy of this benefit booklet with a benefit summary, and a directory of IN-NETWORK PROVIDERS.

## **Medical and Reimbursement Policies**

Certain services are covered pursuant to Blue Cross NC medical and reimbursement policies, which are updated throughout the plan year. These policies describe the procedure and criteria to determine whether a procedure, treatment, facility, equipment, drug or device is **MEDICALLY NECESSARY** and eligible for coverage, **INVESTIGATIONAL** or **EXPERIMENTAL**, **COSMETIC**, or a convenience item. The most up-to-date medical policies are available from Student Blue<sup>SM</sup> at [email@studentbluenc.com](mailto:email@studentbluenc.com) or call the number listed in "Who to Contact?"

## **Reduced or Waived Payments**

- From time to time, MEMBERS may receive a reduced or waived copayment, deductible, and/or coinsurance on designated services, therapies, or **PRESCRIPTION DRUGS** in connection with programs designed to reduce medical costs, or encourage MEMBERS to seek appropriate, high quality, efficient care based on Blue Cross NC criteria.
- Depending on your plan, the manufacturer may, from time to time, provide a rebate, or discount for certain **PRESCRIPTION DRUGS**, or durable medical equipment. These rebates may be automatically applied to the **ALLOWED AMOUNT** of the **PRESCRIPTION DRUG**, or durable medical equipment, reducing the cost-sharing amounts you may owe. Which **PRESCRIPTION DRUGS**, or durable medical equipment receive rebates and how long the rebates are in place may change without notice.

## **Common Insurance Terms**

To help you become familiar with some common insurance terms concerning what you may owe after visiting your **PROVIDER**, see the chart below and the "Glossary," if applicable:

Copayment	The fixed dollar amount you may pay for some <b>COVERED SERVICES</b> at the time you receive them. Copayments are not credited to the deductible; however, they are credited to the <b>TOTAL OUT-OF-POCKET LIMIT</b> .
Deductible	The amount of money you must pay for <b>COVERED SERVICES</b> in a <b>BENEFIT PERIOD</b> before Blue Cross NC begins to pay for <b>COVERED SERVICES</b> . The deductible does not include coinsurance, charges in excess of the <b>ALLOWED AMOUNT</b> , amounts exceeding any maximum, or charges for noncovered services. You have an embedded deductible which means Blue Cross NC begins to make payments on a <b>COVERED SERVICE</b> for a family <b>MEMBER</b> as soon as that <b>MEMBER</b> has reached the individual deductible limit.
Coinsurance	The sharing of charges by Blue Cross NC and you for <b>COVERED SERVICES</b> , after you have met any <b>BENEFIT PERIOD</b> deductible. This is stated as a percentage of the <b>ALLOWED AMOUNT</b> . The coinsurance listed is your share of the cost of a <b>COVERED SERVICE</b> .
<b>TOTAL OUT-OF-POCKET LIMIT</b>	The <b>TOTAL OUT-OF-POCKET LIMIT</b> is the dollar amount you pay for <b>COVERED SERVICES</b> in a <b>BENEFIT PERIOD</b> before Blue Cross NC pays 100% of <b>COVERED SERVICES</b> . It does not include charges over <b>ALLOWED AMOUNTS</b> , premiums, charges for <b>PRESCRIPTION DRUGS</b> , and charges for noncovered services.

Here is an example of what your costs could be for **IN-NETWORK** or **OUT-OF-NETWORK** services. The scenario is a total outpatient **HOSPITAL** bill of \$5,000.

## GETTING STARTED WITH BLUE OPTIONS *(cont.)*

	IN-NETWORK	OUT-OF-NETWORK
A. Total Bill	\$5,000	\$5,000
B. ALLOWED AMOUNT	\$4,250	\$4,250
C. Deductible Amount	<b>\$250</b>	<b>\$500</b>
D. ALLOWED AMOUNT Minus Deductible (B-C)	\$4,000	\$3,750
E. Your Coinsurance Amount (x% times D)	<b>(20%) \$800</b>	<b>(40%) \$1,500</b>
F. Amount You Owe Over ALLOWED AMOUNT	<b>\$0</b> (IN-NETWORK charges limited to ALLOWED AMOUNT)	<b>\$750</b> (difference between Total Bill and ALLOWED AMOUNT)
G. Total Amount You Owe (C+E+F)	<b>\$1,050</b>	<b>\$2,750</b>

Deductible and coinsurance amounts are for example only, please see "Summary of Benefits" for your benefits.

# WHO TO CONTACT?

## Toll-Free Phone Numbers, Website and Addresses

<b>Student Blue<sup>SM</sup></b> 1-800-579-8022	For questions about your benefits or claims, IDENTIFICATION CARDS (ID CARD) requests, or to voice a complaint.
<b>www.studentbluenc.com</b>	Use this website to view your claims, get benefit information, claim forms, health and wellness information, drug FORMULARY updates, find a DOCTOR, change your address, and request new ID CARDS.
<b>PRIOR REVIEW and CERTIFICATION:</b> MEMBERS call: 1-800-579-8022 PROVIDERS call: 1-800-672-7897	Some services need PRIOR REVIEW and CERTIFICATION from Blue Cross NC. Please visit the website at <b>www.studentbluenc.com</b> or call Student Blue at the number listed above for current information about which services may need PRIOR REVIEW.
<b>PRESCRIPTION DRUG Information:</b> 1-877-258-3334 and <b>www.BlueCrossNC.com/umdrug</b>	Call Student Blue or visit <b>www.studentbluenc.com</b> to access a list of IN-NETWORK pharmacies (including the Specialty Network); a list of PRESCRIPTION DRUGS that are subject to PRIOR REVIEW, quantity or benefit limitations; or a copy of the FORMULARY. You may also visit <b>www.BlueCrossNC.com/umdrug</b> for more information.
<b>Magellan Behavioral Health:</b> 1-800-359-2422	Blue Cross NC delegates the administration of mental health and substance abuse benefits by contract to Magellan Behavioral Health, which is not associated with Blue Cross NC. See “Delegated UTILIZATION MANAGEMENT” for more information.
<b>Out of North Carolina Care:</b> 1-800-810-2583	For help obtaining care outside of North Carolina or the U.S., call this number or visit the national website at <b>bcbs.com</b> .
<b>HealthLine Blue<sup>SM</sup></b> 1-877-477-2424	Talk to a nurse 24/7 to get timely information and help on a number of health-related issues. Nurses are on hand by phone in both English and Spanish. To see if you are eligible for this program, contact Student Blue.
<b>MDLive:</b> 1-888-910-9722 or WWW.MDLIVE.COM/NCVIDEODOC	For 24/7 access to a DOCTOR regarding nonemergency medical issues, call or visit the website to ask for a consultation. DOCTORS will be able to diagnose and suggest a treatment that's appropriate.
<b>Condition Care:</b> 1-800-260-0091	Talk to a Condition Care Coach for information about programs and support for handling specific health conditions, such as asthma, diabetes, heart failure, coronary artery disease and COPD. To see if this program is available to you talk to Student Blue.
<b>My Pregnancy:</b> <b>www.bluecrossnc.com/mypregnancy</b>	The maternity program will provide you with support for managing your pregnancy. To see if this program is available to you talk to Student Blue.
<b>Healthy Outcomes Customer Service:</b> 1-877-719-9004	Talk with a representative to get help with any technical issues with the website, as well as questions about the Healthy Outcomes program. To see if this program is available to you talk to Student Blue.
<b>Medical Claims Filing:</b> Blue Cross NC Claims Department PO Box 35 Durham, NC 27702-0035	Mail completed medical claims to this address.
<b>PRESCRIPTION DRUG Claims Filing:</b> Prime Therapeutics	Mail completed PRESCRIPTION DRUG claims to this address.

## WHO TO CONTACT? *(cont.)*

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Mail Route: Commercial Blue Cross NC PO Box 25136 Lehigh Valley, PA 18002-5136
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### **Value-Added Programs**

Not all plans have these value-added programs. These programs are not covered benefits and are outside of this health benefit plan. To see if these programs are available, talk to Student Blue. Blue Cross NC does not accept claims or reimburse for these goods or services, and MEMBERS are responsible for paying all bills. Blue Cross NC may change or discontinue these programs at any time.

Blue365™

Keep your body - and budget - healthy

Staying healthy and active should be easy-and affordable. That's why Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina (Blue Cross NC) offers Blue365™. It's a simple way to save on everything you need for a well-balanced lifestyle.

Get deals, discounts & more:

- Fitness: Gym memberships & fitness gear
- Personal Care: Vision & hearing care
- Healthy Eating: Weight loss & nutrition programs
- Lifestyle: Travel & family activities
- Wellness: Mind/body wellness tools & resources
- Financial Health: Financial tools & programs

Join and save

Visit [www.BlueCrossNC.com/blue365](http://www.BlueCrossNC.com/blue365)

Or call 1 (855) 511-BLUE (2583)

# SUMMARY OF BENEFITS

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This section provides a summary of your Blue Options benefits. A more complete description of your benefits is found in "COVERED SERVICES." General exclusions may also apply - please see "What Is Not Covered?" As you review the "Summary of Benefits" chart, keep in mind:

- Multiple emergency room visits on the same day may result in multiple copayments
- Coinsurance percentages shown in this section are the part of the ALLOWED AMOUNT that you pay for COVERED SERVICES
- Amounts applied to any deductible and coinsurance are based on the ALLOWED AMOUNT
- Amounts applied to any deductible also count toward any visit or day maximums for those services
- PROVIDERS may collect an estimated amount of the MEMBER'S deductible and coinsurance when services are provided.
- Benefits may differ depending on where the service is performed and if the service is received with any other service or associated with a surgical procedure.

**Please Note:** The list of IN-NETWORK PROVIDERS may change from time to time, so please verify that the PROVIDER is still in the Blue Options network before receiving care. Find a PROVIDER on the website at [www.studentbluenc.com](http://www.studentbluenc.com) or call the number listed on your ID CARD or in "Who to Contact?"

## SPECIAL NOTICE IF YOU CHOOSE AN OUT-OF-NETWORK PROVIDER

Your actual expenses for COVERED SERVICES may exceed the stated coinsurance percentage or copayment amount because actual PROVIDER charges may not be used to determine the health benefit plan's and MEMBER'S payment obligations. For OUT-OF-NETWORK benefits, you may be required to pay for charges over the ALLOWED AMOUNT, in addition to any copayment or coinsurance amount.

**SUMMARY OF BENEFITS** (cont.)

**BENEFIT PERIOD - July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020**

Benefit payments are based on where services are received and how services are billed.

Benefits	IN-NETWORK	OUT-OF-NETWORK
<b>Deductibles, TOTAL OUT-OF-POCKET LIMITS and Benefit Maximums</b>		
The following deductibles and maximums apply to the services listed below in the "Summary of Benefits" unless otherwise noted.		
<b>Deductible</b>		
Individual, per BENEFIT PERIOD	\$500	\$1,000
Family, per BENEFIT PERIOD	\$1,500	\$3,000
Charges for the following do not apply to the BENEFIT PERIOD deductible:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• medical services received at SHC.</li> </ul>		
<p>This health benefit plan has an embedded deductible, which means you have an individual deductible and if DEPENDENTS are covered, you also have a combined family deductible. You must meet your individual deductible before benefits are payable under this health benefit plan. However, once the family deductible is met, it is met for all covered family members. IN-NETWORK services are credited to your IN-NETWORK deductible and OUT-OF-NETWORK services are credited to your OUT-OF-NETWORK deductible.</p>		
<b>TOTAL OUT-OF-POCKET LIMIT</b>		
Individual, per BENEFIT PERIOD	\$2,100	\$4,200
Family, per BENEFIT PERIOD	\$6,300	\$12,600
<p>This health benefit plan has an embedded individual TOTAL OUT-OF-POCKET LIMIT, which means you have an individual TOTAL OUT-OF-POCKET LIMIT and if DEPENDENTS are covered, you also have a combined family TOTAL OUT-OF-POCKET LIMIT. Once a MEMBER meets their individual TOTAL OUT-OF-POCKET LIMIT the health benefit plan will pay 100% of the ALLOWED AMOUNT for COVERED SERVICES for that individual. Once the family TOTAL OUT-OF-POCKET LIMIT is met, it is met for all MEMBERS. Charges for IN-NETWORK services apply to your IN-NETWORK TOTAL OUT-OF-POCKET LIMIT and charges for OUT-OF-NETWORK services apply to your OUT-OF-NETWORK TOTAL OUT-OF-POCKET LIMIT.</p>		

## SUMMARY OF BENEFITS *(cont.)*

Benefits	IN-NETWORK	OUT-OF-NETWORK
<b>LIFETIME MAXIMUMS per MEMBER</b>		Unlimited
<p>Unlimited for all services unless otherwise noted below. Maximums are per MEMBER per lifetime and combined IN- and OUT-OF-NETWORK unless otherwise noted. If you exceed any LIFETIME MAXIMUM, additional services of that type are not covered. In this case, you may be responsible for the entire amount of the PROVIDER'S billed charge.</p>		
INFERTILITY PRESCRIPTION DRUGS	Quantity limits apply, see <a href="https://www.BlueCrossNC.com/umdrug">https://www.BlueCrossNC.com/umdrug</a> ; PRESCRIPTION DRUGS indicated to treat INFERTILITY will be included in this benefit limit as they are approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA)	
INFERTILITY Services (in any place of service)	Three ovulation induction cycles, with or without insemination	
Medical Evacuation and Repatriation of Mortal Remains	Unlimited	
Orthotic Devices for POSITIONAL PLAGIOCEPHALY	One device (includes dynamic orthotic cranioplasty (DOC) bands and soft helmets)	
Vein Treatment	Endovenous procedures—one procedure per limb Sclerotherapy vein treatment—three procedures per limb	
<b>BENEFIT PERIOD MAXIMUMS per MEMBER</b>		Unlimited
<p>Maximums are per BENEFIT PERIOD and combined IN- and OUT-OF-NETWORK, unless noted otherwise. Any services in excess of these benefit maximums are not COVERED SERVICES. All day and visit limits are for IN- and OUT-OF-NETWORK benefits combined.</p>		
ADAPTIVE BEHAVIOR TREATMENT	Limited to \$40,000 for MEMBERS up to age 19	
Dialysis Treatment	Three hemodialysis treatments per week, more hemodialysis treatments are available if MEDICALLY NECESSARY	
Evaluation and Treatment of Obesity	Four visits, applies to office and outpatient setting. These visits are separate from any nutritional counseling visits.	
Hearing Aids	When covered, one hearing aid per hearing-impaired ear every 36 months for MEMBERS under age 22.	
Home Health Care	60 days	
REHABILITATIVE and HABILITATIVE THERAPIES (applies to home, office and outpatient setting)	30 visits for physical/occupational therapy, including chiropractic services. 30 visits for speech therapy.	
SKILLED NURSING FACILITY	60 days	



**SUMMARY OF BENEFITS** (cont.)

Benefits	IN-NETWORK	OUT-OF-NETWORK									
<b>PREVENTIVE CARE Services</b>											
<p>For PREVENTIVE CARE services that are not mandated by federal or state law, benefits will depend on where the services are received. This benefit is only for services for which your PROVIDER indicates a primary diagnosis of preventive or wellness on the claim that is submitted to Blue Cross NC. Also see “PREVENTIVE CARE” in “COVERED SERVICES.”</p> <table border="0" data-bbox="180 548 1430 583"> <tr> <td data-bbox="180 548 784 583"><b>Federally-mandated PREVENTIVE CARE</b></td> <td data-bbox="784 548 1127 583">No Charge</td> <td data-bbox="1127 548 1466 583"><b>Benefits not available</b></td> </tr> </table> <p>Available in an office-based, outpatient, ambulatory surgical setting, or URGENT CARE center. For the most up-to-date list of PREVENTIVE CARE services that are covered under federal law, including certain preventive over-the-counter medications, general preventive services and screenings, immunizations, well-baby/well-child care, and women’s PREVENTIVE CARE, see our website at <a href="http://www.bluecrossnc.com/preventive">www.bluecrossnc.com/preventive</a> or call Customer Service at the number listed in “Who to Contact?”</p> <p>Nutritional counseling visits are covered IN-NETWORK regardless of diagnosis and are also available OUT-OF-NETWORK at 30% after deductible.</p> <table border="0" data-bbox="180 919 1430 955"> <tr> <td data-bbox="180 919 784 955"><b>State-mandated PREVENTIVE CARE</b></td> <td data-bbox="784 919 1127 955">No Charge</td> <td data-bbox="1127 919 1466 955">30% after deductible</td> </tr> </table> <p>The following services are state-mandated and required to be offered both IN- and OUT-OF-NETWORK: gynecological exams, cervical cancer screening, ovarian cancer screening, screening mammograms, colorectal screening, bone mass measurement, prostate-specific antigen tests, and newborn hearing screening.</p>			<b>Federally-mandated PREVENTIVE CARE</b>	No Charge	<b>Benefits not available</b>	<b>State-mandated PREVENTIVE CARE</b>	No Charge	30% after deductible			
<b>Federally-mandated PREVENTIVE CARE</b>	No Charge	<b>Benefits not available</b>									
<b>State-mandated PREVENTIVE CARE</b>	No Charge	30% after deductible									
<b>PROVIDER'S Office</b>											
<p><b>OFFICE VISITS</b></p> <table border="0" data-bbox="180 1297 1430 1381"> <tr> <td data-bbox="180 1297 784 1333">Student Health Center (SHC)</td> <td colspan="2" data-bbox="784 1297 1466 1333">No Charge</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="180 1350 784 1381">PRIMARY CARE PROVIDER or SPECIALIST</td> <td data-bbox="784 1350 1127 1381">20% after deductible</td> <td data-bbox="1127 1350 1466 1381">30% after deductible</td> </tr> </table> <p>Includes all OFFICE VISITS for medical, mental health, substance abuse, INFERTILITY, REHABILITATIVE THERAPY and HABILITATIVE SERVICES, therapy services, prenatal/post-delivery care (not included in the global maternity delivery fee), obesity treatment/weight management, office SURGERY, x-rays, diagnostic imaging, and lab tests.</p> <table border="0" data-bbox="180 1549 1430 1585"> <tr> <td data-bbox="180 1549 784 1585">MDLIVE Telehealth</td> <td data-bbox="784 1549 1127 1585">20% after deductible</td> <td data-bbox="1127 1549 1466 1585">Not Applicable</td> </tr> </table>			Student Health Center (SHC)	No Charge		PRIMARY CARE PROVIDER or SPECIALIST	20% after deductible	30% after deductible	MDLIVE Telehealth	20% after deductible	Not Applicable
Student Health Center (SHC)	No Charge										
PRIMARY CARE PROVIDER or SPECIALIST	20% after deductible	30% after deductible									
MDLIVE Telehealth	20% after deductible	Not Applicable									

**SUMMARY OF BENEFITS** (cont.)

Benefits	IN-NETWORK	OUT-OF-NETWORK
<b>URGENT CARE Centers, Emergency Room, and Ambulance</b>		
<p><b>URGENT CARE Centers</b></p> <p><b>Emergency Room Visit</b></p>	<p>20% after deductible</p> <p>\$150 copayment, then 20% after deductible</p>	<p>20% after deductible</p> <p>\$150 copayment, then 20% after deductible</p>
<p>If admitted to the HOSPITAL from the emergency room, the emergency room copayment does not apply; instead, inpatient HOSPITAL benefits apply to all COVERED SERVICES provided in both the emergency room and during inpatient hospitalization. If held for observation, the emergency room copayment does not apply; instead, outpatient benefits apply to all COVERED SERVICES provided in both the emergency room and during observation.</p>		
<p><b>Ambulance Services</b></p>	<p>20% after deductible</p>	<p>20% after deductible</p>
<b>AMBULATORY SURGICAL CENTER</b>		
<p><b>AMBULATORY SURGICAL Services</b></p>	<p>20% after deductible</p>	<p>30% after deductible</p>
<b>Outpatient</b>		
<p><b>Outpatient Services</b></p>	<p>20% after deductible</p>	<p>30% after deductible</p>
<p>Includes physician services, HOSPITAL and HOSPITAL-based services, HOSPITAL-based or OUTPATIENT CLINIC services, outpatient diagnostic services, mental health/substance abuse, REHABILITATIVE THERAPY and HABILITATIVE SERVICES, OTHER THERAPIES including dialysis, and obesity treatment/weight management.</p>		
<p><b>Outpatient Diagnostic Mammography</b> (physician and HOSPITAL-BASED services)</p>	<p>No Charge</p>	<p>30% after deductible</p>
<p>See PREVENTIVE CARE for coverage of screening mammograms.</p>		
<b>Inpatient</b>		
<p><b>Inpatient Services</b></p>	<p>20% after deductible</p>	<p>30% after deductible</p>
<p>Includes physician services, HOSPITAL and HOSPITAL-based services, mental health/substance abuse (including RESIDENTIAL TREATMENT facilities), INFERTILITY, therapies, obesity treatment/weight management, transplants, and maternity delivery, prenatal and post-delivery care. If you are in a HOSPITAL as an inpatient at the time you begin a new BENEFIT PERIOD, you may have to meet a new deductible for COVERED SERVICES from DOCTORS or OTHER PROFESSIONAL PROVIDERS.</p>		

**SUMMARY OF BENEFITS** (cont.)

Benefits	IN-NETWORK	OUT-OF-NETWORK
<b>SKILLED NURSING FACILITY</b>		
	20% after deductible	30% after deductible
<b>Other Services</b>		
Home health care, HOSPICE services and private duty nursing	20% after deductible	30% after deductible
DURABLE MEDICAL EQUIPMENT, MEDICAL SUPPLIES, orthotic devices, PROSTHETIC APPLIANCES	20% after deductible	30% after deductible
CT Scans, MRIs, MRAs and PET scans in any location, including a physician's office	20% after deductible	30% after deductible
<b>CERTIFICATION Requirements</b>		
<p>Certain services, regardless of the location, require PRIOR REVIEW and CERTIFICATION by Blue Cross NC in order to receive benefits. IN-NETWORK PROVIDERS in North Carolina will request PRIOR REVIEW when necessary. IN-NETWORK inpatient FACILITIES outside of North Carolina will also request PRIOR REVIEW for you except for Veterans' Affairs (VA) and military PROVIDERS. Otherwise, if you go to an OUT-OF-NETWORK PROVIDER in North Carolina or to any other PROVIDER outside of North Carolina, you are responsible for ensuring that you or your PROVIDER requests PRIOR REVIEW by Blue Cross NC. Blue Cross NC delegates administration of mental health and substance abuse benefits to Magellan Behavioral Health. Magellan Behavioral Health is not associated with Blue Cross NC. Blue Cross NC delegates PRIOR REVIEW and CERTIFICATION for particular benefits to other companies not associated with Blue Cross NC. Please see <a href="https://www.bluecrossnc.com/content/services/medical-policy/index.htm">https://www.bluecrossnc.com/content/services/medical-policy/index.htm</a> for a detailed list of these companies and benefits. While some benefits have been identified under "COVERED SERVICES," the list of benefits and/or companies may change from time to time; for the most up-to-date information visit <a href="http://www.studentbluenc.com">www.studentbluenc.com</a>. <b>Failure to request PRIOR REVIEW and receive CERTIFICATION will result in a full denial of benefits. See "COVERED SERVICES" and "PRIOR REVIEW (Pre-Service)" in "UTILIZATION MANAGEMENT" for additional information.</b></p> <p>To request PRIOR REVIEW, please see the numbers in "Who to Contact?"</p>		

**SUMMARY OF BENEFITS** (cont.)

Benefits	IN-NETWORK	OUT-OF-NETWORK
<b>PRESCRIPTION DRUGS</b>		
<p><b>PRESCRIPTION DRUGS Purchased at SHC</b></p> <p>One copayment for up to a 30-day supply. 31-60-day supply is two copayments, and 61-90-day supply is three copayments.</p>	<p>\$10 copayment</p>	<p><b>Benefits not applicable</b></p>
<p><b>PRESCRIPTION DRUGS Purchased at any Pharmacy other than SHC</b></p>		
<p><b>TIER 1 DRUGS</b></p>	<p>\$10 copayment</p>	<p>\$10 copayment</p>
<p><b>TIER 2 DRUGS</b></p>	<p>\$35 copayment</p>	<p>\$35 copayment</p>
<p><b>TIER 3 DRUGS</b></p>	<p>\$50 copayment</p>	<p>\$50 copayment</p>
<p><b>TIER 4 DRUGS</b></p>	<p>25%</p>	<p>25%</p>
<p><b>Diabetic Supplies, Spacers, Peak Flow Meters</b></p>	<p>25%</p>	<p>25%</p>
<p>One copayment for up to a 30-day supply. 31-60-day supply is two copayments, and 61-90-day supply is three copayments. For each 30-day supply of a TIER 4 DRUG, you will pay a minimum of \$50 in coinsurance, but not more than \$100. Any OUT-OF-NETWORK charges over the ALLOWED AMOUNT are not included in this maximum.</p>		
<p><b>Preventive over-the-counter medications and PRESCRIPTION contraceptive drugs and devices as listed at <a href="http://www.bluecrossnc.com/preventive">www.bluecrossnc.com/preventive</a></b></p>	<p>No Charge</p>	<p>No Charge**</p>
<p>*Please visit the website at <a href="http://www.bluecrossnc.com/preventive">www.bluecrossnc.com/preventive</a> or call the number in "Who to Contact?" for guidelines on which preventive over-the-counter medications are covered and individuals who may qualify, as well as more information and any limitations that apply for contraceptives. PRESCRIPTION contraceptive drugs and devices that are not covered at the PREVENTIVE CARE benefit level will be covered according to your regular PRESCRIPTION DRUG benefits. Also see "PREVENTIVE CARE" in "COVERED SERVICES."</p>		
<p>**No Charge indicates no obligation for MEMBERS to pay any portion of the ALLOWED AMOUNT. For OUT-OF-NETWORK benefits, you may be required to pay for charges over the ALLOWED AMOUNT, the difference between the ALLOWED AMOUNT and the billed charge.</p>		

# HOW BLUE OPTIONS WORKS

This section provides information about choosing services at the most cost-effective benefit level. It tells you about:

<p><b>Table of Contents:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Most cost-effective benefit level</li> <li>- Student Health Center (SHC)</li> <li>- IN-NETWORK and OUT-OF-NETWORK Benefits</li> <li>- OUT-OF-NETWORK Benefit Exceptions</li> <li>- Carry your IDENTIFICATION CARD</li> <li>- Role of a PRIMARY CARE PROVIDER (PCP) or SPECIALIST</li> </ul>	<p><b>Key Words:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- ALLOWED AMOUNT vs. Billed Amount</li> <li>- Referrals</li> <li>- After-hours care</li> <li>- Care outside of North Carolina</li> <li>- Filing claims</li> <li>- PRIOR REVIEW</li> <li>- PRIMARY CARE PROVIDER</li> <li>- SPECIALIST</li> </ul>
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## **Most Cost-Effective Benefit Level**

As a MEMBER of the Blue Options plan, you enjoy quality health care from a network of health care PROVIDERS and easy access to SPECIALISTS. You also have the freedom to choose health care PROVIDERS who do not participate in the Blue Options network - the main difference will be the cost to you. Benefits are available for services from an IN- or OUT-OF-NETWORK PROVIDER that is recognized by Blue Cross NC as eligible. For a list of eligible PROVIDERS, please visit the Student Blue<sup>SM</sup> website at [www.studentbluenc.com](http://www.studentbluenc.com) or call the number listed in "Who to Contact?"

## **Student Health Center (SHC)**

The Student Health Center (SHC) at your school provides primary medical care for all SUBSCRIBERS who have paid the SHC fee. In order to make the most of your benefits, visit SHC first. If you require services of a DOCTOR outside SHC, they can guide you to the appropriate PROVIDER.

## **IN-NETWORK and OUT-OF-NETWORK Benefits**

By choosing PROVIDERS in the Blue Options network, you receive a higher level of benefit coverage. Here is a look at how it works:

	IN-NETWORK	OUT-OF-NETWORK
Type of PROVIDER	<p>IN-NETWORK PROVIDERS are health care professionals and facilities that have contracted with Blue Cross NC, or a PROVIDER participating in the BlueCard<sup>®</sup> program. ANCILLARY PROVIDERS outside North Carolina are considered IN-NETWORK only if they contract directly with the Blue Cross or Blue Shield plan in the state where services are received, even if they participate in the BlueCard<sup>®</sup> program. See the "Glossary" for a description of ANCILLARY PROVIDERS and the criteria for determining where services are received.</p> <p>The list of IN-NETWORK PROVIDERS may change from time to time. IN-NETWORK PROVIDERS are listed on the Student Blue<sup>SM</sup> website <a href="http://www.studentbluenc.com">www.studentbluenc.com</a>, or call the number listed in "Who to Contact?"</p>	<p>OUT-OF-NETWORK PROVIDERS are not designated as a Blue Options PROVIDER by Blue Cross NC. Also see "OUT-OF-NETWORK Benefit Exceptions."</p>
ALLOWED AMOUNT vs. Billed Amount	<p>If the billed amount for COVERED SERVICES is greater than the ALLOWED AMOUNT, you are not responsible for the difference. You only pay any applicable copayment, deductible, coinsurance, and noncovered</p>	<p>You may be responsible for paying any charges over the ALLOWED AMOUNT in addition to any applicable copayment, deductible, coinsurance, and noncovered expenses. For</p>

## HOW BLUE OPTIONS WORKS *(cont.)*

	IN-NETWORK	OUT-OF-NETWORK
	expenses. (See Filing Claims below for additional information.)	EMERGENCY SERVICES, see "OUT-OF-NETWORK Benefit Exceptions" and "EMERGENCY, URGENT Care and Ambulance Services" for additional information.
Referrals	Blue Cross NC does not require you to obtain any referrals.	
After Hours Care	If you need nonemergency services after your PROVIDER'S office has closed, please call your PROVIDER'S office for their recorded instructions. You may also contact the nurse advice line, HealthLine Blue, for assistance.	
Care Outside of North Carolina	Your ID CARD gives you access to participating PROVIDERS outside the state of North Carolina through the BlueCard® Program, and benefits are provided at the IN-NETWORK benefit level.	If you are in an area that has participating PROVIDERS and you choose a PROVIDER outside the network, you will receive the lower OUT-OF-NETWORK benefit. Also see "OUT-OF-NETWORK Benefit Exceptions."
PRIOR REVIEW	<p>IN-NETWORK PROVIDERS in North Carolina are responsible for requesting PRIOR REVIEW when necessary.</p> <p>IN-NETWORK PROVIDERS outside of North Carolina, except for Veterans' Affairs (VA) and military PROVIDERS, are responsible for requesting PRIOR REVIEW for inpatient FACILITY SERVICES. For all other COVERED SERVICES received outside of North Carolina, <b>you</b> are responsible for ensuring that you or your PROVIDER requests PRIOR REVIEW by Blue Cross NC even if you see an IN-NETWORK PROVIDER.</p> <p>See "Who to Contact?" for information on who to call for PRIOR REVIEW and to obtain CERTIFICATION for mental health and substance abuse services and all other medical services.</p> <p>PRIOR REVIEW is not required for an EMERGENCY or for an inpatient HOSPITAL stay for 48 hours after a vaginal delivery or 96 hours after a Cesarean section.</p>	<p>OUT-OF-NETWORK PROVIDERS are not obligated by contract to request PRIOR REVIEW by Blue Cross NC.</p> <p><b>You are responsible for ensuring that you or your OUT-OF-NETWORK PROVIDER requests PRIOR REVIEW by Blue Cross NC.</b></p> <p>Failure to request PRIOR REVIEW and obtain CERTIFICATION will result in a full denial of benefits.</p> <p>However, PRIOR REVIEW is not required for an EMERGENCY or for an inpatient HOSPITAL stay for 48 hours after a vaginal delivery or 96 hours after a Cesarean section.</p> <p>Although PRIOR REVIEW and CERTIFICATION are not required for OUT-OF-NETWORK inpatient and certain outpatient mental health and substance abuse services, Magellan Behavioral Health can assist in finding an appropriate PROVIDER. See "Who to Contact?"</p>
Filing Claims	IN-NETWORK PROVIDERS in North Carolina are responsible for filing claims directly with Blue Cross NC. However, you will have to file a claim if you do not show your ID CARD when you obtain a PRESCRIPTION from an IN-NETWORK pharmacy, or the IN-NETWORK pharmacy's records do	You may have to pay the OUT-OF-NETWORK PROVIDER in full and submit your own claim to Blue Cross NC. Mail claims in time to be received within 18 months of the date the service was provided. Claims not received within 18 months from the service date

## HOW BLUE OPTIONS WORKS (cont.)

	IN-NETWORK	OUT-OF-NETWORK
	not show as eligible for coverage. In order to recover the full cost of the PRESCRIPTION minus any applicable copayment or coinsurance you owe, return to the IN-NETWORK pharmacy within 14 days of receiving your PRESCRIPTION so that it can be reprocessed with your correct eligibility information and the pharmacy will make a refund to you. If you are unable to return to the pharmacy within 14 days, mail claims in time to be received within 18 months of the date of the service in order to receive IN-NETWORK benefits. Claims not received within 18 months from the service date will not be covered, except in the absence of legal capacity of the MEMBER.	will not be covered, except in the absence of legal capacity of the MEMBER.

### **OUT-OF-NETWORK Benefit Exceptions**

In an EMERGENCY, in situations where IN-NETWORK PROVIDERS are not reasonably available as determined by Blue Cross NC's access to care standards, or in continuity of care situations, OUT-OF-NETWORK benefits will be paid at the IN-NETWORK benefit level. However, you may be responsible for charges billed separately by the PROVIDER which are not eligible for additional reimbursement. If you are billed by the PROVIDER, you will be responsible for paying the bill and filing a claim with Blue Cross NC.

For more information, see one of the following sections: "EMERGENCY, URGENT CARE and Ambulance Services" in "COVERED SERVICES" or "Continuity of Care" in "UTILIZATION MANAGEMENT." For information about Blue Cross NC's access to care standards, see the website at [www.studentbluenc.com](http://www.studentbluenc.com). If you believe an IN-NETWORK PROVIDER is not reasonably available, you can help assure that benefits are paid at the correct benefit level by calling Student Blue<sup>SM</sup> before receiving care from an OUT-OF-NETWORK PROVIDER.

### **Carry Your ID CARD**

Your ID CARD identifies you as a Blue Options MEMBER. Be sure to carry your ID CARD with you at all times, and present it each time you seek health care.

For ID CARD requests, please contact Student Blue<sup>SM</sup> at [email@studentbluenc.com](mailto:email@studentbluenc.com) or call the number listed in "Who to Contact?"

### **The Role of a PRIMARY CARE PROVIDER (PCP) or SPECIALIST**

Blue Cross NC does not require that you designate a PCP to manage your health care. However, it is important for you to maintain a relationship with a PCP, either at SHC or outside of SHC, who will help you manage your health and make decisions about your health care. If you change PCPs, be sure to have your medical records transferred, especially immunization records, to provide your new DOCTOR with your medical history. You should participate actively in all decisions related to your health care and discuss all treatment options with your health care PROVIDER regardless of cost or benefit coverage. PCPs are trained to deal with a broad range of health care issues and can help you determine when you need a SPECIALIST. PROVIDERS from medical specialties such as family practice, internal medicine and pediatrics may participate as PCPs.

Please visit the Student Blue<sup>SM</sup> website [www.studentbluenc.com](http://www.studentbluenc.com), or call the number listed in "Who to Contact?" to confirm that the PROVIDER is in the network before receiving care.

If your PCP or SPECIALIST leaves our PROVIDER network and they are currently treating you for an ongoing special condition, see "Continuity of Care" in "UTILIZATION MANAGEMENT."

## HOW BLUE OPTIONS WORKS *(cont.)*

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Upon the request of the MEMBER and subject to approval by Blue Cross NC, a SPECIALIST treating a MEMBER for a serious or chronic disabling or life-threatening condition can act as the MEMBER'S PCP. The selected SPECIALIST would be responsible for providing and coordinating the MEMBER'S primary and specialty care. The selection of a SPECIALIST under these circumstances shall be made under a treatment plan approved by the SPECIALIST, and Blue Cross NC, with notice to the PCP if applicable. A request may be denied where it is determined that the SPECIALIST cannot appropriately coordinate the MEMBER'S primary and specialty care.

To make this request or if you would like the professional qualifications of your PCP or IN-NETWORK SPECIALIST, you may call Student Blue<sup>SM</sup> at the number listed in "Who to Contact?"



# COVERED SERVICES

This section provides a more complete description of your benefits, along with some exceptions - or services that aren't covered by your health benefit plan. Keep in mind as you read this section Blue Options covers only those services that are **MEDICALLY NECESSARY**. Also check the "Summary of Benefits" for any benefit maximums and limitations that may apply to your benefits. We've grouped these **COVERED SERVICES** listed below to make it easier for you to find what you're looking for.

<b>Table of Contents:</b>	<b>Key Words:</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Office Services</li> <li>- PREVENTIVE CARE</li> <li>- EMERGENCY, URGENT CARE, and Ambulance Services</li> <li>- HOSPITAL and Other Facility Care</li> <li>- Alternatives to HOSPITAL Stays</li> <li>- Family Planning</li> <li>- Specific Therapies and Tests</li> <li>- Other Services</li> <li>- Equipment and Supplies</li> <li>- Surgical Benefits</li> <li>- Mental Health/Substance Abuse Services</li> <li>- PRESCRIPTION DRUG Benefits</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- OFFICE VISIT</li> <li>- Outpatient Clinic</li> <li>- PREVENTIVE CARE</li> <li>- IN-NETWORK</li> <li>- OUT-OF-NETWORK</li> <li>- REHABILITATIVE THERAPY/HABILITATIVE SERVICES</li> <li>- ADAPTIVE BEHAVIOR TREATMENT</li> <li>- GENERIC and BRAND-NAME PRESCRIPTION DRUGS</li> </ul>

## **Office Services**

Your health benefit plan covers care you receive as part of an OFFICE VISIT, including:

- electronic visit
- evaluation and treatment of obesity
- house call
- telehealth services.

Telehealth services which include evaluation, management and consultation services for nonemergency medical issues with a PROVIDER via an interactive audio/video telecommunications system. See MDLIVE in "Who to Contact?" to access a DOCTOR who can diagnose and recommend treatment. Telehealth services from MDLIVE will be subject to the copayment and/or coinsurance and any applicable deductible listed in your "Summary of Benefits". You can also check with your local PROVIDER to see if telehealth services are available; your benefit would depend on the type of PROVIDER supplying these services.

PRESCRIPTION DRUGS for hemophilia will be reimbursed as TIER 4 DRUGS, according to your PRESCRIPTION DRUG benefits. Please see "PRESCRIPTION DRUGS" in the "Summary of Benefits".

## **PREVENTIVE CARE**

This health benefit plan covers PREVENTIVE CARE services that can help you stay safe and healthy.

PREVENTIVE CARE services may fall into three categories: (1) federally-mandated PREVENTIVE CARE services (required to be covered at no cost to you IN-NETWORK); (2) state-mandated PREVENTIVE CARE services (required to be offered both IN and OUT-OF-NETWORK); and (3) non-mandated PREVENTIVE CARE services. In order to determine your benefit, it is important to understand what type of PREVENTIVE CARE service you are receiving, where you are receiving it and why you are receiving it.

### **Federally-Mandated PREVENTIVE CARE Services**

Under federal law, you can receive certain covered PREVENTIVE CARE services from an IN-NETWORK PROVIDER in an office-based, outpatient, or ambulatory surgical setting, or URGENT CARE center at no cost to you. Please log on to the website at [www.bluecrossnc.com/preventive](http://www.bluecrossnc.com/preventive) or call Customer Service at the number in "Who to Contact?" for up-to-date information on PREVENTIVE CARE that is covered under federal law, including general preventive services and screenings, immunizations, well-baby/well-child care, women's PREVENTIVE CARE, nutritional counseling visits, and certain over-the-counter medications. Nutritional counseling visits are separate from the obesity-related OFFICE VISITS noted in the "Summary of Benefits."

Certain over-the-counter medications are covered only as indicated and when a PROVIDER'S PRESCRIPTION is presented at a pharmacy.

## COVERED SERVICES (cont.)

The following conditions must be met for these services to be covered at no cost to you IN-NETWORK:

- Services are designated as PREVENTIVE CARE services under federal law (see website above);
- Services are performed by an IN-NETWORK PROVIDER;
- Services are provided in an office-based, outpatient or ambulatory setting or URGENT CARE center; and
- Services are filed with a primary diagnosis of preventive or wellness, and do not include any additional procedures, such as diagnostic services.

Please note that if a particular PREVENTIVE CARE service does not have a federal recommendation or guideline concerning the frequency, method, treatment or setting in which it must be provided, Blue Cross NC may use reasonable medical management procedures to determine any coverage limitations or restrictions that may apply. Services that would otherwise be excluded under this health benefit plan will be covered at no cost if the criteria mentioned above are met. Visit [www.bluecrossnc.com/preventive](http://www.bluecrossnc.com/preventive) or call Customer Service at the number listed in “Who to Contact?” for a complete list of these federally-mandated PREVENTIVE CARE services that are covered under this health benefit plan.

In certain instances, you may receive PREVENTIVE CARE services that are covered under this health benefit plan; however, these services are subject to your applicable copayment, deductible and coinsurance. The following information will help you determine why you would not receive these services at no cost to you:

Situation	Example	Reason/Result
How your PREVENTIVE CARE service is filed	A colonoscopy includes a primary diagnosis of non-preventive.	Certain PREVENTIVE CARE services will not be paid in full because the primary diagnosis filed on the claim is something other than PREVENTIVE CARE. In this instance, the colonoscopy is subject to any applicable copayment, deductible or coinsurance.
Services that are not considered preventive	A routine wellness exam includes an additional procedure, such as a Vitamin D serum test.	The Vitamin D test will not be covered as a federally-mandated PREVENTIVE CARE service. This service will be denied as it is not considered a PREVENTIVE CARE service by the United States Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF).
Place of service (where you receive your PREVENTIVE CARE service)	A mammogram is performed in a setting that is not considered an office, such as a HOSPITAL.	Certain PREVENTIVE CARE services will not be paid in full because they are not performed in an office-based, outpatient, ambulatory setting or URGENT CARE center. In this example, the mammogram is subject to deductible and coinsurance.

Most PREVENTIVE CARE services performed by OUT-OF-NETWORK PROVIDERS are not covered. However, the following list of services is mandated by the state of North Carolina and is available OUT-OF-NETWORK. If you see an OUT-OF-NETWORK PROVIDER for these services, your benefits will be subject to the OUT-OF-NETWORK benefit level.

### State-Mandated PREVENTIVE CARE Services

The following benefits are available IN-NETWORK and OUT-OF-NETWORK:

#### Bone Mass Measurement Services

This health benefit plan covers one scientifically proven and approved bone mass measurement for the diagnosis and evaluation of osteoporosis or low bone mass during any 23-month period for certain qualified individuals only. Additional follow-up bone mass measurement tests will be covered if MEDICALLY NECESSARY. Please note that bone mass measurement tests are covered under your diagnostic benefit (not your PREVENTIVE CARE benefit) if the claim for these services indicates a primary diagnosis of something other than preventive or wellness. Your diagnostic benefit is subject to your benefit level for the location where services are received.

Qualified individuals include MEMBERS who have any one of the following conditions:

- Estrogen-deficient and at clinical risk of osteoporosis or low bone mass
- Radiographic osteopenia anywhere in the skeleton
- Receiving long-term glucocorticoid (steroid) therapy
- Primary hyperparathyroidism
- Being monitored to assess the response or effect of commonly accepted osteoporosis drug therapies
- History of low-trauma fractures
- Other conditions, or receiving medical therapies known to cause osteoporosis or low bone mass.

### Colorectal Screening

Colorectal cancer examinations and laboratory tests for cancer are covered for any symptomatic or asymptomatic MEMBER who is at least 50 years of age, or is less than 50 years of age and at high risk for colorectal cancer.

Increased/high-risk individuals are those who have a higher potential of developing colon cancer because of a personal or family history of certain intestinal disorders. Some of these procedures are considered SURGERY, such as colonoscopy and sigmoidoscopy, and others are considered lab tests, such as hemoccult screenings. Lab work done as a result of a colorectal screening exam is covered under your diagnostic benefit and is not considered PREVENTIVE CARE. It is subject to your benefit level for the location where services are received. However, lab work for the removal of polyps during the screening exam is considered PREVENTIVE CARE.

The PROVIDER search on the Student Blue<sup>SM</sup> website at [www.studentbluenc.com](http://www.studentbluenc.com) can help you find office-based PROVIDERS or you can call the number in "Who to Contact?" for this information.

### Gynecological Exam and Cervical Cancer Screening

The cervical cancer screening benefit includes the examination and laboratory tests for early detection and screening of cervical cancer, and a DOCTOR'S interpretation of the lab results. Coverage for cervical cancer screening includes Pap smear screening, liquid-based cytology, and human papilloma-virus detection, and shall follow the American Cancer Society guidelines or guidelines adopted by the North Carolina Advisory Committee on Cancer Coordination and Control.

### Newborn Hearing Screening

Coverage is provided for newborn hearing screening ordered by a DOCTOR to determine the presence of permanent hearing loss.

### Ovarian Cancer Screening

For female MEMBERS ages 25 and older at risk for ovarian cancer, an annual screening, including a transvaginal ultrasound and a rectovaginal pelvic examination, is covered. A female MEMBER is considered "at risk" if she:

- has a family history with at least one first-degree relative with ovarian cancer; and a second relative, either first-degree or second-degree with breast, ovarian, or nonpolyposis colorectal cancer; or
- tested positive for a hereditary ovarian cancer syndrome.

### Prostate Screening

One prostate-specific antigen (PSA) test or an equivalent serological test will be covered per male MEMBER per BENEFIT PERIOD. More PSA tests will be covered if recommended by a DOCTOR.

### Screening Mammograms

This health benefit plan provides coverage for one baseline mammogram for any female MEMBER between the ages of 35 and 39. Beginning at age 40, one screening mammogram will be covered per female MEMBER per BENEFIT PERIOD, along with a DOCTOR'S interpretation of the results. More frequent or earlier mammograms will be covered as recommended by a DOCTOR when a female MEMBER is considered at risk for breast cancer.

A female MEMBER is "at risk" if she:

- has a personal history of breast cancer
- has a personal history of biopsy-proven benign breast disease
- has a mother, sister, or daughter who has or has had breast cancer, or
- has not given birth before the age of 30.

### PREVENTIVE CARE Exclusions

- Immunizations required for occupational hazard or international travel
- Fitting for contact lenses, glasses or other hardware
- Diagnostic services that are not a component of a routine vision examination

## **COVERED SERVICES** (cont.)

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- Diagnostic services used for prevention or screening that are not recognized as recommended PREVENTIVE CARE services (Grade A or B) by the United States Preventive Services Task Force, and filed with a preventive/wellness diagnosis, including, but not limited to:
  - Albumin (urine) testing
  - Chest x-rays
  - EKGs
  - Iron level testing
  - Testosterone level testing
  - Thyroid function testing
  - Urinalysis
  - Vitamin B or D serum testing.

For information on how these services would be covered as diagnostic, see "Diagnostic Services" in "COVERED SERVICES."

### **Obesity Treatment/Weight Management**

This health benefit plan provides coverage for OFFICE VISITS for the evaluation and treatment of obesity; see "Summary of Benefits" for visit maximums. This health benefit plan also provides benefits for nutritional counseling visits to an IN- or OUT-OF-NETWORK PROVIDER as part of your PREVENTIVE CARE benefits. The nutritional counseling visits may include counseling specific to achieving or maintaining a healthy weight.

### **EMERGENCY, URGENT CARE, and Ambulance Services**

This health benefit plan provides benefits for EMERGENCY SERVICES.

An EMERGENCY is the sudden and unexpected onset of a condition of such severity 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 any of the following:

- Placing the health of an individual, or with respect to a pregnant woman the health of the pregnant woman or her unborn child, in serious jeopardy
- Serious physical impairment to bodily functions
- Serious dysfunction of any bodily organ or part
- Death.

Heart attacks, strokes, uncontrolled bleeding, poisonings, major burns, prolonged loss of consciousness, spinal injuries, shock and other severe, acute conditions are examples of EMERGENCIES.

### **What to Do in an EMERGENCY**

In an EMERGENCY, you should seek care immediately from an emergency room or other similar facility. If necessary and available, call 911 or use other community EMERGENCY resources to obtain assistance in handling life-threatening EMERGENCIES. If you are unsure if your condition is an EMERGENCY, you can call HealthLine Blue and a HealthLine Blue nurse will provide information and support that may save you an unnecessary trip to the emergency room.

**Benefits for services in the emergency room**

<b>Situation</b>	<b>Benefit</b>
You go to an IN-NETWORK HOSPITAL emergency room.	Applicable ER copayment, deductible and/or coinsurance. PRIOR REVIEW and CERTIFICATION are not required.
You go to an OUT-OF-NETWORK HOSPITAL emergency room.	Benefits paid at the IN-NETWORK level and based on the billed amount. You may be responsible for charges billed separately which are not eligible for additional reimbursement, and you may be required to pay the entire bill at the time of service and file a claim. PRIOR REVIEW and CERTIFICATION are not required.
You are held for observation.	Outpatient benefits apply to all COVERED SERVICES received in the emergency room and during the observation.
You are admitted to the HOSPITAL from the ER following EMERGENCY SERVICES.	Inpatient HOSPITAL benefits apply for all COVERED SERVICES received in the emergency room and during hospitalization. PRIOR REVIEW and CERTIFICATION are required for inpatient hospitalization and other selected services following EMERGENCY SERVICES (including screening and stabilization) or services will be denied. You may need to transfer to an IN-NETWORK HOSPITAL once your condition has been stabilized in order to continue receiving IN-NETWORK benefits.
You get follow-up care (such as OFFICE VISITS or therapy) after you leave the ER or are discharged.	Use IN-NETWORK PROVIDERS to receive IN-NETWORK benefits. Follow-up care related to the EMERGENCY condition is not considered an EMERGENCY.

**URGENT CARE**

This health benefit plan also provides benefits for URGENT CARE services. When you need URGENT CARE during the normal hours of operation of SHC and you are in the Greenville area, you should go to SHC first. You may also call your PCP, a SPECIALIST or go to an URGENT CARE PROVIDER. If you are not sure if your condition requires URGENT CARE, you can call HealthLine Blue.

**Ambulance Services**

This health benefit plan covers services in a ground ambulance traveling:

- From a MEMBER'S home or scene of an accident or EMERGENCY to a HOSPITAL
- Between HOSPITALS
- Between a HOSPITAL and a SKILLED NURSING FACILITY when such a facility is the closest one that can provide COVERED SERVICES appropriate to your condition. Benefits may also be provided for ambulance services from a HOSPITAL or SKILLED NURSING FACILITY to a MEMBER'S home when MEDICALLY NECESSARY.

This health benefit plan covers services in an air ambulance only when:

- ground transportation is not medically appropriate due to the severity of the illness or the pick-up point is inaccessible by land and
- traveling from the site of an EMERGENCY to a HOSPITAL when such a facility is the closest one that can provide COVERED SERVICES appropriate to your condition.

Nonemergency air ambulance services require PRIOR REVIEW and CERTIFICATION or services will not be covered.

**Ambulance Services Exclusions**

- Services provided primarily for the convenience of travel
- Transportation to or from a DOCTOR'S office or dialysis center
- Transportation for the purpose of receiving services that are not considered COVERED SERVICES, even if the destination is an appropriate facility.

**HOSPITAL (Inpatient) and Other Facility Care**

## COVERED SERVICES (cont.)

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Benefits are provided for:

- Outpatient services received in a HOSPITAL, a HOSPITAL-based facility, NONHOSPITAL FACILITY or a HOSPITAL-based or OUTPATIENT CLINIC
- Inpatient services received in a HOSPITAL or NONHOSPITAL FACILITY. You are considered an inpatient if you are admitted to the HOSPITAL or NONHOSPITAL FACILITY as a registered bed patient for whom a room and board charge is made. Your IN-NETWORK PROVIDER is required to use the PPO network HOSPITAL where he/she practices, unless that HOSPITAL cannot provide the services you need. If you are admitted before the EFFECTIVE DATE, benefits will not be available for services received prior to the EFFECTIVE DATE. Take home drugs are covered as part of your PRESCRIPTION DRUG benefit.

PRIOR REVIEW must be requested and CERTIFICATION must be obtained in advance from Blue Cross NC for inpatient admissions, except for maternity deliveries and EMERGENCIES. See "Maternity Care" and "EMERGENCY, URGENT CARE and Ambulance Services." IN-NETWORK PROVIDERS in North Carolina are responsible for requesting PRIOR REVIEW and obtaining CERTIFICATION. **If PRIOR REVIEW is not requested and CERTIFICATION is not obtained for covered OUT-OF-NETWORK inpatient admissions, services will be denied.**

Also, Blue Cross NC requires notification for MEMBERS who have Medicare as their primary coverage and who are admitted to a Medicare-certified HOSPITAL or NONHOSPITAL FACILITY.

- Surgical services received in an AMBULATORY SURGICAL CENTER
- COVERED SERVICES received in a SKILLED NURSING FACILITY.

PRIOR REVIEW must be requested and CERTIFICATION must be obtained in advance from Blue Cross NC or services will not be covered. However, CERTIFICATION is not required for MEMBERS who have Medicare as their primary coverage and who are admitted to a Medicare-certified SKILLED NURSING FACILITY.

### **Alternatives to HOSPITAL Stays (Home Health Care, HOSPICE, Private Duty Nursing)**

#### **Home Health Care**

Home health care services are covered when ordered by your DOCTOR for a MEMBER who is HOMEBOUND due to illness or injury, or is actively receiving treatment for a cancer related problem, and you need part-time or intermittent skilled nursing care from a REGISTERED NURSE (RN) or LICENSED PRACTICAL NURSE (LPN), and/or other skilled care services like REHABILITATIVE THERAPY and HABILITATIVE SERVICES. Usually, a HOME HEALTH AGENCY coordinates the services your DOCTOR orders for you. Services from a home health aide may be eligible for coverage only when the care provided supports a skilled service being delivered in the home.

Home health skilled nursing care requires PRIOR REVIEW and CERTIFICATION or services will not be covered.

#### **HOSPICE Services**

Your coverage provides benefits for HOSPICE services for care of a terminally ill MEMBER with a life expectancy of six months or less. Services are covered only as part of a licensed health care program centrally coordinated through an interdisciplinary team directed by a DOCTOR that provides an integrated set of services and supplies designed to give comfort, pain relief and support to terminally ill patients and their families.

#### **Private Duty Nursing**

This health benefit plan provides benefits for MEDICALLY NECESSARY private duty services of an RN or LPN when ordered by your DOCTOR for a MEMBER who may be receiving active care management. Private duty nursing provides more individual and continuous skilled care than can be provided in a skilled nursing visit through a HOME HEALTH AGENCY.

PRIVATE DUTY NURSING requires PRIOR REVIEW and CERTIFICATION or services will not be covered.

#### **Private Duty Nursing Exclusion**

- Services provided by a close relative or a member of your household.

### **Family Planning**

#### **Maternity Care**

Maternity care benefits, including prenatal care, admissions to labor and delivery, management of labor including fetal monitoring, delivery and uncomplicated post-delivery care until 6 weeks postpartum, are available to all MEMBERS and are covered. Together these make up the global maternity delivery fee. See the chart below for additional information. However, maternity benefits for DEPENDENT CHILDREN cover only treatment for COMPLICATIONS OF PREGNANCY.

## COVERED SERVICES (cont.)

Also visit [www.bluecrossnc.com/preventive](http://www.bluecrossnc.com/preventive) for the most up-to-date federally-mandated PREVENTIVE CARE services, including those available for DEPENDENT CHILDREN.

	Mother	Newborn	Payment
<b>Prenatal care</b>	Care related to the pregnancy before birth.		Coinsurance and any applicable deductible apply.
<b>Labor &amp; delivery services</b>	No PRIOR REVIEW required for inpatient HOSPITAL stay for 48 hours after a vaginal delivery or 96 hours after a cesarean section. Mothers choosing a shorter stay are eligible for a home health visit for post-delivery follow-up care if received within 72 hours of discharge.	No PRIOR REVIEW required for inpatient well-baby care for 48 hours after a vaginal delivery or 96 hours after a cesarean section. Benefits include newborn hearing screening ordered by a DOCTOR to determine the presence of permanent hearing loss. (Please see PREVENTIVE CARE in "Summary of Benefits.")	For the first 48/96 hours, only one deductible and admission copayment, if applicable, is required for both mother and baby.
<b>Post-delivery services</b>	All care for the mother after the baby's birth that is related to the pregnancy.  PRIOR REVIEW and CERTIFICATION are required for inpatient stays extending beyond 48/96 hours or services will be denied.	After the first 48/96 hours, whether inpatient (sick baby) or outpatient (well-baby), the newborn must be enrolled for coverage as a DEPENDENT CHILD, according to the rules in "When Coverage Begins and Ends." For inpatient services following the first 48/96 hours, PRIOR REVIEW and CERTIFICATION are required or services will be denied.	If the newborn must remain in the HOSPITAL beyond the mother's prescribed length of stay for any reason, the newborn is considered a sick baby and charges are subject to the BENEFIT PERIOD deductible if the newborn is added and covered under the policy.

For information on CERTIFICATION, contact Student Blue<sup>SM</sup> at [email@studentbluenc.com](mailto:email@studentbluenc.com) or call the number listed in "Who to Contact?" See "Federal Notices" for more information about maternity benefits.

### Termination of Pregnancy (Abortion)

Benefits for abortion are available through the first 16 weeks of a pregnancy for all female MEMBERS except DEPENDENT CHILDREN.

### COMPLICATIONS OF PREGNANCY

Benefits for COMPLICATIONS OF PREGNANCY are available to all female MEMBERS including DEPENDENT CHILDREN. Please see "Glossary" for an explanation of COMPLICATIONS OF PREGNANCY.

### INFERTILITY Services

Benefits are provided for certain services related to the diagnosis, treatment and correction of any underlying causes of INFERTILITY for all MEMBERS except DEPENDENT CHILDREN. Benefits are provided for a combined IN- and OUT-OF-NETWORK LIFETIME MAXIMUM per MEMBER for each of the specific services listed below associated with three medical ovulation induction cycles, with or without insemination, unless otherwise noted. This LIFETIME MAXIMUM applies to a cumulative number of INFERTILITY treatments with the following services, provided in all places of service.

Service	LIFETIME MAXIMUM
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## COVERED SERVICES (cont.)

Limited ultrasound for cycle monitoring	24 studies
Estradiol	24 lab tests
Luteinizing Hormone (LH)	24 lab tests
Progesterone	24 lab tests
Follicle Stimulating Hormone (FSH)	24 lab tests
Human Chorionic Gonadotropin (hCG)	8 lab tests
Sperm washing and preparation	3 cycles/treatments
Intrauterine or intracervical insemination	3 cycles/treatments

### SEXUAL DYSFUNCTION Services

This health benefit plan provides benefits for certain services related to the diagnosis, treatment and correction of any underlying causes of SEXUAL DYSFUNCTION for all MEMBERS. Benefits may vary depending on where services are received.

#### Sterilization

This benefit is available for all MEMBERS. Sterilization includes female tubal occlusion and male vasectomy. Certain sterilization procedures for female MEMBERS are covered under your PREVENTIVE CARE benefit. See [www.bluecrossnc.com/preventive](http://www.bluecrossnc.com/preventive) or call the number in “Who to Contact?” for information about procedures that are covered according to federal regulations and any limitations that may apply.

#### Contraceptive Devices

This benefit is available for all MEMBERS. Coverage includes the insertion or removal of and any MEDICALLY NECESSARY examination associated with the use of intrauterine devices, diaphragms, injectable contraceptives and implanted hormonal contraceptives. Certain FDA-approved contraceptive methods for female MEMBERS are covered under your PREVENTIVE CARE benefit. See [www.bluecrossnc.com/preventive](http://www.bluecrossnc.com/preventive) or call Customer Service for information about procedures that are covered according to federal regulations and any limitations that may apply.

#### Family Planning Exclusions

- Assisted reproductive technologies as defined by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, including, but not limited to, in-vitro fertilization (IVF) with fresh or frozen embryos, ovum or embryo placement, intracytoplasmic sperm injection (ICSI), zygote intrafallopian transfer (ZIFT), specialized sperm retrieval techniques, and gamete intrafallopian transfer (GIFT) and associated services
- Oocyte and sperm donation
- Cryopreservation of oocytes, sperm, or embryos
- Services performed by a doula
- Expenses INCURRED by any MEMBER who receives compensation from a third party in exchange for such medical procedure, such as surrogacy-related medical expenses
- Expenses INCURRED by a surrogate parent not covered as a MEMBER under the health benefit plan
- Care or treatment of the following:
  - maternity for DEPENDENT CHILDREN, except for COMPLICATIONS OF PREGNANCY
  - elective termination of pregnancy (abortion) for DEPENDENT CHILDREN
  - reversal of sterilization
  - INFERTILITY for DEPENDENT CHILDREN.
- Elective termination of pregnancy (abortion) after 16 weeks of pregnancy
- Treatment for INFERTILITY or reduced fertility that results from a prior sterilization procedure or a normal physiological change such as menopause.

### Specific Therapies and Tests

Therapies are covered when provided for an illness, disease or injury when ordered by a DOCTOR or OTHER PROFESSIONAL PROVIDER.

#### Home Infusion Therapy Services

Home infusion therapy is covered for the administration of PRESCRIPTION DRUGS directly into a body organ or cavity or via intravenous, intraspinal, intramuscular, subcutaneous or epidural routes, under a plan prescribed by a DOCTOR. These services must be provided under the supervision of a licensed, registered, or certified healthcare professional acting within the scope of their practice.



## COVERED SERVICES (cont.)

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PRIOR REVIEW and CERTIFICATION are required for certain home infusion therapy services or services will not be covered.

### REHABILITATIVE THERAPY and HABILITATIVE SERVICES

The following therapies are covered:

- Occupational therapy and/or physical therapy (including chiropractic services and osteopathic manipulation) up to a one-hour session per day
- Speech therapy.

Any visit limits apply in all places of service except inpatient (e.g., outpatient, office and home) regardless of the type of PROVIDER (chiropractors, other DOCTORS, physical therapists). REHABILITATIVE THERAPY and HABILITATIVE SERVICES received while an inpatient are not included in the BENEFIT PERIOD maximum.

### ADAPTIVE BEHAVIOR TREATMENT

This benefit is a non-essential health benefit. Benefits are provided for ADAPTIVE BEHAVIOR TREATMENT for MEMBERS up to age 19. Charges for ADAPTIVE BEHAVIOR TREATMENT from an inpatient or outpatient facility do not apply to the benefit maximum. Coverage includes assessments and treatment, which must be MEDICALLY NECESSARY, and ordered by a licensed physician or licensed psychologist. ADAPTIVE BEHAVIOR TREATMENT must be provided or supervised by the following professionals who are licensed and certified to provide this treatment:

- Licensed psychologist or psychological associate
- Licensed psychiatrist or developmental pediatrician
- Licensed speech and language pathologist
- Licensed occupational therapist
- Licensed clinical social worker
- Licensed professional counselor
- Licensed marriage and family therapist

PRIOR REVIEW must be requested and CERTIFICATION must be obtained in advance for ADAPTIVE BEHAVIOR TREATMENT or services will not be covered. Visit our website at [mybluecrossnc.com](http://mybluecrossnc.com) or call Magellan Behavioral Health at the number listed in "Who to Contact?" for a list of PROVIDERS.

### Other Covered Therapies

This health benefit plan covers:

- Cardiac rehabilitation therapy
- Pulmonary and respiratory therapy
- Dialysis treatment
- Radiation therapy
- Chemotherapy, including intravenous chemotherapy.

For chemotherapy received in conjunction with bone marrow or peripheral blood stem cell transplants, follow transplant guidelines described in "Transplants."

### Diagnostic Services

Diagnostic procedures such as laboratory studies, sleep studies, radiology services and other diagnostic testing, which may include electroencephalograms (EEGs), electrocardiograms (ECGs), Doppler scans and pulmonary function tests (PFTs), help your DOCTOR find the cause and extent of your condition in order to plan for your care.

Certain diagnostic procedures, including but not limited to, CT scans, PET scans, MRIs, genetic and other lab testing and sleep studies (including associated DURABLE MEDICAL EQUIPMENT), may require PRIOR REVIEW and CERTIFICATION or services will not be covered. Blue Cross NC may delegate UTILIZATION MANAGEMENT of sleep studies to another company not associated with Blue Cross NC. See "Delegated UTILIZATION MANAGEMENT" for more information.

Your DOCTOR may refer you to a freestanding laboratory, radiology center, or a sample collection device for these procedures. Separate benefits for interpretation of diagnostic services by the attending DOCTOR are not provided in addition to benefits for that DOCTOR'S medical or surgical services, except as otherwise determined by Blue Cross NC.

### Diagnostic Services Exclusions

- Lab tests that are not ordered by your DOCTOR or OTHER PROVIDER
- Diagnostic tests used to confirm a known diagnosis or condition
- Tests used only for administrative purposes to measure process or quality improvement

## COVERED SERVICES (cont.)

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- Tests that are duplicative or that are inclusive to other COVERED SERVICES
- Testing when a therapeutic or diagnostic course would not be determined by the outcome of the testing.

### Other Services

#### Autism Spectrum Disorder Services

Your health benefit plan provides coverage for the screening, diagnosis, and treatment of autism spectrum disorder as defined in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders of the American Psychiatric Association ("DSM-V") or any later edition. Coverage includes any MEDICALLY NECESSARY assessments, evaluations or tests to determine whether a MEMBER has autism spectrum disorder. If a MEMBER is diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder, coverage includes the following treatment or equipment related to the care of autism spectrum disorder, which must be MEDICALLY NECESSARY and ordered by a licensed physician or licensed psychologist:

- ADAPTIVE BEHAVIOR TREATMENT (see "Specific Therapies and Tests" for additional information)
- Pharmacy care
- Psychiatric care
- Psychological care
- Therapeutic care (services provided by the following licensed professionals: speech therapist, occupational therapist, physical therapist, clinical social worker, professional counselor or marriage and family therapist).

#### Autism Spectrum Disorder Exclusion

- Services provided in a school setting, which includes: (i) services that are part of an individualized family service plan, an individualized education program, or an individualized service plan, or (ii) services performed by school personnel that are not part of an intensive behavioral plan prescribed by a licensed professional, including, but not limited to, school staff assistants, and shadow professionals.

### Blood

Your benefits cover the cost of transfusions of blood, plasma, blood plasma expanders and other fluids injected into the bloodstream. Benefits are provided for the cost of storing a MEMBER'S own blood only when it is stored and used for a previously scheduled procedure.

#### Blood Exclusion

- Charges for the collection or obtainment of blood or blood products from a blood donor, including the MEMBER in the case of autologous blood donation.

### Certain Drugs Covered under Your Medical Benefit

This health benefit plan covers certain PROVIDER-ADMINISTERED SPECIALTY DRUGS that must be dispensed under a PROVIDER'S supervision in an office, outpatient setting, or through home infusion. These drugs are covered under your medical benefit rather than your PRESCRIPTION DRUG benefit. For a list of drugs covered under your medical benefit that are covered only at certain PROVIDER settings, see the Blue Cross NC website at [studentbluenc.com](http://studentbluenc.com).

### Clinical Trials

This health benefit plan provides benefits for participation in clinical trials phases I, II, III, and IV. Coverage is provided only for MEDICALLY NECESSARY costs of health care services associated with the trials, only to the extent such costs have not been or are not funded by other resources. The MEMBER must meet all protocol requirements and provide informed consent in order to participate. The trial must involve the treatment of cancer or a life-threatening medical condition with services that are medically indicated and preferable for that MEMBER compared to non-INVESTIGATIONAL alternatives. In addition, the trial must:

- Involve determinations by treating physicians, relevant scientific data and opinions of relevant medical SPECIALISTS
- Be approved by centers or groups funded by the National Institutes of Health, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Agency for Health Care Research and Quality, the Department of Defense or the Department of Veterans Affairs
- Be conducted in a setting and by personnel of high expertise based on training, experience and patient volume.

#### Clinical Trials Exclusions

- Non-health care services, such as services provided for data collection and analysis
- INVESTIGATIONAL drugs and devices and services that are not for the direct clinical management of the patient.

### Dental Treatment Covered Under Your Medical Benefit

This health benefit plan provides benefits for services provided by a duly licensed DOCTOR, DOCTOR of dental SURGERY or DOCTOR of dental medicine for diagnostic, therapeutic or surgical procedures, including oral SURGERY involving bones or joints of the jaw, when the procedure or dental treatment is related to one of the following conditions:

## COVERED SERVICES (cont.)

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- Accidental injury of sound teeth, jaw, cheeks, lips, tongue, roof and floor of the mouth
- CONGENITAL deformity, including cleft lip and cleft palate
- Removal of:
  - oral tumors, which are not related to teeth or associated dental procedures
  - oral cysts which are not related to teeth or associated dental procedures
  - exostoses for reasons other than for preparation for dentures.

This health benefit plan provides benefits for dental implants and related procedures, such as bone grafting, associated with the above three conditions.

Benefits are also provided for extractions, root canal therapy, crowns, bridges, and dentures necessary for treatment of accidental injury or for reconstruction for the conditions listed above. In addition, benefits may be provided for dentures and orthodontic braces if used to treat CONGENITAL deformity including cleft lip and cleft palate.

When any of the conditions listed above require surgical correction, benefits for SURGERY will be subject to MEDICAL NECESSITY review to examine whether or not the condition resulted in functional impairment. Examples of functional impairment include an impairment that affects speech or the ability to eat or injury to soft tissue of the mouth.

PRIOR REVIEW and CERTIFICATION are required for certain surgical procedures or services will not be covered, unless treatment is for an EMERGENCY.

In special cases, benefits are provided only for anesthesia and facility charges related to dental procedures performed in a HOSPITAL or AMBULATORY SURGICAL CENTER. This benefit is only available to DEPENDENT CHILDREN below nine years of age, persons with serious mental or physical conditions and persons with significant behavioral problems. The treating PROVIDER must certify that the patient's age, condition or problem requires hospitalization or general anesthesia in order to safely and effectively perform the procedure. Other DENTAL SERVICES, including the charge for SURGERY, are not covered unless specifically covered by this health benefit plan.

In addition, benefits will be provided if a MEMBER is treated in a HOSPITAL following an accidental injury, and COVERED SERVICES such as oral SURGERY or reconstructive procedures are required at the same time as treatment for the bodily injury.

Unless reconstructive DENTAL SERVICES following accidental injury are related to the bones or joints of the jaw, face, or head, reconstructive DENTAL SERVICES are covered only when provided within two years of the accident.

### **Dental Treatment Excluded Under Your Medical Benefit**

Treatment for the following conditions:

- Injury related to chewing or biting
- Extraction of impacted wisdom teeth
- Preventive dental care, diagnosis or treatment of or related to the teeth or gums
- Periodontal disease or cavities and disease due to infection or tumor

And except as specifically stated as covered, treatment such as:

- Dental implants or root canals
- Orthodontic braces
- Removal of teeth and intrabony cysts
- Procedures performed for the preparation of the mouth for dentures
- Crowns, bridges, dentures or in-mouth appliances.

### **Temporomandibular Joint (TMJ) Services**

This health benefit plan provides benefits for services provided by a duly licensed DOCTOR, DOCTOR of dental SURGERY, or DOCTOR of dental medicine for diagnostic, therapeutic or surgical procedures, including oral SURGERY involving bones or joints of the jaw, face or head when the procedure is related to TMJ disease. Therapeutic benefits for TMJ disease include splinting and use of intra-oral PROSTHETIC APPLIANCES to reposition the bones. Surgical benefits for TMJ disease are limited to SURGERY performed on the temporomandibular joint.

PRIOR REVIEW and CERTIFICATION are required for certain surgical procedures or these services will not be covered, unless treatment is for an EMERGENCY.

If TMJ is caused by malocclusion, benefits are provided for surgical correction of malocclusion when surgical management of the TMJ is MEDICALLY NECESSARY. Please have your PROVIDER contact Blue Cross NC before receiving surgical treatment for TMJ.

### **Diabetes-Related Services**

All MEDICALLY NECESSARY diabetes-related services, including equipment, supplies, medications and laboratory procedures are covered. Diabetic outpatient self-management training and educational services are also covered.

### **Equipment and Supplies**

#### **DURABLE MEDICAL EQUIPMENT**

Benefits are provided for DURABLE MEDICAL EQUIPMENT and supplies required for operation of equipment when prescribed by a licensed PROVIDER. Equipment may be purchased or rented at the discretion of Blue Cross NC. Blue Cross NC provides benefits for repair or replacement of the covered equipment. Benefits will end when it is determined that the equipment is no longer MEDICALLY NECESSARY.

Certain DURABLE MEDICAL EQUIPMENT requires PRIOR REVIEW and CERTIFICATION or services will not be covered.

#### **DURABLE MEDICAL EQUIPMENT Exclusions**

- Appliances and accessories that serve no medical purpose or that are primarily for comfort or convenience
- Repair or replacement of equipment due to abuse or desire for new equipment.

### **Hearing Aids**

This health benefit plan provides coverage for MEDICALLY NECESSARY hearing aids, including implantable bone-anchored hearing aids (BAHA), and related services that are ordered by a DOCTOR or a licensed audiologist for each MEMBER under the age of 22. Benefits are provided for one hearing aid per hearing-impaired ear, and replacement hearing aids when alterations to an existing hearing aid are not adequate to meet the MEMBER'S needs. Benefits are also provided for the evaluation, fitting, and adjustments of hearing aids or replacement of hearing aids, and for supplies, including ear molds.

Certain hearing aids and related services may require PRIOR REVIEW and CERTIFICATION or services will not be covered.

### **Lymphedema-Related Services**

Coverage is provided for the diagnosis, evaluation, and treatment of lymphedema. These services must be provided by a licensed occupational or physical therapist or licensed nurse that has experience providing this treatment, or other licensed health care professional whose treatment of lymphedema is within their scope of practice. Benefits include MEDICALLY NECESSARY equipment, supplies and services such as complex decongestive therapy or self-management therapy and training. Gradient compression garments may be covered only with a PRESCRIPTION and when custom-fit for the patient.

#### **Lymphedema-Related Services Exclusion**

- Over-the-counter compression or elastic knee-high or other stocking products.

#### **MEDICAL SUPPLIES**

Coverage is provided for MEDICAL SUPPLIES. Your benefits are based on where supplies are received, either as part of your MEDICAL SUPPLIES benefit or your PRESCRIPTION DRUG benefit. Select diabetic supplies and spacers for metered dose inhalers and peak flow meters are also covered under your PRESCRIPTION DRUG benefit.

### **Orthotic Devices**

Orthotic devices, which are rigid or semi-rigid supportive devices that restrict or eliminate motion of a weak or diseased body part, are covered if MEDICALLY NECESSARY and prescribed by a PROVIDER. Foot orthotics may be covered only when custom molded to the patient. Orthotic devices for correction of POSITIONAL PLAGIOCEPHALY, including dynamic orthotic cranioplasty (DOC) bands and soft helmets, are subject to a benefit limit of one device per MEMBER per lifetime.

#### **Orthotic Devices Exclusions**

- Pre-molded foot orthotics
- Over-the-counter supportive devices.

#### **PROSTHETIC APPLIANCES**

Your coverage provides benefits for the purchase, fitting, adjustments, repairs, and replacement of PROSTHETIC APPLIANCES. The PROSTHETIC APPLIANCES must replace all or part of a body part or its function. The type of PROSTHETIC APPLIANCE will be based on the functional level of the MEMBER. Therapeutic contact lenses may be covered when used as a corneal bandage for a medical condition. Benefits include a one-time replacement of eyeglass or contact lenses due to a PRESCRIPTION change after cataract SURGERY.

## COVERED SERVICES (cont.)

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Certain PROSTHETIC APPLIANCES require PRIOR REVIEW and CERTIFICATION or services will not be covered.

### **Surgical Benefits**

Surgical services by a professional or facility PROVIDER on an inpatient or outpatient basis, including pre-operative and post-operative care and care of complications, are covered.

Certain surgical procedures, including bariatric surgery, gender confirmation SURGERY and hormone therapy, and those surgical procedures that are potentially COSMETIC, require PRIOR REVIEW and CERTIFICATION or services will not be covered.

Surgical benefits include, but are not limited to:

- diagnostic SURGERY such as biopsies and reconstructive SURGERY performed to correct CONGENITAL defects that result in functional impairment of newborn, adoptive, and FOSTER CHILDREN
  - surgical treatment of morbid obesity (bariatric SURGERY) if you have received 12 months of medical management for this condition prior to the surgical procedure, supervised by your DOCTOR or OTHER PROFESSIONAL PROVIDER
  - Reconstruction of the breast on which the mastectomy has been performed
  - SURGERY and reconstruction of the nondiseased breast to produce a symmetrical appearance, without regard to the lapse of time between the mastectomy and the reconstructive SURGERY
  - Prostheses and physical complications of all stages of the mastectomy, including lymphedemas.
- See "Federal Notices" for more information about mastectomy benefits.
- endovenous procedures used to support the normal function of your veins, and sclerotherapy vein treatment.

If you have more than one surgical procedure performed on the same date of service, those procedures may not be eligible for separate reimbursement.

For information about coverage of multiple surgical procedures, please refer to Blue Cross NC's reimbursement policies, which are available through Student Blue<sup>SM</sup> at [www.studentbluenc.com](http://www.studentbluenc.com) or call the number listed in "Who to Contact?"

### **Anesthesia**

Your anesthesia benefit includes coverage for general, spinal block, or monitored regional anesthesia ordered by the attending DOCTOR and administered by or under the supervision of a DOCTOR other than the attending surgeon or assistant at SURGERY.

Benefits are not available for charges billed separately by the PROVIDER which are not eligible for additional reimbursement. Also, your coverage does not provide additional benefits for local anesthetics, which are covered as part of your surgical benefit.

### **Transplants**

This health benefit plan provides benefits for transplants, including HOSPITAL and professional services for covered transplant procedures. Blue Cross NC provides care management for transplant services and will help you find a HOSPITAL or Blue Distinction Centers for Transplants that provides the transplant services required. Travel and lodging expenses and charges related to a search for a donor may be reimbursed based on Blue Cross NC guidelines that are available upon request from a transplant coordinator.

For a list of covered transplants, contact Student Blue<sup>SM</sup> at [email@studentbluenc.com](mailto:email@studentbluenc.com) or call the number listed in "Who to Contact?" to speak with a transplant coordinator and request PRIOR REVIEW. Grafting procedures associated with reconstructive SURGERY are not considered transplants. CERTIFICATION must be obtained in advance from Blue Cross NC for all transplant-related services in order to assure coverage of these services.

If a transplant is provided from a living donor to the recipient MEMBER who will receive the transplant:

- Benefits are provided for reasonable and necessary services related to the search for a donor.
- Both the recipient and the donor are entitled to benefits of this coverage when the recipient is a MEMBER. Benefits provided to the donor will be charged against the recipient's coverage.

Some transplant services are INVESTIGATIONAL and are not covered for some or all conditions or illnesses. Please see "Glossary" for an explanation of INVESTIGATIONAL.

### **Transplants Exclusions**

- The purchase price of the organ or tissue if any organ or tissue is sold rather than donated to the recipient MEMBER

## COVERED SERVICES (cont.)

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- The procurement of organs, tissue, bone marrow or peripheral blood stem cells or any other donor services if the recipient is not a MEMBER
- Transplants, including high dose chemotherapy, considered EXPERIMENTAL or INVESTIGATIONAL
- Services for or related to the transplantation of animal or artificial organs or tissues.

### **Blue Distinction® Centers**

You may want to go to a Blue Distinction Center to receive your surgical procedure. Blue Distinction Centers are HOSPITALS and health care facilities with proven track records for delivering outstanding quality of care, service, and patient safety in the following specialties:

- bariatric SURGERY
- cardiac care
- complex and rare cancers
- knee or hip replacement
- transplants
- spine SURGERY.

Visit <https://www.bcbs.com/blue-distinction-center-finder> to find a Blue Distinction Center near you.

### **Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services**

This health benefit plan provides benefits for the treatment of MENTAL ILLNESS and substance abuse by a HOSPITAL, RESIDENTIAL TREATMENT FACILITY, DOCTOR or OTHER PROVIDER, and includes, but is not limited to:

- OFFICE VISIT services
- Outpatient services (includes partial-day/night hospitalization services (minimum of four hours per day and 20 hours per week), and intensive therapy services (less than four hours per day and minimum of nine hours per week)
- Inpatient and RESIDENTIAL TREATMENT FACILITY services (includes room and board and detoxification to treat substance abuse).

### **How to Access Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services**

Your coverage for inpatient and certain outpatient services is coordinated through Magellan Behavioral Health. PRIOR REVIEW by Magellan Behavioral Health is not required for any OFFICE VISIT services or in EMERGENCY situations; however, in EMERGENCY situations, please notify Magellan Behavioral Health of your inpatient admission as soon as reasonably possible.

PRIOR REVIEW and CERTIFICATION are required for inpatient (including RESIDENTIAL TREATMENT FACILITY services) or certain outpatient services, such as partial hospitalization and intensive therapy or services will not be covered. To request PRIOR REVIEW, call a Magellan Behavioral Health customer service representative at the number listed in "Who to Contact?" The Magellan Behavioral Health customer service representative can help you find an appropriate IN-NETWORK PROVIDER and give you information about PRIOR REVIEW and CERTIFICATION requirements.

### **Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services Exclusion**

- Counseling with relatives about a patient.

### **PRESCRIPTION DRUG Benefits**

Your PRESCRIPTION DRUG benefits cover the following:

- PRESCRIPTION DRUGS, including self-administered injectable medications, and contraceptive drugs and devices
- Certain preventive over-the-counter drugs when listed as covered in the FORMULARY, or under the PREVENTIVE CARE benefit, and a PROVIDER'S PRESCRIPTION for that drug is presented at the pharmacy (see "Summary of Benefits")
- Immunizations for influenza, shingles and pneumonia are covered at no cost to you when received at an IN-NETWORK pharmacy. The list of covered immunizations may change from time to time, call Customer Service for the most up-to-date list.
- Spacers for metered dose inhalers and peak flow meters
- PRESCRIPTION DRUGS related to treatment of SEXUAL DYSFUNCTION
- PRESCRIPTION DRUGS approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for short-term and long-term use in the treatment of clinical obesity
- Insulin and diabetic supplies such as: insulin needles, syringes, glucose testing strips, ketone testing strips and tablets, lancets and lancet devices.

Benefits vary for MEDICAL SUPPLIES, depending on whether supplies are received at a MEDICAL SUPPLY PROVIDER or at a pharmacy. See "Summary of Benefits."

## COVERED SERVICES (cont.)

- Certain PRESCRIPTION DRUGS related to treatment of INFERTILITY.

The following information will help you get the most value from your PRESCRIPTION DRUG coverage:

Situation	Value
Where you get your PRESCRIPTION filled	<p>Your cost will be less if you use an IN-NETWORK pharmacy in North Carolina or outside the state and show your ID CARD. If you fail to show your ID CARD or the IN-NETWORK pharmacy's records do not show as eligible for coverage, you will have to pay the full cost of the PRESCRIPTION and file a claim.</p> <p>You may also get your PRESCRIPTION filled by an OUT-OF-NETWORK pharmacy; however, you may be asked to pay the full cost of the PRESCRIPTION DRUG and file a claim. Any charges over the ALLOWED AMOUNT are your responsibility.</p> <p>If you had an EMERGENCY or URGENT CARE condition and went to an OUT-OF-NETWORK pharmacy, we recommend that you call Student Blue at the number listed in "Who to Contact?" so that the claim can be processed at the IN-NETWORK level.</p>
How the type of PRESCRIPTION DRUG may determine the amount you pay	<p>Your PRESCRIPTION DRUG benefit has an open FORMULARY or list of PRESCRIPTION DRUGS, divided into categories or tiers. Blue Cross NC determines the tier placement of PRESCRIPTION DRUGS in the FORMULARY, and this determines the amount you pay.</p> <p>Tier placement of PRESCRIPTION DRUGS in the FORMULARY may be determined by: the effectiveness and safety of the drug, the cost of the drug, and/or the classification of the drug by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) or nationally-recognized drug databases (e.g., Medispan).</p> <p>The lowest cost PRESCRIPTION DRUGS, such as GENERICS, are generally located on the lowest tiers (TIER 1 and TIER 2). Higher cost PRESCRIPTION DRUGS, such as BRAND-NAME PRESCRIPTION DRUGS are generally located on the higher tiers (TIER 3 and TIER 4). All tiers of the FORMULARY may contain GENERIC and BRAND-NAME PRESCRIPTION DRUGS.</p> <p>SPECIALTY DRUGS, if applicable, are located on the highest tiers of your health benefit plan, even though they may be classified as GENERIC, BRAND-NAME, BIOLOGIC, or BIOSIMILAR PRESCRIPTION DRUGS. Visit our website at <a href="http://www.studentbluenc.com">www.studentbluenc.com</a> for additional information on the tier classification of PRESCRIPTION DRUGS.</p> <p>The PRESCRIPTION DRUGS listed in the FORMULARY or their tier placement may change from time to time due to a change in the cost of the drug and/or in the classification of the drug by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) or nationally- recognized drug databases (e.g., Medispan).</p>
How your PRESCRIPTION is dispensed	<p>In some cases, a PROVIDER may prescribe a total dosage of a drug that requires two or more different drugs in a compound to be dispensed. In these cases if you have copayments for PRESCRIPTION DRUGS, you will be responsible for one copayment that of the highest tier drug in the compound, based on each 30-day supply. Please note that some PRESCRIPTION DRUGS are only dispensed in 60- or 90-day quantities. For these drugs, you will pay either two to three copayments depending on the quantity you receive. Please see "Summary of Benefits." Certain combinations of compound drugs may require PRIOR REVIEW and CERTIFICATION.</p> <p>If you need to receive an extended supply (greater than a 30-day supply and up to a 90-day supply), email or call Student Blue to ask for a mail order form or</p>

Situation	Value
	<p>visit the website at <b>www.studentbluenc.com</b> for a listing of retail pharmacies or mail-order service that can dispense an extended supply of your PRESCRIPTION.</p> <p>You cannot refill a PRESCRIPTION until:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• three-fourths of the time period has passed that the PRESCRIPTION was intended to cover, or</li> <li>• the full time period has passed that the PRESCRIPTION was intended to cover if quantity limits apply,</li> </ul> <p>except during a government-declared state of emergency or disaster in the county in which you reside. During these circumstances, you must request a refill within 29 days after the date of the emergency or disaster (not the date of the declaration). A refill of a PRESCRIPTION with quantity limitations may take into account the proportionate dosage use prior to the disaster.</p>
<p>If you have multiple PRESCRIPTIONS and need to align your refill dates</p>	<p>If you have multiple PRESCRIPTIONS and need to align your refill dates you may need a PRESCRIPTION for less than a 30-day supply. If your DOCTOR or pharmacy agrees to give you a PRESCRIPTION for less than a 30-day supply for this purpose you will only pay a prorated daily cost-sharing amount (any dispensing fee will not be prorated). This benefit is only available for drugs covered under your PRESCRIPTION DRUG benefit, received at an IN-NETWORK pharmacy and when PRIOR REVIEW requirements have been met.</p> <p>In addition, the drugs must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• be used for treatment and management of chronic conditions and are subject to refills;</li> <li>• NOT be a Schedule II or Schedule III controlled substance containing hydrocodone;</li> <li>• be able to be split over short-fill periods; and</li> <li>• not have quantity limits or dose optimization criteria that would be affected by aligning refill dates.</li> </ul>
<p>Use of Lower-Cost PRESCRIPTION DRUGS</p>	<p>When choosing a PRESCRIPTION DRUG, you and your DOCTOR should discuss whether a lower-cost PRESCRIPTION DRUG, could provide the same results as a more expensive PRESCRIPTION DRUG. If you choose a BRAND-NAME PRESCRIPTION DRUG, your cost may be higher.</p>
<p>PRIOR REVIEW Requirements</p>	<p>PRIOR REVIEW and CERTIFICATION by Blue Cross NC are required for some PRESCRIPTION DRUGS or services will not be covered. Blue Cross NC may change the list of these PRESCRIPTION DRUGS from time to time. Blue Cross NC may change the authorization period for which a previously reviewed or certified drug was granted. Should this occur, you will be notified. Please visit our <b>www.studentbluenc.com</b> for more details.</p>
<p>SPECIALTY DRUGS</p>	<p>Blue Cross NC has a separate pharmacy network for purchasing select SPECIALTY DRUGS ("Specialty Network"). These SPECIALTY DRUGS (which include specialty GENERIC or BRAND-NAME PRESCRIPTION DRUGS, as well as BIOLOGIC or BIOSIMILAR PRESCRIPTION DRUGS) must be dispensed by a pharmacy participating in the Specialty Network in order to receive IN-NETWORK benefits. These drugs are limited to a 30-day supply or less. For a list of PRESCRIPTION DRUGS that are considered SPECIALTY DRUGS, visit the website at <b>www.studentbluenc.com</b> .</p>
<p>RESTRICTED-ACCESS DRUGS and Devices</p>	<p>Coverage will be provided for a RESTRICTED-ACCESS DRUG or device to a MEMBER without requiring PRIOR REVIEW or CERTIFICATION or use of a</p>



## COVERED SERVICES (cont.)

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Situation	Value
	nonrestricted FORMULARY drug if a MEMBER'S physician certifies in writing that the MEMBER has previously used an alternative nonrestricted-access drug or device and the alternative drug or device has been detrimental to the MEMBER'S health or has been ineffective in treating the same condition and, in the opinion of the prescribing physician, is likely to be detrimental to the MEMBER'S health or ineffective in treating the condition again.
Quantity Limitations	Blue Cross NC covers certain PRESCRIPTION DRUGS up to a set quantity based on criteria developed by Blue Cross NC to encourage the appropriate use of the drug. For these PRESCRIPTION DRUGS, PRIOR REVIEW and CERTIFICATION are required before excess quantities of these drugs will be covered. When excess quantities are approved, you may be required to pay an additional copayment, if applicable.
Benefit Limitations	Certain PRESCRIPTION DRUGS are subject to benefit limitations which may include, but not limited to: the amount dispensed per PRESCRIPTION, per day, or per defined time period, the amount dispensed per lifetime, the amount dispensed per month's supply, or the amount dispensed per single copayment, if applicable. Note: excess quantities are not covered.

## WHAT IS NOT COVERED?

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Exclusions for a specific type of service are stated along with the benefit description in "COVERED SERVICES." Exclusions that apply to many services are listed in this section starting with general exclusions and then the remaining exclusions are listed in alphabetical order. To understand all the exclusions that apply, read "COVERED SERVICES," "Summary of Benefits" and "What Is Not Covered?" This health benefit plan does not cover services, supplies, drugs or charges for:

- Any condition, disease, ailment, injury or diagnostic service to the extent that benefits are provided or persons are eligible for coverage under Title XVIII of the Social Security Act of 1965, including amendments, except as otherwise provided by federal law
- Conditions that federal, state or local law requires to be treated in a public facility
- Any condition, disease, illness, or injury that occurs in the course of employment, if the EMPLOYEE, EMPLOYER or carrier is liable or responsible for the specific medical charge (1) according to a final adjudication of the claim under a state's workers' compensation laws, or (2) by an order of a state Industrial Commission or other applicable regulatory agency approving a settlement agreement
- Benefits that are provided by any governmental unit except as required by law
- Services that are ordered by a court that are otherwise excluded from benefits under this health benefit plan
- Any condition suffered as a result of any act of war or while on active or reserve military duty
- A dental or medical department maintained by or on behalf of an EMPLOYER, a mutual benefit association, labor union, trust or similar person or group
- Services received in excess of any BENEFIT PERIOD MAXIMUM or LIFETIME MAXIMUM
- A benefit, drug, service or supply that is not specifically listed as covered in this benefit booklet.

In addition, this health benefit plan does not cover the following services, supplies, drugs or charges:

### A

**Acupuncture** and acupressure

**Administrative charges** including, but not limited to: charges billed by a PROVIDER, including charges for failure to keep a scheduled visit, completion of claim forms, obtaining medical records, late payments, telephone charges, shipping and handling, and taxes

Costs in excess of the **ALLOWED AMOUNT** for services usually provided by one DOCTOR, when those services are provided by multiple DOCTORS or medical care provided by more than one DOCTOR for treatment of the same condition

**Alternative** medicine services, which are unproven preventive or treatment modalities, also described as alternative, integrative or complementary medicine, whether performed by a physician or any OTHER PROVIDER

### B

Collection and storage of **blood** and stem cells taken from the umbilical cord and placenta for future use in fighting a disease

### C

**Claims** not submitted to Blue Cross NC within 18 months of the date the charge was INCURRED, except in the absence of legal capacity of the MEMBER

Side effects and **complications** of noncovered services, except for EMERGENCY SERVICES in the case of an EMERGENCY

**Convenience** items such as, but not limited to, devices and equipment used for environmental control, urinary incontinence devices (including bed wetting devices) and equipment, heating pads, hot water bottles, ice packs and personal hygiene items

**COSMETIC** services, which include the removal of excess skin from the abdomen, arms or thighs, skin tag excisions, cryotherapy or chemical exfoliation for active acne and acne scarring, superficial dermabrasion, injection of dermal fillers, services for hair transplants, skin tone enhancements, electrolysis, and SURGERY for psychological or emotional reasons, except as specifically covered by this health benefit plan

Services received either before or after the **coverage period** of this health benefit plan, regardless of when the treated condition occurred, and regardless of whether the care is a continuation of care received prior to the termination

## WHAT IS NOT COVERED? (cont.)

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**Custodial care**, designed essentially to assist an individual with activities of daily living, with or without routine nursing care and the supervisory care of a DOCTOR. While some skilled services may be provided, the patient does not require continuing skilled services 24 hours daily. The individual is not under specific medical, surgical, or psychiatric treatment to reduce a physical or mental disability to the extent necessary to enable the patient to live outside either the institution or the home setting with substantial assistance and supervision, nor is there reasonable likelihood that the disability will be reduced to that level even with treatment. Custodial care includes, but is not limited to, help in walking, bathing, dressing, feeding, preparation of special diets and supervision over medications that could otherwise be self-administered. Such services and supplies are custodial as determined by Blue Cross NC without regard to the place of service or the PROVIDER prescribing or providing the services.

### D

**Dental care**, dentures, dental implants, oral orthotic devices, palatal expanders and orthodontics except as specifically covered by this health benefit plan.

**DENTAL SERVICES** provided in a HOSPITAL, except as described in "Dental Treatment Covered Under Your Medical Benefit".

**Dental appliances** except when MEDICALLY NECESSARY for the treatment of temporomandibular joint disease or obstructive sleep apnea

The following **drugs**:

- Not specifically covered in this health benefit plan
- A PRESCRIPTION DRUG that is in excess of the stated quantity limits
- A PRESCRIPTION DRUG that is purchased to replace a lost, broken, or destroyed PRESCRIPTION DRUG except under certain circumstances during a state of emergency or disaster
- A PRESCRIPTION DRUG that is any portion or refill which exceeds the maximum supply for which benefits will be provided when dispensed under any one PRESCRIPTION
- Injections by a health care professional of injectable PRESCRIPTION DRUGS which can be self-administered, unless medical supervision is required
- Drugs associated with assisted reproductive technology
- EXPERIMENTAL drug or any drug not approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for the applicable diagnosis or treatment. However, this exclusion does not apply to PRESCRIPTION DRUGS (1) specifically listed as a covered drug in the FORMULARY and a written PRESCRIPTION is provided; or (2) used in covered phases I, II, III and IV clinical trials, or drugs approved by the FDA for treatment of cancer, if prescribed for the treatment of any type of cancer for which the drug has been proven as effective and accepted in any one of the following:
  - The National Comprehensive Cancer Network Drugs & Biologics Compendium
  - The Thomson Micromedex<sup>®</sup> DRUGDEX<sup>®</sup>
  - The Elsevier Gold Standard's Clinical Pharmacology
  - Any other authoritative compendia as recognized periodically by the United States Secretary of Health and Human Services.

And any drug that is:

- Purchased over-the-counter, unless specifically listed as a covered drug in the FORMULARY and a written PRESCRIPTION is provided
- Therapeutically equivalent to an over-the-counter drug
- Compounded and does not contain at least one ingredient that is defined as a PRESCRIPTION DRUG (see "Glossary"). Compounds containing non-FDA approved bulk chemical ingredients are excluded from coverage
- Contraindicated (should not be used) due to age, drug interaction, therapeutic duplications, dose greater than maximum recommended or other reasons as determined by FDA's approved product labeling.
- Also see "What is Not Covered" for additional PRESCRIPTION DRUG exclusions.
- A medical device, unless specifically listed as a covered medical device in the FORMULARY and a written PRESCRIPTION is provided
- A medication that has been repackaged — a pharmaceutical product that is removed from the original manufacturer container (Brand Originator) and repackaged by another manufacturer with a different NDC.

### E

## WHAT IS NOT COVERED? (cont.)

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Services primarily for **EDUCATIONAL TREATMENT** including, but not limited to, books, tapes, pamphlets, seminars, classroom, Web or computer programs, individual or group instruction and counseling, except as specifically covered by this health benefit plan

The following **equipment**:

- Devices and equipment used for environmental accommodation requiring vehicle and/or building modifications such as, but not limited to, chair lifts, stair lifts, home elevators, and ramps
- Air conditioners, furnaces, humidifiers, dehumidifiers, vacuum cleaners, electronic air filters and similar equipment
- Physical fitness equipment, hot tubs, Jacuzzis, heated spas, pool
- Standing frames
- Personal computers.

**EXPERIMENTAL** services including services whose efficacy has not been established by controlled clinical trials, or are not recommended as a preventive service by the U.S. Public Health Service, except as specifically covered by this health benefit plan

### F

ROUTINE **FOOT CARE** that is palliative or **COSMETIC**

### G

**Genetic testing**, except for high risk patients when the identification of a genetic abnormality correlates with the likelihood of a disease or condition, and when the therapeutic or diagnostic course would be determined by the outcome of the testing.

### H

**Hearing aids**, including implantable bone-anchored hearing aids (BAHA), or examinations for the fitting of hearing aids for **MEMBERS** over the age of 22

**Home health care**, care provided in the **home**, including, but not limited to: homemaker services, such as cooking, housekeeping, dietitian services or meals; services that are provided by a close relative or a member of your household.

**Hypnosis** except when used for control of acute or chronic pain

### I

**Inpatient admissions** primarily for the purpose of receiving diagnostic services or a physical examination. Inpatient admissions primarily for the purpose of receiving therapy services, except when the admission is a continuation of treatment following care at an inpatient facility for an illness or accident requiring therapy.

**Inpatient confinements** that are primarily intended as a change of environment

Services that are **INVESTIGATIONAL** in nature or obsolete, including any service, drugs, procedure or treatment directly related to an **INVESTIGATIONAL** treatment, except as specifically covered by this health benefit plan

### M

Services or supplies deemed not **MEDICALLY NECESSARY** or not ordered by a **PROVIDER**

### N

Services that would not be necessary if a **noncovered service** had not been received, except for **EMERGENCY SERVICES** in the case of an **EMERGENCY**. This includes any services, procedures or supplies associated with **COSMETIC** services, **INVESTIGATIONAL** services, or services deemed not **MEDICALLY NECESSARY**, or elective termination of pregnancy if not specifically covered by this health benefit plan.

### O

The following obesity services:

- Any cost associated with membership in a weight management program or health club

## WHAT IS NOT COVERED? (cont.)

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- Any treatment or regimen, medical or surgical, for the purpose of reducing or controlling the weight of the MEMBER or for treatment of **obesity**, except for surgical treatment of morbid **obesity**, or as specifically covered by this health benefit plan.

### P

#### Body **piercing**

Care or services from a **PROVIDER** who:

- Cannot legally provide or legally charge for the services or services are outside the scope of the PROVIDER'S license or certification
- Provides and bills for services from a licensed health care professional who is in training
- Is in a MEMBER'S immediate family
- Is not recognized by Blue Cross NC as an eligible PROVIDER.

### R

The following **residential care** services:

- Care in a self-care unit, apartment or similar facility operated by or connected with a HOSPITAL
- Domiciliary care or rest cures, care provided and billed for by a hotel, health resort, convalescent home, rest home, nursing home or other extended care facility, home for the aged, infirmary, school infirmary, institution providing education in special environments, in RESIDENTIAL TREATMENT FACILITIES, (except for substance abuse and mental health treatment), or any similar facility or institution.

**RESPITE CARE**, whether in the home or in a facility or inpatient setting, except as specifically covered by this health benefit plan

### S

**Services or supplies** that are:

- Not performed by or upon the direction of a DOCTOR or OTHER PROVIDER
- Available to a MEMBER without charge.

**SEXUAL DYSFUNCTION** unrelated to organic disease

**Shoe** lifts, and shoes of any type unless part of a brace

### T

The following types of **Temporomandibular Joint (TMJ) Services**:

- Treatment for periodontal disease
- Dental implants or root canals
- Crowns and bridges
- Orthodontic braces
- Occlusal (bite) adjustments
- Extractions.

The following types of **therapy**:

- Music therapy, recreational or activity therapy, and all types of animal therapy. Remedial reading and all forms of special education and supplies or equipment used similarly, except as specifically covered by this health benefit plan.
- Massage therapy
- Cognitive rehabilitation
- Group classes for pulmonary rehabilitation.

**Travel**, whether or not recommended or prescribed by a DOCTOR or other licensed health care professional, except when approved in advance for transplants

### V

The following **vision** services:

## WHAT IS NOT COVERED? *(cont.)*

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- Radial keratotomy and other refractive eye SURGERY, and related services to correct vision except for surgical correction of an eye injury. Also excluded are premium intraocular lenses or the services related to the insertion of premium lenses beyond what is required for insertion of conventional intraocular lenses, which are small, lightweight, clear disks that replace the distance-focusing power of the eye's natural crystalline lens.
- Eyeglasses or contact lenses, except as specifically covered in "PROSTHETIC APPLIANCES"
- Orthoptics, vision training, and low vision aids
- Lenses for keratoconus or any other eye procedure, except as specifically covered under this health benefit plan.

**Vitamins**, food supplements or replacements, nutritional or dietary supplements, formulas or special foods of any kind including medical foods with a PRESCRIPTION, except for PRESCRIPTION prenatal vitamins or PRESCRIPTION vitamin B-12 injections for anemias, neuropathies or dementias secondary to a vitamin B-12 deficiency, or certain over-the-counter medications that may be available under your PREVENTIVE CARE benefits for certain individuals. For the most up-to-date list of PREVENTIVE CARE services that are covered under federal law, see the website at [www.bluecrossnc.com/preventive](http://www.bluecrossnc.com/preventive).

### **W**

**Wigs**, hair pieces and hair implants for any reason.

# WHEN COVERAGE BEGINS AND ENDS

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This section provides information on who is eligible and how to qualify for coverage under this health benefit plan:

<b>Table of Contents:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Enrolling in this Health Benefit Plan</li><li>- Adding or Removing a DEPENDENT</li><li>- Qualified Medical Child Support Order</li><li>- Types of coverage</li><li>- Reporting Changes</li><li>- Continuing Coverage</li><li>- When Coverage under this Health Benefit Plan Ends</li><li>- Termination of MEMBER coverage</li></ul>	<b>Key Words:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- EMPLOYEE</li><li>- DEPENDENTS</li><li>- GROUP ADMINISTRATOR</li></ul>
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Your coverage begins on the first day of the month following the month of your appointment and continues so long as you maintain your Postdoc status at ECU.

To be covered under this health benefit plan, you must be a full-time Postdoc. Both the SHC fee and the ECU Postdoc Blue Options Medical Insurance Plan premium will be paid directly by the University. Funding for this program is limited to Postdocs and does not include payment for spouses and DEPENDENT CHILDREN. DEPENDENT CHILDREN and spouses are not eligible to receive medical care at SHC.

The ECU Postdoc Blue Options Medical Insurance Plan may only be waived if the Postdoc can demonstrate that he/she has medical coverage from another source and agrees to maintain such coverage through June 30, 2020 by completing a Waiver Form. The Postdoc further agrees to notify his/her University Departmental Manager immediately if such coverage changes or is cancelled. If the waiver is not returned to Student Blue<sup>SM</sup> within 15 days of the Postdoc's appointment effective date, a deduction will automatically be taken for the supplemental ECU Postdocs Blue Options Medical Insurance Plan and no refunds will be made. The SHC fee is mandatory and cannot be waived.

## **Coverage for Your DEPENDENTS**

For DEPENDENTS to be covered under this health benefit plan, you must be covered and your DEPENDENT must be one of the following:

- Your spouse, under an existing marriage that is legally recognized under any state law
- Your domestic partner, so long as you and your domestic partner have attested to Student Blue<sup>SM</sup> in writing to the following:
  1. That you and your domestic partner are both mentally competent
  2. That you and your domestic partner are both at least the age of consent for marriage in the state of North Carolina
  3. That you and your domestic partner are not related by blood to a degree of closeness that would prohibit legal marriage in North Carolina
  4. That you and your domestic partner are not married to anyone else
  5. That you and your domestic partner are mutually responsible for the cost of basic living expenses as evidenced by joint home ownership, common investments, or some other similar evidence of financial interdependence
  6. That you and your domestic partner live together and intend to do so permanently
  7. That you do not currently have a domestic partner covered under this health benefit plan
  8. That you have not had a domestic partner covered under this health benefit plan at any time within the past 12 months before adding this domestic partner unless the previous domestic partnership was terminated by death.

The conditions listed in 2-8 above must remain true and correct for your domestic partner to remain an eligible DEPENDENT under the terms of this coverage.

- Your or your spouse's or your domestic partner's DEPENDENT CHILDREN through the end of the month of their 26th birthday.
- A DEPENDENT CHILD who in accordance with North Carolina law is and continues to be either intellectually disabled or physically handicapped and incapable of self-support may continue to be covered under this health benefit plan regardless of age if the condition exists and coverage is in effect when the child reaches the end of eligibility for DEPENDENT CHILDREN. The handicap must be medically certified by the child's DOCTOR and may be verified annually by Blue Cross NC.

## **Enrolling in this Health Benefit Plan**

It is very important to enroll yourself or your DEPENDENTS when first eligible. Enrollment is only allowed during annual enrollment periods. You may also apply for coverage and/or add DEPENDENTS within a 30-day period following any of the triggering/qualifying events listed below unless otherwise noted. A triggering event for one individual within a

## **WHEN COVERAGE BEGINS AND ENDS** (cont.)

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family qualifies as an event for the MEMBER and all family members, regardless of current enrollment. The following are considered triggering events:

- You or your DEPENDENTS become eligible for coverage under this health benefit plan
- You get married or obtain a DEPENDENT through birth, court or administrative order, adoption, placement in anticipation of adoption or foster care placement of an eligible child
- You or your DEPENDENTS lose coverage under another health benefit plan, and each of the following conditions is met:
  - you and/or your DEPENDENTS are otherwise eligible for coverage under this health benefit plan, and
  - you and/or your DEPENDENTS were covered under another health benefit plan at the time this coverage was previously offered and declined enrollment due to the other coverage, and
  - you and/or your DEPENDENTS lose coverage under another health benefit plan due to i) the exhaustion of the COBRA continuation period, or ii) the loss of eligibility for that coverage for reasons including, but not limited to, divorce, loss of DEPENDENT status, death of the EMPLOYEE, termination of employment, or reduction in the number of hours of employment, or iii) the termination of the other plan's coverage, or iv) the offered health benefit plan not providing benefits in your service area and no other health benefit plans are available, or v) the termination of EMPLOYER contributions toward the cost of the other plan's coverage, or vi) meeting or exceeding the lifetime benefit maximum, or vii) the discontinuance of the health benefit plan to similarly situated individuals.
- You have DEPENDENTS who are first-time arrivals in the United States and you enroll the DEPENDENTS within 30 days of their arrival.
- You or your DEPENDENTS lose coverage due to loss of eligibility under Medicaid or the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) and apply for coverage under this health benefit plan within 60 days
- You or your DEPENDENTS become eligible for premium assistance with respect to coverage under this health benefit plan under Medicaid or the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) and apply for coverage under this health benefit plan within 60 days.

### **Adding or Removing a DEPENDENT**

Do you want to add or remove a DEPENDENT? You must notify Student Blue<sup>SM</sup> and fill out any required forms.

To add a DEPENDENT, you must visit [www.studentbluenc.com](http://www.studentbluenc.com) and complete the form within 30 days after the DEPENDENT becomes eligible.

However, if you are adding a newborn child, a child legally placed for adoption, a child placed by court or administrative order or a FOSTER CHILD, and adding the DEPENDENT CHILD would not change your coverage type or premiums, the change will be effective on the date the child becomes eligible (the date of birth for a newborn, the date of placement for adoption for adoptive children, or the date of placement of a FOSTER CHILD in your home), as long as coverage was effective on that date. In these cases, notice is not required within 30 days after the child becomes eligible, but it is important to provide notification as soon as possible.

DEPENDENTS must be removed from coverage when they are no longer eligible, such as when a child is no longer eligible due to age, or when a spouse is no longer eligible due to divorce or death. Failure to timely notify Student Blue of the need to remove a DEPENDENT could result in loss of eligibility for continuation of coverage.

### **Qualified Medical Child Support Order**

A Qualified Medical Child Support Order (QMCSO) is any judgment, decree or order that is issued by an appropriate court or through an administrative process under state law that: (1) provides for coverage of the child of a MEMBER under Blue Cross NC; and (2) is either issued according to state law or a law relating to medical child support described in Section 1908 of the Social Security Act. A QMCSO must be specific as to the participant whose child(ren) is (are) to be covered, the type of coverage, the child(ren) to be covered and the applicable period of the QMCSO. A copy of the QMCSO procedures may be obtained free of charge from East Carolina University.

### **Types of Coverage**

These are the types of coverage available:

- Postdoc-only coverage - This health benefit plan covers only you
- Postdoc-spouse coverage - This health benefit plan covers you and your spouse or domestic partner
- Postdoc-children coverage - This health benefit plan covers you and your DEPENDENT CHILDREN
- Family coverage - This health benefit plan covers you, your spouse or domestic partner and your DEPENDENT CHILDREN.

### **Reporting Changes**



## WHEN COVERAGE BEGINS AND ENDS *(cont.)*

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Have you moved, added or changed other health coverage, changed your name or phone number? If so, contact Student Blue<sup>SM</sup> at [email@studentbluenc.com](mailto:email@studentbluenc.com). It will help us give you better service if we are kept informed of these changes.

### **Continuing Coverage**

Under certain circumstances, your eligibility for coverage under this health benefit plan may end. You may have certain options such as enrolling in Medicare, continuing health insurance under this health benefit plan, or purchasing an individual conversion policy.

#### **Medicare**

When you reach age 65, you may be eligible for Medicare Part A HOSPITAL, Medicare Part B medical, and Medicare Part D PRESCRIPTION DRUG benefits. You may be eligible for Medicare benefits earlier if you become permanently disabled or develop end-stage renal disease. Just before either you or your spouse turn 65, or when disability or end-stage renal disease occurs, you should contact the nearest Social Security office and apply for Medicare benefits. They can tell you what Medicare benefits are available.

If you are covered by this health benefit plan when you become eligible for Medicare, contact Student Blue<sup>SM</sup> at [email@studentbluenc.com](mailto:email@studentbluenc.com). They will advise you about continuation of coverage under this health benefit plan.

#### **Continuation Under Federal Law**

Under a federal law known as COBRA, if your EMPLOYER has 20 or more EMPLOYEES, you and your covered DEPENDENTS can elect to continue coverage for up to 18 months by paying applicable fees to the EMPLOYER in the following circumstances:

- Your employment is terminated (unless the termination is the result of gross misconduct)
- Your hours worked are reduced, causing you to be ineligible for coverage.

In addition to their rights above, DEPENDENTS will be able to continue coverage for up to 36 months if their coverage is terminated due to:

- Your death
- Divorce
- Your entitlement to Medicare
- A DEPENDENT CHILD ceasing to be a DEPENDENT under the terms of this coverage.

Children born to or placed for adoption with you during the continuation coverage period are also eligible for the remainder of the continuation period.

Domestic partners and children of the domestic partner are not eligible for COBRA benefits under federal law. All references to DEPENDENTS in this section do not apply to a domestic partner or their children.

In addition, you and/or your DEPENDENTS, who are determined by the Social Security Administration to be disabled may be eligible to extend their 18-month period of continuation coverage, for a total maximum of 29 months. The disability has to have started at some time before the 60th day of continuation coverage and must last at least until the end of the 18-month period of continuation coverage. Notice must be provided to Student Blue<sup>SM</sup> within 60 days of the determination of disability by the Social Security Administration and prior to the end of the original 18-month period of continuation coverage. In addition, notice must be provided to Student Blue<sup>SM</sup> within 30 days after the later of the date of determination that the individual is no longer disabled or the date of the initial notification of this notice requirement.

You or your DEPENDENTS must notify Student Blue<sup>SM</sup> within 60 days of the following triggering events:

- Divorce
- Ineligibility of a DEPENDENT CHILD.

You and/or your DEPENDENTS will be offered continuation coverage within 14 days of the date that the COBRA administrator is notified of one of these events resulting in the termination of your coverage. Eligible persons have 60 days to elect or reject continuation coverage. Following election, applicable fees must be paid to the COBRA administrator within 45 days.

Continuation coverage will end at the completion of the applicable continuation period or earlier if:

- Your EMPLOYER ceases to provide a health benefit plan to EMPLOYEES
- The continuing person fails to pay the monthly fee on time
- The continuing person obtains coverage under another group plan,
- The continuing person becomes entitled to Medicare after the election of continuation coverage.

## **WHEN COVERAGE BEGINS AND ENDS** (cont.)

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If you are covered by this health benefit plan and called to the uniformed services, as defined in the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA), consult Student Blue<sup>SM</sup>. Student Blue<sup>SM</sup> will advise you about the continuation of coverage and reinstatement of coverage under this health benefit plan as required under USERRA.

If you have any questions about your COBRA rights or continuation of coverage, please contact Student Blue<sup>SM</sup>. In order to continue coverage under COBRA, the premium for this health benefit plan must be paid directly to your COBRA administrator.

### **Continuation Under State Law**

Under state law, MEMBERS of any size EMPLOYER group have the option to continue group coverage for 18 months from the date that you and/or your DEPENDENTS cease to be eligible for coverage under this health benefit plan. You and your DEPENDENTS are not eligible for continuation under state law if:

- Your insurance terminated because you failed to pay the appropriate contribution
- You or your DEPENDENTS are eligible for another group health benefit plan
- You or your DEPENDENTS were covered less than three consecutive months prior to termination.

You and/or your DEPENDENTS must notify Student Blue<sup>SM</sup> if you or your DEPENDENTS intend to continue coverage and pay the applicable fees within 60 days following the end of eligibility. Upon receipt of the notice of continuation and applicable fees, Blue Cross NC will reinstate coverage back to the date eligibility ended. The state law continuation benefits run concurrently and not in addition to any applicable federal continuation rights.

Under state law, continuation of coverage under this health benefit plan will end at the completion of the applicable continuation period or earlier if:

- Your EMPLOYER ceases to provide a health benefit plan to EMPLOYEES
- The continuing person fails to pay the monthly fee
- The continuing person obtains similar coverage under another group plan.

### **When my Coverage Under this Health Benefit Plan Ends**

Persons who have elected to continue with individual coverage will be contacted by Student Blue within 180 days before the end of their continuation period and offered individual conversion coverage.

If you or your DEPENDENTS are no longer eligible for coverage under this health benefit plan, you may transfer to individual conversion coverage. For continuous coverage, ensure that your premiums are paid during the continuation period. Blue Cross NC must be notified within 31 days of loss of eligibility. You must complete an Individual Enrollment Application and pay the applicable premium. Services during the 31-day conversion period will be covered only if the premium is received before the end of the 31-day period. Other options for enrollment in health insurance coverage may be available to you when your coverage in this health benefit plan ends, including, but not limited to, enrollment via the Health Insurance Marketplace.

Persons who have exhausted their continuation coverage rights may also be eligible for a federally mandated product many insurance companies must offer. If you meet the following requirements, check with Blue Cross NC or another insurance carrier to see if you qualify:

- The applicant has 18 or more months of prior CREDITABLE COVERAGE
- The applicant's most recent coverage was group coverage
- The applicant is not eligible for Medicare or another group health insurance plan.

### **Certificate of CREDITABLE COVERAGE**

Blue Cross NC or its designee will supply a Certificate of Creditable Coverage when you or your DEPENDENT'S coverage under this health benefit plan ends or you exhaust continuation of coverage. Keep the Certificate of Creditable Coverage in a safe place. You may request a Certificate of Creditable Coverage from Student Blue<sup>SM</sup> while you are still covered under this health benefit plan and up to 24 months following your termination.

### **Termination of MEMBER Coverage**

A MEMBER'S termination shall be effective at 11:59 p.m. on the date that eligibility ends.

#### **A MEMBER'S coverage will be terminated immediately by Blue Cross NC for the following reasons:**

- Fraud or intentional misrepresentation of a material fact by a MEMBER. However, if such termination is made retroactively, including back to the EFFECTIVE DATE of the policy (called a rescission), you will be given 30 days advance notice of this rescission and may submit an appeal; see "Need to Appeal our Decision?" If your policy is rescinded, any premiums paid will be returned unless Blue Cross NC deducts the amount for any claims paid.

## **WHEN COVERAGE BEGINS AND ENDS** *(cont.)*

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- A MEMBER has been convicted of (or a restraining order has been issued for) communicating threats of harm to Blue Cross NC personnel or property
- A MEMBER permits the use of his or her or any other MEMBER'S ID CARD by any other person not enrolled under this health benefit plan, or uses another person's ID CARD.

# UTILIZATION MANAGEMENT

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This section provides information on how certain services are reviewed to determine if they are MEDICALLY NECESSARY.

<b>Table of Contents:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Rights and Responsibilities</li><li>- PRIOR REVIEW</li><li>- Concurrent Review</li><li>- Retrospective Review</li><li>- Care Management</li><li>- Continuity of Care</li><li>- Delegated UTILIZATION MANAGEMENT</li></ul>	<b>Key Words:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- ADVERSE BENEFIT DETERMINATION</li><li>- MEDICALLY NECESSARY</li><li>- CERTIFICATION</li><li>- PRIOR REVIEW</li></ul>
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To make sure you can have high quality, cost-effective health care, Blue Cross NC has a UTILIZATION MANAGEMENT (UM) program. The UM program requires certain health care services to be reviewed and approved by Blue Cross NC in order to receive benefits. As part of this process, Blue Cross NC looks at whether health care services are MEDICALLY NECESSARY, given in the proper setting, and for a reasonable length of time. Blue Cross NC will honor a CERTIFICATION to cover medical services or supplies under this health benefit plan unless the CERTIFICATION was based on:

- A material misrepresentation about your health condition
- You were not eligible for these services under this health benefit plan due to cancellation of coverage (including your voluntary termination of coverage)
- Nonpayment of premiums.

## **Rights and Responsibilities Under the UM Program**

### **Your MEMBER Rights**

Under the UM program, you have the right to:

- A UM decision that is timely, meeting applicable North Carolina and federal time frames
- The reasons for Blue Cross NC's ADVERSE BENEFIT DETERMINATION of a requested treatment or health care service, along with an explanation of the UM criteria and treatment protocol used to reach the decision
- Have a medical director (DOCTOR licensed in North Carolina) from Blue Cross NC make a final decision of all NONCERTIFICATIONS
- Request a review of an ADVERSE BENEFIT DETERMINATION through our appeals process. See "Need to Appeal our Decision?"
- Have an authorized representative seek payment of a claim or make an appeal on your behalf.

An authorized representative may act on the MEMBER's behalf with the MEMBER's written consent. In the event you name an authorized representative, "you" under the "UTILIZATION MANAGEMENT" section means "you or your authorized representative." Your representative will also receive all notices and benefit determinations.

### **Blue Cross NC's Responsibilities**

As part of all UM decisions, Blue Cross NC will:

- Give you and your PROVIDER a toll-free phone number to call UM review staff when CERTIFICATION of a health care service is needed.
- Limit what we ask from you or your PROVIDER to information that is needed to review the service in question
- Ask for all information needed to make the UM decision, including related clinical information
- Give you and your PROVIDER timely notification of the UM decision consistent with applicable state and federal law and this health benefit plan.

In the event that Blue Cross NC does not receive all the needed information to approve coverage for a health care service within set time frames, Blue Cross NC will let you know of an ADVERSE BENEFIT DETERMINATION in writing. The notice will explain how you may appeal the ADVERSE BENEFIT DETERMINATION.

## **PRIOR REVIEW (Pre-Service)**

Certain services require PRIOR REVIEW as noted in "COVERED SERVICES." These types of reviews are called pre-service reviews. If PRIOR REVIEW is required by Blue Cross NC, you or your PROVIDER must request PRIOR REVIEW regardless of whether this health benefit plan is your primary or secondary coverage (see "Coordination of Benefits (Overlapping Coverage)"). If neither you nor your PROVIDER requests PRIOR REVIEW and receives CERTIFICATION, this may result in an ADVERSE BENEFIT DETERMINATION. The list of services that need PRIOR REVIEW may change from time to time.

General categories of services with this requirement are noted in "COVERED SERVICES." The list of services that require PRIOR REVIEW may change from time to time. For a detailed list of these services and the most

up-to-date information contact Student Blue<sup>SM</sup> at [email@studentbluenc.com](mailto:email@studentbluenc.com) or call the number listed in "Who to Contact?"

If you fail to follow the procedures for filing a request, Blue Cross NC will let you know of the failure and the proper steps to be followed in filing your request within five days of receiving the request.

Blue Cross NC will make a decision on your request for CERTIFICATION within a reasonable amount of time taking into account the medical circumstances. The decision will be made and communicated to you and your PROVIDER within three business days after Blue Cross NC receives all necessary information. However, it will be no later than 15 calendar days from the date Blue Cross NC received the request. Blue Cross NC may extend this period one time for up to 15 days if additional information is required and Blue Cross NC will let you and your PROVIDER know before the end of the initial 15-day period of the information needed and the date by which Blue Cross NC expects to make a decision. You will have 45 days to provide the requested information. As soon as Blue Cross NC receives all the requested information, or at the end of the 45 days, whichever is earlier, Blue Cross NC will make a decision within three business days. Blue Cross NC will let you and the PROVIDER know of an ADVERSE BENEFIT DETERMINATION electronically or in writing.

### **Urgent PRIOR REVIEW**

You have a right to an urgent review when the regular time frames for a decision: (i) could seriously jeopardize your life, health, or safety or the life, health or safety of others, due to your psychological state, or (ii) in the opinion of a practitioner with knowledge of your medical or behavioral condition, would subject you to adverse health consequences without the care or treatment that is the subject of the request. Blue Cross NC will let you and your PROVIDER know of its decision within 72 hours of receiving the request. Your PROVIDER will be notified of the decision, and if the decision results in an ADVERSE BENEFIT DETERMINATION, written notification will be given to you and your PROVIDER. If Blue Cross NC needs more information to process your urgent review, Blue Cross NC will let you and your PROVIDER know of the information needed as soon as possible but no later than 24 hours after we receive your request. You will then be given a reasonable amount of time, but not less than 48 hours, to provide the requested information. Blue Cross NC will make a decision on your request within a reasonable time but no later than 48 hours after receipt of requested information or within 48 hours after the time period given to the PROVIDER to submit necessary clinical information, whichever comes first.

An urgent review may be requested by calling the PRIOR REVIEW and CERTIFICATION number given in "Who to Contact?"

### **Concurrent Reviews**

Blue Cross NC will also review health care services at the time you receive them. These types of reviews are concurrent reviews.

If a request for an extension of treatment is non-urgent, a decision will be made and communicated to the requesting PROVIDER within three business days after receipt of all necessary clinical information, but no later than 15 calendar days after Blue Cross NC receives the request.

In the event of an ADVERSE BENEFIT DETERMINATION, Blue Cross NC will let you, your HOSPITAL'S or other facility's UM department and/or your PROVIDER know within three business days after receipt of all necessary clinical information, but no later than 15 calendar days after Blue Cross NC receives the request. Written confirmation of the decision will also be sent to your home by U.S. mail. For concurrent reviews, Blue Cross NC will remain responsible for COVERED SERVICES you are receiving until you or your representatives have been notified of the ADVERSE BENEFIT DETERMINATION.

### **Urgent Concurrent Review**

If a request for an extension of treatment is urgent, and the request is received at least 24 hours before the expiration of a previously approved inpatient stay or course of treatment at the requesting HOSPITAL or other facility, a decision will be made and given to the requesting HOSPITAL or other facility as soon as possible. However, the decision will be no later than 24 hours after Blue Cross NC receives the request.

If a request for extension of treatment is urgent, and the request is not received at least 24 hours before the expiration of a previously approved inpatient stay or course of treatment at the requesting HOSPITAL or other facility, a decision will be made and communicated as soon as possible, but no later than 72 hours after Blue Cross NC receives the request.

If Blue Cross NC needs more information to process your urgent concurrent review, Blue Cross NC will let the requesting HOSPITAL or other facility know of the information needed as soon as possible but no later than 24 hours after we receive the request. The requesting HOSPITAL or other facility will then be given a reasonable amount of time,

but not less than 24 hours, to provide the requested information. Blue Cross NC will make a decision within 72 hours after receipt of the request.

### **Retrospective Reviews (Post-Service)**

Blue Cross NC also reviews the coverage of health care services after you receive them (retrospective/post-service reviews). Retrospective review may include a review to see if services received in an EMERGENCY setting qualify as an EMERGENCY. All decisions will be based on MEDICAL NECESSITY and whether the service received was a benefit under this health benefit plan.

Blue Cross NC will make all retrospective review decisions and let you and your PROVIDER know of its decision within a reasonable time but no later than 30 calendar days from the date Blue Cross NC received the request for coverage. If more information is needed, before the end of the initial 30-day period, Blue Cross NC will let you know of the information needed. You will then have 90 days to provide the requested information. As soon as Blue Cross NC gets the requested information, or at the end of the 90 days, whichever is earlier, Blue Cross NC will make a decision within 15 calendar days. Regardless if additional information is needed, in the event of a NONCERTIFICATION, Blue Cross NC will let you and your PROVIDER know in writing within five business days after making the NONCERTIFICATION.

Services that were approved in advance by Blue Cross NC will not be subject to denial for MEDICAL NECESSITY once the claim is received, unless the CERTIFICATION was based on a material misrepresentation about your health condition or you were not eligible for these services under this health benefit plan due to termination of coverage or nonpayment of premiums. All other services may be subject to retrospective review and could be denied for MEDICAL NECESSITY or for a benefit limitation or exclusion.

### **Care Management**

MEMBERS with complicated and/or chronic medical needs may be eligible for care management services. Care management (case management, as well as disease management) encourages MEMBERS with complicated or chronic medical needs, their PROVIDERS, and Blue Cross NC to work together to meet the individual's health needs and promote quality outcomes.

To accomplish this, MEMBERS enrolled in or eligible for care management programs may be contacted by Blue Cross NC or by a representative of Blue Cross NC. Blue Cross NC is not obligated to give the same benefits or services to a MEMBER at a later date or to any other MEMBER. Information about these services can be found by contacting an IN-NETWORK PCP or IN-NETWORK SPECIALIST or by contacting Student Blue at [email@studentbluenc.com](mailto:email@studentbluenc.com) or by calling the number in "Who to Contact?"

In addition to our care management programs for MEMBERS with complicated and/or chronic medical needs, MEMBERS may receive reduced or waived out-of-pocket expenses in connection with programs and/or promotions. These are designed to encourage MEMBERS to seek appropriate, high quality, efficient care based on Blue Cross NC criteria.

### **Continuity of Care**

Continuity of care is a process that allows you to continue receiving care from an OUT-OF-NETWORK PROVIDER for an ongoing special condition at the IN-NETWORK benefit level when your PROVIDER is no longer in the PPO network. If your PCP or SPECIALIST leaves our PROVIDER network and they are currently treating you for an ongoing special condition that meets our continuity of care criteria, Blue Cross NC will notify you in writing 30 days before the PROVIDER'S termination, as long as Blue Cross NC receives timely notification from the PROVIDER. To be eligible for continuity of care, you must be actively being seen by an OUT-OF-NETWORK PROVIDER for an ongoing special condition and the PROVIDER must agree to abide by Blue Cross NC's requirements for continuity of care.

An ongoing special condition means:

- an acute illness, a condition that is serious enough to require medical care or treatment to avoid a reasonable possibility of death or permanent harm;
- a chronic illness or condition, a disease or condition that is life-threatening, degenerative, or disabling, and requires medical care or treatment over a prolonged period of time;
- pregnancy during the second and third trimesters;
- a terminal illness, an individual has a medical prognosis that the MEMBER'S life expectancy is six months or less.

The allowed transitional period shall extend up to 90 days, as decided by the PROVIDER, except in the cases of:

- scheduled SURGERY, organ transplantation, or inpatient care which shall extend through the date of discharge and post-discharge follow-up care or other inpatient care occurring within 90 days of the date of discharge; and
- second trimester pregnancy which shall extend through the provision of postpartum care; and

## **UTILIZATION MANAGEMENT** *(cont.)*

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- terminal illness which shall extend through the remainder of the individual's life for care directly related to the treatment of the terminal illness.

Continuity of care requests must be submitted to Blue Cross NC within 45 days of the PROVIDER termination date or within 45 days of EFFECTIVE DATE for MEMBERS new to the Blue Cross NC plan. Continuity of care requests will be reviewed by a medical professional based on the information given about specific medical conditions. If your continuity of care request is denied, you may request a review through our appeals process (see "Need to Appeal our Decision?"). Claims for approved continuity of care services will be paid at the IN-NETWORK benefit level. In these situations, benefits are based on the billed amount. However, you may be responsible for charges billed separately by the PROVIDER which are not eligible for additional reimbursement. Continuity of care will not be given when the PROVIDER'S contract was terminated for reasons relating to quality of care or fraud.

Please contact Student Blue<sup>SM</sup> at [email@studentbluenc.com](mailto:email@studentbluenc.com) or call the number listed in "Who to Contact?" for more information.

### **Delegated UTILIZATION MANAGEMENT**

Blue Cross NC delegates UM and first level appeal for inpatient and outpatient mental health and substance abuse services to Magellan Behavioral Health. Magellan Behavioral Health is not associated with Blue Cross NC. Claims determination and second level appeals, if eligible, are provided by Blue Cross NC.

# NEED TO APPEAL OUR DECISION?

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This section tells you more about how the appeal process works and what steps you need to take to file an appeal.

<b>Table of Contents:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Steps to Follow</li><li>- Internal Appeals</li><li>- External Review</li><li>- Delegated Appeals</li></ul>	<b>Key Words:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- ADVERSE BENEFIT DETERMINATION</li><li>- GRIEVANCE</li><li>- MEDICALLY NECESSARY</li></ul>
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In addition to the UTILIZATION MANAGEMENT (UM) program, Blue Cross NC offers a voluntary appeals procedure for our MEMBERS. An appeal is another review of your case.

If you want to appeal an ADVERSE BENEFIT DETERMINATION or have a GRIEVANCE, you can request that Blue Cross NC review the decision or GRIEVANCE. The process may be requested by the MEMBER or an authorized representative acting on the MEMBER'S behalf with the MEMBER'S written consent. In the event you name an authorized representative, "you" under this section means "you or your authorized representative." You may also ask for, at no charge, reasonable access to, and copies of, all documents, records and other information relevant to your claim for benefits. Additionally, you will be provided with, at no charge, any new and additional evidence that is relied upon or generated by the health benefit plan or Blue Cross NC in connection with the claim being appealed. Mental Health and Substance Abuse as well as Dental appeals have been delegated to third party vendors. Please see the end of this section for contact information. References to Blue Cross NC throughout this section refer to Blue Cross NC or the designee.

## **Steps to Follow in the Appeals Process**

For each step in this process, there are set time frames for filing an appeal and for letting you or your PROVIDER know of the decision. The type of ADVERSE BENEFIT DETERMINATION or GRIEVANCE will determine the steps that you will need to follow in the appeals process. For appeals about an ADVERSE BENEFIT DETERMINATION, the review must be requested in writing, within 180 days of an ADVERSE BENEFIT DETERMINATION or by the date listed on your Explanation of Benefits.

Any request for review should include:

- SUBSCRIBER'S ID number
- SUBSCRIBER'S name
- Patient's name
- The nature of the appeal
- Any other information that may be helpful for the review.

To request a form to submit a request for review, you may contact Student Blue<sup>SM</sup> at [www.studentbluenc.com](http://www.studentbluenc.com), or call the number listed in "Who to Contact?"

All information related to a request for a review through Blue Cross NC's appeals process should be sent to:  
Blue Cross NC  
Appeals Department  
PO Box 30055  
Durham, NC 27702-3055

MEMBERS may also receive help with ADVERSE BENEFIT DETERMINATIONS and GRIEVANCES from Health Insurance Smart NC. To reach this Program, contact:

North Carolina Department of Insurance  
Health Insurance Smart NC  
1201 Mail Service Center  
Raleigh, NC 27699-1201  
Phone: (855) 408-1212

You may also receive help from the Employee Benefits Security Administration at 1-866-444-3272.

After request for review, a staff member who works in a separate department from the staff member who denied your first request will look at your appeal. The appeals staff members have not reviewed your case or information before. The denial of the initial claim will not have an effect on the review.

If a claims denial is based on medical judgment, including determinations about whether a certain treatment, drug or other item is EXPERIMENTAL, INVESTIGATIONAL, or not MEDICALLY NECESSARY or appropriate, Blue Cross NC shall seek advice from a health care professional with an appropriate level of training and expertise in the field of medicine involved (as determined by Blue Cross NC). The health care professionals have not reviewed your case or information before.



## NEED TO APPEAL OUR DECISION? (cont.)

You will have exhausted Blue Cross NC's internal appeals process after pursuing a first level appeal. Unless specifically noted below, upon completion of the first level appeal you may (1) pursue a second level appeal; (2) pursue an external review; or (3) pursue a civil action under 502(a) of ERISA or under state law, as applicable. You will be deemed to have exhausted Blue Cross NC's internal appeals process at any time it is determined that Blue Cross NC failed to strictly adhere to all claim determinations and appeal requirements under Federal law (other than minor errors that are not likely to cause prejudice or harm to you and were for good cause or situation beyond Blue Cross NC's control). In the event you are deemed to have exhausted Blue Cross NC's internal appeals process and, unless specifically noted below, you may pursue items (2) or (3) described above.

### Timeline for Appeals

For appeals about an ADVERSE BENEFIT DETERMINATION, the review must be requested in writing, within 180 days of an ADVERSE BENEFIT DETERMINATION or by the date listed on your Explanation of Benefits.

	First Level Appeal	Second Level Appeal	Expedited Appeal
Blue Cross NC Contacts You	Within 3 business days after receipt of request	Within 10 business days after receipt of request	N/A
Notice of Decision	30 days after receipt of request	7 days after the appeal meeting	72 hours after receipt of request - Oral 4 days after receipt of request - Written

### Internal Appeals

#### First Level Appeal

Blue Cross NC will provide you with the name, address and phone number of the appeals coordinator within three business days after receipt of a review request. Blue Cross NC will also give you instructions on how to submit written materials.

Although you are not allowed to attend a first level appeal, you may provide and/or present written evidence and testimony. Blue Cross NC asks that you send all of the written material you feel is necessary to make a decision. Blue Cross NC will use the material provided in the request for review, along with other available information, to reach a decision.

If your appeal is due to a NONCERTIFICATION, your appeal will be reviewed by a North Carolina licensed medical doctor who was not involved in the initial NONCERTIFICATION decision. You may receive, in advance, any new information or rationale that Blue Cross NC may use in making a decision so that you may have an opportunity to respond prior to the notice of an ADVERSE BENEFIT DETERMINATION.

Blue Cross NC will send you and your PROVIDER notification of the decision in clear written terms, within a reasonable time but no later than 30 days from the date Blue Cross NC received the request. You may then request all information that was relevant to the review.

#### Quality of Care Complaints

For quality of care complaints, an acknowledgement will be sent by Blue Cross NC within ten business days. We will refer the complaint to our quality assurance committee for review and consideration or any appropriate action against the PROVIDER. State law does not allow for a second-level grievance review for grievances concerning quality of care.

#### Second Level Appeal

##### Second Level Appeal Timeline

Blue Cross NC Notifies You	Within 10 business days after receipt of request
Second Level Appeal Meeting	Occurs within 45 days after receipt of request
Notice of the Appeal Meeting	15 days before the appeal meeting
Notice of Decision	7 days after the appeal meeting

Since this health benefit plan is subject to ERISA, the first level appeal is the only level that you must complete before you can pursue your appeal in an action in federal court.

Otherwise, if you do not agree with the first level appeal decision, you have the right to a second level appeal. Second level appeals are not allowed for benefits or services that are clearly excluded by this benefit booklet, or for quality of care complaints. Within ten business days after Blue Cross NC receives your request for a second level appeal, Blue Cross NC will send you an acknowledgement letter which will include the following:

- Name, address and phone number of the appeals coordinator
- Availability of the Health Insurance Smart NC including address and phone number
- A statement of your rights, including the right to:
  - request and receive from us all information that applies to your appeal
  - take part in the second level appeal review meeting
  - present your case to the review panel
  - submit supporting material before and during the review meeting
  - ask questions of any member of the review panel
  - be assisted or represented by a person of your choosing, including a family member, an EMPLOYER representative, or an attorney
  - pursue other voluntary alternative dispute resolutions options as applicable.

The second level appeal meeting will be conducted by a review panel arranged by Blue Cross NC. The panel will include external physicians and/or benefit experts. This will be held within 45 days after Blue Cross NC receives a second level appeal. Blue Cross NC will give you notice of the meeting date and time at least 15 days before the meeting. The meeting will be held by teleconference. You have the right to a full review of your appeal even if you do not take part in the meeting. A written decision will be issued to you within seven business days of the review meeting.

### Notice of Decision

If any claim (whether expedited or nonexpedited) shall be wholly or partially denied at either the first level appeal or the second level appeal, a written notice shall be provided to the MEMBER worded in an understandable manner and shall set forth:

- The specific reason(s) for the denial
- Reference to the specific health benefit plan provisions on which the decision is based
- A statement that the MEMBER is entitled to receive reasonable access to, and copies of, all documents, records and other information relevant to the MEMBER'S claim for benefits upon request at no additional cost
- If applicable, a statement describing any voluntary appeals procedures and the MEMBER'S right to receive information about the procedures as well as the MEMBER'S right to bring a civil action under Section 502(a) of ERISA following an adverse determination upon review
- A copy of any internal rule, guideline, protocol or other similar criteria relied on in making the decision or a statement that such specific rule, guideline, protocol, or other similar criteria was relied upon in making the decision upon request at no charge
- If the decision is based on MEDICAL NECESSITY or EXPERIMENTAL treatment or similar exclusion or limit, either an explanation of the scientific or clinical judgment for the determination, applying the terms of this health benefit plan to the MEMBER'S medical circumstances, or a statement that such explanation will be provided at no cost upon request; and
- The following statement: "You 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 your State insurance regulatory agency."

### Expedited Appeals (Available only for NONCERTIFICATIONS)

You have the right to a more rapid or expedited review of a NONCERTIFICATION if a delay: (i) would reasonably appear to seriously jeopardize your or your DEPENDENT'S life, health or ability to regain maximum function; or (ii) in the opinion of your PROVIDER, would subject you or your DEPENDENT to severe pain that cannot be adequately managed without the requested care or treatment.

You can request an expedited second level review even if you did not request that the initial review be expedited. To start the process of an expedited appeal, you can call Student Blue<sup>SM</sup> at [email@studentbluenc.com](mailto:email@studentbluenc.com) or by calling the phone number given in "Who to Contact?" An expedited review will take place in consultation with a medical DOCTOR. All of the same conditions for a first level or second level appeal apply to an expedited review. Blue Cross NC will communicate the decision by phone to you and your PROVIDER as soon as possible, taking into account the medical circumstances. The decision will be communicated no later than 72 hours after receiving the request. A written decision will be communicated within four days after receiving the request for the expedited appeal. Information initially given by telephone must also be given in writing.

After requesting an expedited review, Blue Cross NC will remain responsible for covered health care services you are receiving until you have been notified of the review decision.

### **External Review (Available only for NONCERTIFICATIONS)**

Federal and state law allows for a review of ADVERSE BENEFIT DETERMINATIONS by an external, independent review organization (IRO). The North Carolina Department of Insurance (NCDOI) administers this service at no charge to you. NCDOI will arrange for an IRO to review your case once the NCDOI confirms that your request is complete and eligible for review. Blue Cross NC will let you know of your right to request an external review each time you receive:

- an ADVERSE BENEFIT DETERMINATION decision, or
- an appeal decision upholding an ADVERSE BENEFIT DETERMINATION decision, or
- a second level appeal decision upholding an ADVERSE BENEFIT DETERMINATION.

However, in order for your request to be eligible for an external review, the NCDOI must determine the following:

- your request is about a MEDICAL NECESSITY determination that resulted in an ADVERSE BENEFIT DETERMINATION (e.g. NONCERTIFICATION);
- you had coverage with Blue Cross NC when the ADVERSE BENEFIT DETERMINATION was issued;
- the service for which the ADVERSE BENEFIT DETERMINATION was issued appears to be a COVERED SERVICE; and
- you have exhausted or have been deemed to have exhausted Blue Cross NC's internal appeals process as described below.

For a standard external review, you will have exhausted the internal appeals process if you have:

- completed Blue Cross NC's first and second level appeals and received a written second level determination from Blue Cross NC, or
- filed a second level appeal and have not requested or agreed to a delay in the second level appeals process, but have not received Blue Cross NC's written decision within 60 days of the date you can show that the appeal was filed with Blue Cross NC, or
- received written notification that Blue Cross NC has agreed to waive the requirement to exhaust the internal appeal and/or second level appeals process.
- determined that Blue Cross NC failed to strictly adhere to all claim determinations and appeal requirements under Federal Law (as discussed above).

External reviews are performed on a standard or expedited basis. The basis depends on which is requested and whether medical circumstances meet the criteria for expedited review.

### **Standard External Review**

For all requests for a standard external review, you must file your request with the NCDOI within 120 days of receiving one of the notices listed above.

If the request for an external review is related to a retrospective ADVERSE BENEFIT DETERMINATION (an ADVERSE BENEFIT DETERMINATION which takes place after you have already received the services in question), the 60-day time limit for receiving Blue Cross NC's second level determination does not apply. You will not be eligible to request an external review until you have completed the internal appeal process as referenced above and have received a written second level determination from Blue Cross NC.

### **Expedited External Review**

An expedited external review may be available if the time required to complete either an expedited internal first or second level appeal or a standard external review would be expected to seriously jeopardize your life or health or to jeopardize your ability to regain maximum function. If you meet this requirement, you may file a request to the NCDOI for an expedited external review, after you receive:

- an ADVERSE BENEFIT DETERMINATION from Blue Cross NC and have filed a request with Blue Cross NC for an expedited first level appeal; or
- a first level appeal decision upholding an ADVERSE BENEFIT DETERMINATION and have filed a request with Blue Cross NC for an expedited second level appeal review; or
- a second level appeal decision (also known as a final internal ADVERSE BENEFIT DETERMINATION) from Blue Cross NC.

Prior to your discharge from an inpatient facility, you may also request an expedited external review after receiving a first level appeal or second level final internal ADVERSE BENEFIT DETERMINATION of the admission, availability of care, continued stay or EMERGENCY health care services.

If your request is not accepted for expedited review, the NCDOI may:

## NEED TO APPEAL OUR DECISION? (cont.)

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- accept the case for standard external review if you have completed the internal appeals process; or
- require the completion of the internal appeals process and another request for an external review. An expedited external review is not available for retrospective (post-service) ADVERSE BENEFIT DETERMINATIONS.

When processing your request for an external review, the NCDOI will require you to provide them with a written, signed authorization for the release of any of your medical records that need to be reviewed for the external review.

For further information or to request an external review, contact the NCDOI at:

(Mail)

North Carolina Department of Insurance  
Health Insurance Smart NC  
1201 Mail Service Center  
Raleigh, NC 27699-1201  
Tel (toll free): (855) 408-1212

(In person)

For the physical address for Health Insurance Smart NC, please visit the web-page: <http://www.ncdoi.com/smart>

(Web): [www.ncdoi.com/smart](http://www.ncdoi.com/smart) for external review information and request form

The Health Insurance Smart NC program provides consumer counseling on utilization review and appeals issues.

Within ten business days (or, for an expedited review, within two days) after receipt of your request for an external review, the NCDOI will let you and your PROVIDER know in writing whether your request is complete and whether it has been accepted.

If the NCDOI notifies you that your request is incomplete, you must provide all requested information to the NCDOI within 150 days of the written notice from Blue Cross NC upholding an ADVERSE BENEFIT DETERMINATION (generally the notice of a second level appeal decision) which initiated your request for an external review.

If the NCDOI accepts your request, the acceptance notice will include the following:

- (i) name and contact information for the IRO assigned to your case;
- (ii) a copy of the information about your case that Blue Cross NC has provided to the NCDOI; and
- (iii) a notification that you may submit additional written information and supporting documentation relevant to the initial ADVERSE BENEFIT DETERMINATION to the assigned IRO within seven days after the receipt of the notice.

It is presumed that you have received written notice two days after the notice was mailed. Within seven days of Blue Cross NC's receipt of the acceptance notice (or, for an expedited review, within the same day), Blue Cross NC shall provide the IRO and you, by the same or similar quick means of communication, the documents and any information considered in making the ADVERSE BENEFIT DETERMINATION or the second level appeal decision.

If you choose to give any additional information to the IRO, you must also give that same information to Blue Cross NC at the same time and by the same means of communication (e.g., you must fax the information to Blue Cross NC if you faxed it to the IRO). When sending additional information to Blue Cross NC, send it to:

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina  
Appeals Department  
PO Box 30055  
Durham, NC 27702-3055

Please note that you may also give this additional information to the NCDOI within the seven-day deadline rather than sending it directly to the IRO and Blue Cross NC. The NCDOI will forward this information to the IRO and Blue Cross NC within two days after receiving the additional information.

The IRO will send you written notice of its decision within 45 days (or, for an expedited review, within three days) after the date the NCDOI received your external review request. If the IRO's decision is to reverse the ADVERSE BENEFIT DETERMINATION, Blue Cross NC will, within three business days (or, for an expedited review, within the same day) after receiving notice of the IRO's decision, reverse the ADVERSE BENEFIT DETERMINATION decision and provide coverage for the requested service or supply.

If you are no longer covered by Blue Cross NC at the time Blue Cross NC receives notice of the IRO's decision to reverse the ADVERSE BENEFIT DETERMINATION, Blue Cross NC will only provide coverage for those services or supplies you actually received or would have received prior to disenrollment if the service had not been noncertified when first requested.

The IRO's external review decision is binding on Blue Cross NC and you, except to the extent you may have other actions available under applicable federal or state law. You may not file a subsequent request for an external review involving the same ADVERSE BENEFIT DETERMINATION for which you have already received an external review decision.

### **Delegated Appeals**

#### **Mental Health and Substance Abuse**

Blue Cross NC delegates responsibility for the first level appeal for inpatient and outpatient mental health and substance abuse services to Magellan Behavioral Health. Magellan Behavioral Health is not associated with Blue Cross NC. Please forward written appeals to:

Magellan Behavioral Health  
Appeals Department  
PO Box 1619  
Alpharetta, GA 30009

Second level appeal, if eligible, is provided by Blue Cross NC.

# ADDITIONAL TERMS OF YOUR COVERAGE

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This section provides information on:

<b>Table of Contents:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Benefits to Which MEMBERS are Entitled</li><li>- Blue Cross NC's Disclosure of Protected Health Information (PHI)</li><li>- Administrative Discretion</li><li>- Recovery of Overpayment</li><li>- North Carolina PROVIDER Reimbursement</li><li>- Services Received Outside of North Carolina</li><li>- Notice of Claim</li><li>- Notice of Benefit Determination</li><li>- Limitation of Actions</li><li>- Evaluating New Technology</li><li>- Coordination of Benefits (Overlapping Coverage)</li><li>- Important Information for MEMBERS eligible for Medicare</li></ul>	<b>Key Words:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- COVERED SERVICES</li><li>- PROVIDERS</li></ul>
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## **Benefits to Which MEMBERS Are Entitled**

The only legally binding benefits are described in this benefit booklet, which is part of the CONTRACT between Blue Cross NC and the GROUP. The terms of your coverage cannot be changed or waived unless Blue Cross NC agrees in writing to the change.

If a MEMBER resides with a custodial parent or legal guardian who is not the SUBSCRIBER, Blue Cross NC will, at its option, make payment to either the PROVIDER of the services or to the custodial parent or legal guardian for services provided to the MEMBER. If the SUBSCRIBER or custodial parent or legal guardian receives payment, it is his or her responsibility to pay the PROVIDER.

Benefits for COVERED SERVICES specified in this health benefit plan will be provided only for services and supplies that are performed by a PROVIDER as specified in this health benefit plan and regularly included in the ALLOWED AMOUNT. Blue Cross NC establishes coverage determination guidelines that specify how services and supplies must be billed in order for payment to be made under this health benefit plan.

Any amounts paid by Blue Cross NC for noncovered services or that are in excess of the benefit provided under your Blue Options coverage may be recovered by Blue Cross NC. Blue Cross NC may recover the amounts by deducting from a MEMBER'S future claims payments. This can result in a reduction or elimination of future claims payments. In addition, under certain circumstances, if Blue Cross NC pays the PROVIDER amounts that are your responsibility, such as deductible, copayments or coinsurance, Blue Cross NC may collect such amounts directly from you.

Blue Cross NC will recover amounts we have paid for work-related accidents, injuries, or illnesses covered under state workers' compensation laws upon final adjudication of the claim or an order of the applicable state agency approving a settlement agreement. It is the legal obligation of the MEMBER, the EMPLOYER or the workers' compensation insurer (whoever is responsible for payment of the medical expenses) to notify Blue Cross NC in writing that there has been a final adjudication or settlement.

PROVIDERS are independent contractors, and they are solely responsible for injuries and damages to MEMBERS resulting from misconduct or negligence.

## **Blue Cross NC's Disclosure of Protected Health Information (PHI)**

At Blue Cross NC, we take your privacy seriously. We handle all PHI as required by state and federal laws and regulations and accreditation standards. We have developed a privacy notice that explains our procedures.

To obtain a copy of the privacy notice, contact Student Blue<sup>SM</sup> at the number listed in "Who to Contact?"

## **Administrative Discretion**

Blue Cross NC has the authority to use its discretion to make reasonable determinations in the administration of coverage. These determinations will be final. Such determinations include decisions concerning eligibility for benefits, coverage of services, care, treatment, or supplies, and reasonableness of charges. Blue Cross NC medical policies are guides considered by Blue Cross NC when making coverage determinations.

### **Recovery of Overpayment**

If a benefit payment is made by Blue Cross NC to or on your behalf, which exceeds the benefit amount that you are entitled to receive, Blue Cross NC has the right

- To require return of the overpayment; or
- To reduce the amount of the overpayment by deducting it from any future benefit payment made to or on behalf of you or another person in your family.

The right of recovery of overpayment does not affect any other right of recovery Blue Cross NC may have with respect to such overpayment. To the extent that Blue Cross NC is required to bring an action for recovery of an overpayment under this policy, Blue Cross NC shall be entitled to recover all costs, including attorneys' fees, from you in the prosecution of any action.

The term "overpayment" includes, but is not limited to, any overpayment made to a PROVIDER in relation to treatment provided to you, any mistaken payment, or any payment made on a claim subject to any service or treatment identified as an exclusion in this benefit booklet. The term "overpayment" does not include subrogation of benefits, the right to repayment of the full cost of all benefits provided by Blue Cross NC on your behalf to the extent you recover from another party.

### **North Carolina PROVIDER Reimbursement**

Blue Cross NC has contracts with certain PROVIDERS of health care services for the provision of, and payment for, health care services provided to all MEMBERS entitled to health care benefits. Blue Cross NC's payment to PROVIDERS may be based on an amount other than the billed charges, including without limitation, an amount per confinement or episode of care, agreed upon schedule of fees, or other methodology as agreed upon by Blue Cross NC and the PROVIDER. Under certain circumstances, a contracting PROVIDER may receive payments from Blue Cross NC greater than the charges for services provided to an eligible MEMBER, or Blue Cross NC may pay less than charges for services, due to negotiated contracts. The MEMBER is not entitled to receive any portion of the payments made under the terms of contracts with PROVIDERS. The MEMBER'S liability when defined as a percent of charge shall be calculated based on the lesser of the ALLOWED AMOUNT or the PROVIDER'S billed charge for COVERED SERVICES provided to a MEMBER.

Some OUT-OF-NETWORK PROVIDERS have other agreements with Blue Cross NC that affect their reimbursement for COVERED SERVICES provided to Blue Options MEMBERS. These PROVIDERS agree not to bill MEMBERS for any charges higher than their agreed upon, contracted amount. In these situations, MEMBERS will be responsible for the difference between the Blue Options ALLOWED AMOUNT and the contracted amount. OUT-OF-NETWORK PROVIDERS may bill you directly. If you are billed, you will be responsible for paying the bill and filing a claim with Blue Cross NC.

### **Services Received Outside of North Carolina**

Blue Cross NC has a variety of relationships with other Blue Cross and/or Blue Shield licensees, generally referred to as "Inter-Plan Arrangements." As a MEMBER of Blue Cross NC, you have access to PROVIDERS outside the state of North Carolina. Your ID CARD tells PROVIDERS that you are a MEMBER of Blue Cross NC. While Blue Cross NC maintains its contractual obligation to provide benefits to MEMBERS for COVERED SERVICES, the Blue Cross and/or Blue Shield licensee in the state where you receive services ("Host Blue") is responsible for contracting with and generally handling all interactions with its participating PROVIDERS.

If you receive inpatient FACILITY SERVICES from an IN-NETWORK PROVIDER outside of North Carolina, except for Veterans' Affairs (VA) and military PROVIDERS, the PROVIDER is responsible for requesting PRIOR REVIEW. If you see any other PROVIDER outside the State of North Carolina, you are responsible for ensuring that you or the PROVIDER requests PRIOR REVIEW by Blue Cross NC. Failure to request PRIOR REVIEW and obtain CERTIFICATION will result in a full denial of benefits. If you experience an EMERGENCY while traveling outside the state of North Carolina, go to the nearest EMERGENCY or URGENT CARE facility.

All claim types are eligible to be processed through Inter-Plan Arrangements, as described above, except for DENTAL SERVICES (unless provided under your medical benefits), PRESCRIPTION DRUG or vision care benefits that may be administered by a third party contracted by Blue Cross NC to provide the specific service or services.

Whenever you obtain health care services outside the area in which the Blue Cross NC network operates, the claims for these services may be processed through one of these Inter-Plan Arrangements, which include the BlueCard Program and may include Negotiated National Account Arrangements available between Blue Cross NC and other Blue Cross and/or Blue Shield licensees.

Under the BlueCard Program, the amount you pay toward such COVERED SERVICES, such as deductibles, copayments or coinsurance, is usually based on the **lesser** of:

## **ADDITIONAL TERMS OF YOUR COVERAGE** *(cont.)*

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- The billed charges for your COVERED SERVICES, or
- The negotiated price that the Host Blue passes on to us.

This "negotiated price" can be:

- A simple discount that reflects the actual price paid by the Host Blue to your PROVIDER
- An estimated price that factors in special arrangements with your PROVIDER or with a group of PROVIDERS that may include types of settlements, incentive payments, and/or other credits or charges
- An average price, based on a discount that reflects the expected average savings for similar types of health care PROVIDERS after taking into account the same types of special arrangements as with an estimated price.

The estimated or average price may be adjusted in the future to correct for over- or underestimation of past prices. However, such adjustments will not affect the price that Blue Cross NC uses for your claim because they will not be applied retroactively to claims already paid.

Federal law or the laws in a small number of states may require the Host Blue to add a surcharge to your calculation. If federal law or any state laws mandate other liability calculation methods, including a surcharge, we would then calculate your liability for any covered health care services according to applicable law.

As an alternative to the BlueCard Program and depending on your geographic location, your claim may be processed through a Negotiated National Account Arrangement with a Host Blue. In these situations, the amount you pay for COVERED SERVICES will be calculated based on the lower of the participating PROVIDER's billed covered charges or the negotiated price made available to Blue Cross NC by the Host Blue.

If reference-based benefits, which are service-specific benefit dollar limits for specific procedures, based on a Host Blue's local market rates, are made available to you, you will be responsible for the amount that the healthcare PROVIDER bills above the specific reference benefit limit for the given procedure. For a participating PROVIDER, that amount will be the difference between the negotiated price and the reference benefit limit. For a nonparticipating PROVIDER, that amount will be the difference between the PROVIDER'S billed charge and the reference benefit limit. Where a reference benefit limit is greater than either a negotiated price or a PROVIDER'S billed charge, you will incur no liability, other than any related patient cost sharing under this PLAN.

If you receive COVERED SERVICES from a non-participating PROVIDER outside the state of North Carolina, the amount you pay will generally be based on either the Host Blue's non-participating PROVIDER local payment or the pricing arrangements required by applicable state law. However, in certain situations, Blue Cross NC may use other payment bases, such as billed charges, to determine the amount Blue Cross NC will pay for COVERED SERVICES from a non-participating PROVIDER. In other exception cases, Blue Cross NC may pay such a claim based on the payment it would make if Blue Cross NC were paying a non-participating PROVIDER for the same covered healthcare services inside of Blue Cross NC's service area, where the Host Blue's corresponding payment would be more than Blue Cross NC's in-service area non-participating PROVIDER payment, or in Blue Cross NC's sole and absolute discretion, Blue Cross NC may negotiate a payment with such a PROVIDER on an exception basis. In any of these situations, you may be liable for the difference between the non-participating PROVIDER'S billed amount and any payment Blue Cross NC would make for the COVERED SERVICES. Federal or state law, as applicable, will govern payments for OUT-OF-NETWORK EMERGENCY services.

### **Value-Based Programs: BlueCard Program**

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 Blue Cross NC through average pricing or fee schedule adjustments. These fees are part of the total cost of the claim and you will not be charged separately for them.

If Blue Cross NC has entered into a Negotiated National Account Arrangement with a Host Blue to provide Value-Based Programs to your EMPLOYER on your behalf, Blue Cross NC will follow the same procedures for Value-Based Programs administration and Care Coordinator Fees as noted above for the BlueCard Program.

### **Blue Cross Blue Shield Global Core:**

If you are outside the United States (hereinafter "BlueCard service area"), you may be able to take advantage of the Blue Cross Blue Shield Global Core when accessing COVERED SERVICES. The Blue Cross Blue Shield Global Core is unlike the BlueCard Program available in the BlueCard service area in certain ways. For instance, although the Blue Cross Blue Shield Global Core 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.



## **ADDITIONAL TERMS OF YOUR COVERAGE** (cont.)

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If you need medical assistance services (including locating a DOCTOR or HOSPITAL) outside the BlueCard service area, you should call the service center at 1.800.810.BLUE (2583) or call collect at 1.804.673.1177, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. 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 service center for assistance, HOSPITALS will not require you to pay for covered inpatient services, except for any applicable copay, deductible or coinsurance amounts. In such cases, the HOSPITAL will submit your claims to the 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 contact Blue Cross NC to obtain precertification for non-EMERGENCY inpatient services.

- **Outpatient Services**

Physicians, URGENT CARE centers and other outpatient PROVIDERS located outside the BlueCard service area will typically require 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 claim form and send the claim form with the PROVIDER'S itemized bill(s) to the service center (the address is on the form) to initiate claims processing. Following the instructions on the claim form will help ensure timely processing of your claim. The claim form is available from Blue Cross NC, the service center or online at [www.bcbsglobalcore.com](http://www.bcbsglobalcore.com). If you need assistance with your claim submission, you should call the service center at 1.800.810.BLUE (2583) or call collect at 1.804.673.1177, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

### **Services Received Outside the United States**

This plan provides benefits to MEMBERS outside the United States. In order to receive IN-NETWORK benefits, you must receive outpatient or inpatient medical care from a HOSPITAL or PROVIDER that participates in the Blue Cross and Blue Shield worldwide PROVIDER network, except in an EMERGENCY.

### **Medical Evacuation/Repatriation and Repatriation of Mortal Remains**

For services regarding Medical Evacuation, Medical Repatriation and Repatriation of Mortal Remains, as well as travel assistance, you must contact AXA Assistance directly by calling 1-866-384-2786 (within the U.S.) or 1-630-616-4536 (outside the U.S.).

### **Notice of Claim**

Blue Cross NC will not be liable for payment of benefits unless proper notice is furnished to Blue Cross NC that COVERED SERVICES have been provided to a MEMBER. If the MEMBER files the claim, written notice must be given to Blue Cross NC within 18 months after the MEMBER incurs the COVERED SERVICE, except in the absence of legal capacity of the MEMBER. The notice must be on an approved claim form and include the data necessary for Blue Cross NC to determine benefits. Forms are available at [www.studentbluenc.com](http://www.studentbluenc.com) or by calling the number in "Who to Contact?"

### **Notice of Benefit Determination**

Blue Cross NC will provide an explanation of benefits determination to the MEMBER or the MEMBER'S authorized representative within 30 days of receipt of a notice of claim if the MEMBER has financial liability on the claim other than a copayment or other services where payment was made at the point of service.

Blue Cross NC may take an extension of up to 15 more days to complete the benefits determination if additional information is needed. If Blue Cross NC takes an extension, we will notify the MEMBER or the MEMBER'S authorized representative of the extension and of the information needed. You will then have 90 days to provide the requested information. As soon as Blue Cross NC receives the requested information, or at the end of the 90 days, whichever is earlier, Blue Cross NC will make a decision within 15 days.

Such notice will be worded in an understandable manner and will include:

- The specific reason(s) for the denial of benefits
- Reference to the benefit booklet sections on which the denial of benefits is based
- A description of any additional information needed for you to perfect the claim and an explanation of why such information is needed

## **ADDITIONAL TERMS OF YOUR COVERAGE** (cont.)

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- A description of the review procedures and the time limits applicable to such procedures, including the MEMBER'S right to bring a civil action under Section 502(a) of ERISA following a denial of benefits
- A copy of any internal rule, guideline, protocol or other similar criteria relied on, if any, in making the benefit determination or a statement that it will be provided without charge upon request
- If the denial of benefits is based on MEDICAL NECESSITY or EXPERIMENTAL treatment or similar exclusion or limit, either an explanation of the scientific or clinical judgment, applying the terms of the health benefit plan to the MEMBER'S medical circumstances, or a statement that this will be provided without charge upon request; and
- In the case of a denial of benefits involving URGENT CARE, a description of the expedited review process available to such claims.

Upon receipt of a denial of benefits, you have the right to file an appeal with Blue Cross NC. See "Need to Appeal our Decision?" for more information.

### **Limitation of Actions**

Since this health benefit plan is subject to ERISA, you must exhaust only the first level appeal process before bringing any legal action to recover benefits. Please see "Need to Appeal our Decision?" for details regarding the appeals process. **No legal action to recover benefits may be brought later than one year from the date your claim for benefits is denied at the end of the appeals process. If you choose to pursue a second level appeal, the one-year period for bringing a legal action will begin to run once that final second-level decision has been issued.**

### **Evaluating New Technology**

In an effort to allow for continuous quality improvement, Blue Cross NC has processes in place to evaluate new medical technology, procedures and equipment. These policies allow us to determine the best services and products to offer our MEMBERS. They also help us keep pace with the ever-advancing medical field. Before implementing any new or revised policies, we review professionally supported scientific literature as well as state and federal guidelines, regulations, recommendations, and requirements. We then seek additional input from PROVIDERS who know the needs of the patients they serve.

### **Coordination of Benefits (Overlapping Coverage)**

If a MEMBER is also enrolled in another group health plan, Blue Cross NC may take into account benefits paid by the other plan. Coordination of benefits (COB) means that if a MEMBER is covered by more than one group insurance plan, benefits under one group insurance plan are determined before the benefits are determined under the second group insurance plan. The group insurance plan that determines benefits first is called the primary group insurance plan. The other group insurance plan is called the secondary group insurance plan.

Benefits paid by the secondary group insurance plan may be reduced to avoid paying benefits between the two plans that are greater than the cost of the health care service. Most group health insurance plans include a COB provision. COB is explained in more detail in the CONTRACT between the GROUP and Blue Cross NC; however, the rules used to determine which plan is primary and secondary are listed in the following chart. The "participant" is the person who is signing up for group health insurance coverage.

### **Important Information for MEMBERS Eligible for Medicare**

If you are eligible for or enrolled in Medicare, Blue Cross NC will determine Medicare primacy in accordance with the Medicare Secondary Payer rules and will coordinate benefits based on your Medicare eligibility. Information regarding how Medicare works with other insurance benefits like those offered by this health benefit plan can be found on [www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov). If you or your DEPENDENTS are covered under this health benefit plan, and are eligible for Medicare, **Blue Cross NC may take into account the benefits that you or your DEPENDENTS are eligible for under Medicare, regardless of whether you have actually enrolled for such coverage.** In other words, even if you have not enrolled in Medicare, Blue Cross NC may reduce a claim based on the benefits you are eligible for under Medicare, and then pay the remaining claim amount under the terms of the health benefit plan and in accordance with the Medicare Secondary Payer rules. As a result, if you are eligible for Medicare and Medicare would pay benefits primary to this health benefit plan, your out-of-pocket costs may be higher if you do not enroll in Medicare. The Medicare Secondary Payer rules that determine when Medicare pays benefits primary to other insurance benefits like those offered by this health benefit plan are complex and will not result in higher out-of-pocket costs in every instance.

## ADDITIONAL TERMS OF YOUR COVERAGE *(cont.)*

When a person is covered by 2 group health plans, and	Then	Primary	Secondary
One plan does not have a COB provision	The plan without the provision is	√	
	The plan with the provision is		√
The person is the participant under one plan and a DEPENDENT under the other	The plan covering the person as the participant is	√	
	The plan covering the person as a DEPENDENT is		√
The person is covered as a DEPENDENT CHILD under both plans and parents are either:  1) married or living together; or 2) divorced/separated or not living together and a court decree* states that they have joint custody without specifying which parent is responsible for the DEPENDENT CHILD'S health care coverage; or 3) divorced/separated or not living together and a court decree* states that both parents have responsibility for the DEPENDENT CHILD'S health care coverage	The plan of the parent whose birthday occurs earlier in the calendar year (known as the birthday rule) is	√	
	The plan of the parent whose birthday is later in the calendar year is		√
	<i>Note: When the parents have the same birthday, the plan that covered the parent longer is</i>	√	
The person is covered as a DEPENDENT CHILD under both plans and parents are divorced/separated or not living together with no court decree* for coverage	The custodial parent's plan is	√	
	The plan of the spouse of the custodial parent is		√
	Or, if the custodial parent covers the child through their spouse's plan, the plan of the spouse is	√	
	The non-custodial parent's plan is		√
<i>Note: The custodial parent is considered to be the parent awarded custody of a child by a court decree*; or in the absence of a court decree, the parent with whom the child resides more than one half of the calendar year.</i>			
The person is covered as a DEPENDENT CHILD under both plans and parents are divorced/separated or not living together, and coverage is stipulated in a court decree*	The plan of the parent primarily responsible for health coverage under the court decree is	√	
	The plan of the other parent is		√
	<i>Note: If there is a court decree that requires a parent to assume financial responsibility for the child's health care coverage, and Blue Cross NC has actual knowledge of those terms of the court decree, benefits under that parent's health benefit plan are</i>	√	
The person is covered as a laid-off or retired EMPLOYEE or that EMPLOYEE'S DEPENDENT on one of the plans, including coverage under COBRA	The plan that covers a person other than as a laid-off or retired EMPLOYEE or as that EMPLOYEE'S DEPENDENT is	√	
	The plan that covers a person as a laid-off or retired EMPLOYEE or the DEPENDENT of a laid-off or retired EMPLOYEE is		√
<i>Note: This rule does not apply if it results in a conflict with any of the other rules for determining order of benefits</i>			
	The plan that has been in effect longer is	√	

## ADDITIONAL TERMS OF YOUR COVERAGE *(cont.)*

When a person is covered by 2 group health plans, and	Then	Primary	Secondary
The person is the participant in two active group health plans and none of the rules above apply	The plan that has been in effect the shorter amount of time is		√

*\*Note: You may be required to submit a copy of the court or administrative order or legal documentation in these instances.*

NOTE: If either the primary or the secondary health benefit plan covers a particular service, where Blue Cross NC is the secondary plan, Blue Cross NC will coordinate benefits for that service based on the benefits of the secondary coverage. However, if neither the primary nor secondary plan covers a particular service, the MEMBER will be responsible for payment for that service. Blue Cross NC may request information about the other plan from the MEMBER. A prompt reply will help us process payments quickly. There will be no payment until primary coverage is determined. It is important to remember that even when benefits are coordinated with other group health plans, benefits for COVERED SERVICES are still subject to program requirements, such as PRIOR REVIEW and CERTIFICATION procedures.

# FEDERAL NOTICES

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The following federal notices describe benefits that are included as part of your ESSENTIAL HEALTH BENEFITS. See "COVERED SERVICES" for more details.

## **Statement of Rights Under the Newborns' and Mothers' Health Protection Act**

Under federal law, group health plans and health insurance issuers offering group health insurance coverage 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 delivery by Cesarean section. However, the plan or issuer may pay for a shorter stay if the attending PROVIDER (e.g., your DOCTOR, nurse midwife or physician assistant), after consultation with the mother, discharges the mother or newborn earlier.

Also, under federal law, group health plans and health insurance issuers may not set the level of benefits or out-of-pocket costs so that any later portion of the 48-hour (or 96-hour) stay is treated in a manner less favorable to the mother or newborn than any earlier portion of the stay.

In addition, a plan or issuer may not, under federal law, require that a DOCTOR or other health care PROVIDER obtain CERTIFICATION for prescribing a length of stay of up to 48 hours (or 96 hours). However, to use certain PROVIDERS or facilities, or to reduce your out-of-pocket costs, you may be required to obtain CERTIFICATION.

## **Mastectomy Benefits**

Under the Women's Health and Cancer Rights Act of 1998, this health benefit plan provides for the following services related to mastectomy SURGERY:

- Reconstruction of the breast on which the mastectomy has been performed
- SURGERY and reconstruction of the nondiseased breast to produce a symmetrical appearance, without regard to the lapse of time between the mastectomy and the reconstructive SURGERY
- Prostheses and physical complications of all stages of the mastectomy, including lymphedemas.

See PROVIDER'S Office, or for external prostheses, see PROSTHETIC APPLIANCES in Other Services in the "Summary of Benefits."

Please note that the decision to discharge the patient following mastectomy SURGERY is made by the attending physician in consultation with the patient.

The benefits described above are subject to the same applicable copayments, deductibles or coinsurance and limitations as applied to other medical and surgical benefits provided under this health benefit plan.

# SPECIAL PROGRAMS

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## **Programs Outside Your Regular Benefits**

Blue Cross NC may offer or provide programs that are outside your regular benefits. These offers or programs may be changed from time to time. Following are examples of programs that may be included outside your regular benefits:

- Discounts or promotional offers on goods and services from other companies including certain types of PROVIDERS
- Health and wellness programs
- Clinical Opportunities Notification Program involves the analysis of claims and subsequent notification to PROVIDERS suggesting consideration of certain patient-specific treatment options along with medical literature addressing these treatment options
- Service programs for MEMBERS identified with complex health care needs, including a dedicated administrative contact, consolidated claims data information, and supportive gift items
- Rewards or drawings for gifts based on activities related to online tools
- Rewards or drawings for gifts based on participation in initiatives and/or programs to reduce health care costs
- Periodic drawings for gifts, which may include club memberships and trips to special events, based on submitting information
- Charitable donations made on your behalf by Blue Cross NC.

Blue Cross NC may not provide some or all these items directly, but may instead arrange these for your convenience. These discounts or promotional offers are outside this health plan's benefits. Blue Cross NC is not liable for problems resulting from goods and services it does not provide directly, such as goods and services not being provided or being provided negligently. The gifts and charitable donations are also outside your health plan benefits. Blue Cross NC is not liable for third party PROVIDERS' negligent provision of the gifts. Blue Cross NC may stop or change these programs at any time.

## **Health Information Services**

If you have certain health conditions, Blue Cross NC or a representative of Blue Cross NC may contact you to provide information about your condition, answer questions and tell you about resources that may be available to you. Your participation is voluntary, and your medical information will be kept confidential.

# GLOSSARY

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These definitions will help you understand this health benefit plan. Please note that some of these terms may not apply to this health benefit plan.

## **ADAPTIVE BEHAVIOR TREATMENT**

Behavioral and developmental interventions that systematically manage instructional and environmental factors or the consequences of behavior that have been shown to be clinically effective through research published in peer reviewed scientific journals and based upon randomized, quasi-experimental, or single subject designs. All services performed must be within the PROVIDER'S scope of license or certification to be eligible for reimbursement.

## **ADVERSE BENEFIT DETERMINATION**

A denial, reduction, or termination of, or failure to provide or make full or partial payment for a benefit, including one that results from the application of any utilization review, or a failure to cover an item or service for which benefits are otherwise provided because it is determined to be EXPERIMENTAL or INVESTIGATIONAL or not MEDICALLY NECESSARY or appropriate. Rescission of coverage is also included as an adverse benefit determination.

## **ALLOWED AMOUNT**

The maximum amount that Blue Cross NC determines is reasonable for COVERED SERVICES provided to a MEMBER. The allowed amount includes any Blue Cross NC payment to the PROVIDER, plus any deductible, coinsurance or copayment. For PROVIDERS that have entered into an agreement with Blue Cross NC, the allowed amount is the negotiated amount that the PROVIDER has agreed to accept as payment in full. Except as otherwise specified in "EMERGENCY, URGENT CARE and Ambulance Services," for PROVIDERS that have not entered into an agreement with Blue Cross NC, the allowed amount will be the lesser of the PROVIDER'S billed charge or an amount based on an OUT-OF-NETWORK fee schedule established by Blue Cross NC or through the BlueCard system that is applied to comparable PROVIDERS for similar services under a similar health benefit plan. Where Blue Cross NC has not established an OUT-OF-NETWORK fee schedule amount for the billed service, the allowed amount will be the lesser of the PROVIDER'S billed charge or an amount established by Blue Cross NC or through the BlueCard system using a methodology that is applied to comparable PROVIDERS who may have entered into an agreement with Blue Cross NC for similar services under a similar health benefit plan. Other than as described above, Blue Cross NC will not pay the OUT-OF-NETWORK PROVIDER'S billed charge unless doing so is required in order to comply with North Carolina Statutes. Calculation of the allowed amount is based on several factors including Blue Cross NC's medical, payment and administrative guidelines. Under the guidelines, some procedures charged separately by the PROVIDER may be combined into one procedure for reimbursement purposes.

## **AMBULATORY SURGICAL CENTER**

A NONHOSPITAL FACILITY with an organized staff of DOCTORS, which is licensed or certified in the state where located, and which:

- a) Has permanent facilities and equipment for the primary purpose of performing surgical procedures on an outpatient basis
- b) Provides nursing services and treatment by or under the supervision of DOCTORS whenever the patient is in the facility
- c) Does not provide inpatient accommodations
- d) Is not other than incidentally, a facility used as an office or clinic for the private practice of a DOCTOR or OTHER PROVIDER.

## **ANCILLARY PROVIDER**

Independent clinical laboratories, durable/home medical equipment and supply PROVIDERS, or specialty pharmacies. Ancillary providers are considered IN-NETWORK if they contract directly with the Blue Cross or Blue Shield plan in the state where services are received, based on the following criteria:

- For independent clinical laboratories, services are received in the state where the specimen is drawn
- For durable/home medical equipment and supply PROVIDERS, services are received in the state where the equipment or supply is shipped (receiving address)
- For specialty pharmacies, services are received in the state where the ordering physician is located.

## **BENEFIT PERIOD**

The period of time, as stated in the "Summary of Benefits," during which charges for COVERED SERVICES provided to a MEMBER must be INCURRED in order to be eligible for payment by Blue Cross NC. A charge shall be considered INCURRED on the date the service or supply was provided to a MEMBER.

## **BENEFIT PERIOD MAXIMUM**

The maximum amount of charges or number of visits in a BENEFIT PERIOD that will be covered on behalf of a MEMBER. Services in excess of a benefit period maximum are not COVERED SERVICES, and MEMBERS may be responsible for the entire amount of the PROVIDER'S billed charge.

### **BIOLOGIC**

A complex large molecule drug produced from protein or living organisms.

### **BIOSIMILAR**

PRESCRIPTION DRUG products approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) that are subsequent versions of previously approved BIOLOGIC drugs, also known as follow-on biologics. Biosimilar drugs are manufactured after the patent and exclusivity protection of the BIOLOGIC drug has expired.

### **BRAND-NAME**

The proprietary name of the PRESCRIPTION DRUG that the manufacturer owning the patent places upon a drug product or on its container, label or wrapping at the time of packaging. A brand-name drug has a trade name and is protected by a patent and can only be produced and sold by the manufacturer owning the patent. Blue Cross NC makes the final determination of the classification of brand-name drug products based on information provided by the manufacturer and other external classification sources, such as the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and nationally-recognized drug databases.

### **CERTIFICATION**

The determination by Blue Cross NC that an admission, availability of care, continued stay, or other services, supplies or drugs have been reviewed and, based on the information provided, satisfy our requirements for MEDICALLY NECESSARY services and supplies, appropriateness, health care setting, level of care and effectiveness.

### **CLINICALLY NECESSARY (or CLINICAL NECESSITY)**

Those COVERED SERVICES, materials or supplies that are:

- a) Provided for the diagnosis, treatment, cure, or relief of a dental condition, illness, injury, or disease; and not for EXPERIMENTAL, INVESTIGATIONAL, or COSMETIC purposes, except as specifically covered by your dental benefit plan,
- b) Necessary for and appropriate to the diagnosis, treatment, cure, or relief of a dental condition, illness, injury, disease, or its symptoms,
- c) Within generally accepted standards of dental care in the community, and
- d) Not solely for the convenience of the insured, the insured's family, or the PROVIDER.

For clinically necessary services, Blue Cross NC may compare the cost-effectiveness of alternative services, settings, materials or supplies when determining which of the services, materials or supplies will be covered and in what setting clinically necessary services are eligible for coverage.

### **COMPLICATIONS OF PREGNANCY**

Medical conditions whose diagnoses are distinct from pregnancy, but are adversely affected or caused by pregnancy, resulting in the mother's life being in jeopardy or making the birth of a viable infant impossible and which require the mother to be treated prior to the full term of the pregnancy (except as otherwise stated below), including, but not limited to: abruption of placenta; acute nephritis; cardiac decompensation; documented hydramnios; eclampsia; ectopic pregnancy; insulin dependent diabetes mellitus; missed abortion; nephrosis; placenta previa; Rh sensitization; severe pre-eclampsia; trophoblastic disease; toxemia; immediate postpartum hemorrhage due to uterine atony; retained placenta or uterine rupture occurring within 72 hours of delivery; or, the following conditions occurring within ten days of delivery: urinary tract infection, mastitis, thrombophlebitis, and endometritis. EMERGENCY cesarean section will be considered eligible for benefit application only when provided in the course of treatment for those conditions listed above as a complication of pregnancy. Common side effects of an otherwise normal pregnancy, conditions not specifically included in this definition, episiotomy repair and birth injuries are not considered complications of pregnancy.

### **CONGENITAL**

Existing at, and usually before birth, referring to conditions that are apparent at birth regardless of their causation.

### **CONTRACT**

The agreement between Blue Cross NC and the GROUP. It includes the master group contract, the benefit booklet(s) and any exhibits or ENDORSEMENTS, the group enrollment application and medical questionnaire when applicable.

### **COSMETIC**

To improve appearance. This does not include restoration of physiological function resulting from accidental injury, trauma or previous treatment that would be considered a COVERED SERVICE. This also does not include reconstructive SURGERY to correct CONGENITAL or developmental anomalies that have resulted in functional impairment.

### **COVERED SERVICE(S)**

A service, drug, supply or equipment specified in this benefit booklet for which MEMBERS are entitled to benefits in accordance with the terms and conditions of this health benefit plan. Any services in excess of a BENEFIT PERIOD MAXIMUM or LIFETIME MAXIMUM are not COVERED SERVICES.



### **CREDITABLE COVERAGE**

Accepted health insurance coverage carried prior to Blue Cross NC coverage can be group health insurance, an EMPLOYEE welfare benefit plan to the extent that the plan provides medical care to EMPLOYEES and/or their DEPENDENTS directly or through insurance, reimbursement, or otherwise, individual health insurance, short-term limited duration health insurance coverage, public health plan, Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), Medicare, Medicaid, and any other coverage defined as creditable coverage under state or federal law. Creditable coverage does not include coverage consisting solely of excepted benefits.

### **DENTAL SERVICE(S)**

Dental care or treatment provided by a DENTIST or OTHER PROFESSIONAL PROVIDER in the DENTIST'S office to a covered MEMBER while the policy is in effect, provided such care or treatment is recognized by Blue Cross NC as a generally accepted form of care or treatment according to prevailing standards of dental practice.

### **DENTIST**

A dental practitioner who is duly licensed and qualified under the law of jurisdiction in which treatment is received to provide DENTAL SERVICES, perform dental SURGERY or administer anesthetics for dental SURGERY. All services performed must be within the scope of license or certification to be eligible for reimbursement.

### **DEPENDENT**

A MEMBER other than the SUBSCRIBER as specified in "When Coverage Begins And Ends."

### **DEPENDENT CHILD(REN)**

A child, until the end of the month of their 26<sup>th</sup> birthday, who is either:

- a) a SUBSCRIBER'S biological child, stepchild, legally adopted child (or child placed with the SUBSCRIBER and/or spouse or domestic partner for adoption), FOSTER CHILD, or
- b) a child for whom legal guardianship has been awarded to the SUBSCRIBER and/or spouse or domestic partner, or
- c) a child for whom the SUBSCRIBER and/or spouse or domestic partner has been required by court or administrative order to provide coverage. The spouse or children of a dependent child are not considered DEPENDENTS.

### **DOCTOR**

Includes the following: a doctor of medicine, a doctor of osteopathy, licensed to practice medicine or SURGERY by the Board of Medical Examiners in the state of practice, a doctor of dentistry, a doctor of podiatry, a doctor of chiropractic, a doctor of optometry, or a doctor of psychology who must be licensed or certified in the state of practice and has a doctorate degree in psychology and at least two years clinical experience in a recognized health setting or has met the standards of the National Register of Health Service Providers in Psychology. All of the above must be duly licensed to practice by the state in which any service covered by the contract is performed, regularly charge and collect fees as a personal right, subject to any licensure or regulatory limitation as to location, manner or scope of practice. All services performed must be within the scope of license or certification to be eligible for reimbursement.

### **DURABLE MEDICAL EQUIPMENT**

Items designated by Blue Cross NC which can withstand repeated use, are used primarily to serve a medical purpose, are not useful to a person in the absence of illness, injury or disease, and are appropriate for use in the patient's home.

### **EDUCATIONAL TREATMENT**

Services provided to foster acquisition of skills and knowledge to assist development of an individual's cognitive independence and personal responsibility. These services include academic learning, socialization, adaptive skills, communication, amelioration of interfering behaviors, and generalization of abilities across multiple environments.

### **EFFECTIVE DATE**

The date on which coverage for a MEMBER begins, according to "When Coverage Begins And Ends."

### **EMERGENCY(IES)**

A medical condition manifesting itself by acute symptoms of sufficient severity, including, but not limited to, severe pain, or by acute symptoms developing from a chronic medical condition that would lead a prudent layperson, possessing an average knowledge of health and medicine, to reasonably expect the absence of immediate medical attention to result in any of the following:

- a) placing the health of an individual or with respect to a pregnant woman, the health of the woman or her unborn child in serious jeopardy,
- b) serious impairment to bodily functions,
- c) serious dysfunction of any bodily organ or part,

Heart attacks, strokes, uncontrolled bleeding, poisonings, major burns, prolonged loss of consciousness, spinal injuries, shock, and other severe, acute conditions are examples of emergencies.

### **EMERGENCY SERVICES**

Health care items and services furnished or required to screen for or treat an EMERGENCY medical condition until the condition is STABILIZED, including pre-hospital care and ancillary services routinely available in the emergency department.

### **EMPLOYEE**

The person who is eligible for coverage under this health benefit plan due to employment with the EMPLOYER and who is enrolled for coverage.

### **EMPLOYER**

East Carolina University

### **ERISA**

The Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974.

### **EXPERIMENTAL**

See INVESTIGATIONAL.

### **FACILITY SERVICES**

COVERED SERVICES provided and billed by a HOSPITAL or NONHOSPITAL FACILITY. All services performed must be within the scope of license or certification to be eligible for reimbursement.

### **FORMULARY**

The list of outpatient PRESCRIPTION DRUGS, insulin, and certain over-the-counter drugs that may be available to MEMBERS.

### **FOSTER CHILD(REN)**

Children under age 18 i) for whom a guardian has been appointed by a clerk of superior court of any county in North Carolina or ii) whose primary or sole custody has been assigned by court or administrative order with proper jurisdiction and who are residing with a person appointed as guardian or custodian for so long as the guardian or custodian has assumed the legal obligation for total or partial support of the children with the intent that the children reside with the guardian or custodian on more than a temporary or short-term basis.

### **GENERIC**

A PRESCRIPTION DRUG that has the same active ingredient as a BRAND-NAME drug, has the same dosage form and strength as the BRAND-NAME drug, and has the same mechanism of action in the body as the BRAND-NAME drug. The classification of a PRESCRIPTION DRUG as a generic is determined by Blue Cross NC based on commercially available data resources and other external classification sources, such as the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and nationally recognized drug databases.

### **GRIEVANCE**

Grievances include dissatisfaction with our decisions, policies or actions related to the availability, delivery or quality of health care services, or with the contractual relationship between the MEMBER and Blue Cross NC.

### **GROUP**

ECU Postdoc Medical Insurance Plan. The Group or its designee is the plan administrator for purposes of ERISA and has the discretionary authority and responsibility to manage and direct the operation of the Plan. Blue Cross NC is not the ERISA plan administrator.

### **HABILITATIVE SERVICES**

Health care services that help a person keep, learn or improve skills and functioning for daily living. Examples include therapy for a child who is not walking or talking at the expected age. These services may include physical and occupational therapy, speech-language pathology and other services for people with disabilities in a variety of inpatient and/or outpatient settings.

### **HOMEBOUND**

A MEMBER who cannot leave their home or temporary residence due to a medical condition which requires both the assistance of another person and the aid of supportive devices or the use of special transportation. To be homebound means that leaving home takes considerable and taxing effort. A MEMBER is not considered homebound solely because the assistance of another person is required to leave the home.

### **HOME HEALTH AGENCY**

## **GLOSSARY** *(cont.)*

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A NONHOSPITAL FACILITY which is primarily engaged in providing home health care services medical or therapeutic in nature, and which:

- a) Provides skilled nursing and other services on a visiting basis in the MEMBER'S home,
- b) Is responsible for supervising the delivery of such services under a plan prescribed by a DOCTOR,
- c) Is accredited and licensed or certified in the state where located,
- d) Is certified for participation in the Medicare program, and
- e) Is acceptable to Blue Cross NC.

### **HOSPICE**

A NONHOSPITAL FACILITY that provides medically related services to persons who are terminally ill, and which:

- a) Is accredited, licensed or certified in the state where located
- b) Is certified for participation in the Medicare program
- c) Is acceptable to Blue Cross NC.

### **HOSPITAL**

An accredited institution for the treatment of the sick that is licensed as a hospital by the appropriate state agency in the state where located. All services performed must be within the scope of license or certification to be eligible for reimbursement.

### **IDENTIFICATION CARD (ID CARD)**

The card issued to our MEMBERS upon enrollment which provides GROUP/MEMBER identification numbers, names of the MEMBERS, and key benefit information, phone numbers and addresses.

### **INCURRED**

The date on which a MEMBER receives the service, drug, equipment or supply for which a charge is made.

### **INFERTILITY**

The inability after 12 consecutive months of unsuccessful attempts to conceive a child.

### **IN-NETWORK**

Designated as participating in the PPO network. Blue Cross NC's payment for in-network COVERED SERVICES is described in this benefit booklet as in-network benefits or in-network benefit levels.

### **IN-NETWORK PROVIDER**

A HOSPITAL, DOCTOR, other medical practitioner or PROVIDER of medical services and supplies that has been designated as a Blue Options PROVIDER by Blue Cross NC or a PROVIDER participating in the BlueCard program. ANCILLARY PROVIDERS outside North Carolina are considered IN-NETWORK only if they contract directly with the Blue Cross or Blue Shield plan in the state where services are received, even if they participate in the BlueCard program.

### **INVESTIGATIONAL (EXPERIMENTAL)**

The use of a service or supply including, but not limited to, treatment, procedure, facility, equipment, drug, or device that Blue Cross NC does not recognize as standard medical care of the condition, disease, illness, or injury being treated. The following criteria are the basis for Blue Cross NC's determination that a service or supply is investigational:

- a) Services or supplies requiring federal or other governmental body approval, such as drugs and devices that do not have unrestricted market approval from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) or final approval from any other governmental regulatory body for use in treatment of a specified condition. Any approval that is granted as an interim step in the regulatory process is not a substitute for final or unrestricted market approval.
- b) There is insufficient or inconclusive scientific evidence in peer-reviewed medical literature to permit Blue Cross NC's evaluation of the therapeutic value of the service or supply
- c) There is inconclusive evidence that the service or supply has a beneficial effect on health outcomes
- d) The service or supply under consideration is not as beneficial as any established alternatives
- e) There is insufficient information or inconclusive scientific evidence that, when utilized in a non-investigational setting, the service or supply has a beneficial effect on health outcomes and is as beneficial as any established alternatives.

If a service or supply meets one or more of the criteria, it is deemed investigational except for clinical trials as described under this health benefit plan. Determinations are made solely by Blue Cross NC after independent review of scientific data. Opinions of experts in a particular field and/or opinions and assessments of nationally recognized review organizations may also be considered by Blue Cross NC but are not determinative or conclusive.

### **LICENSED PRACTICAL NURSE (LPN)**

A nurse who has graduated from a formal practical nursing education program and is licensed by the appropriate state authority.

### **LIFETIME MAXIMUM**

The benefit maximum of certain COVERED SERVICES, such as INFERTILITY services, INFERTILITY drugs and orthotic devices for POSITIONAL PLAGIOCEPHALY, that will be reimbursed on behalf of a MEMBER while covered under this health benefit plan. Services in excess of any lifetime maximum are not COVERED SERVICES, and MEMBERS may be responsible for the entire amount of the PROVIDER'S billed charge.

### **MEDICAL SUPPLIES**

Health care materials that include ostomy supplies, catheters, oxygen and diabetic supplies.

### **MEDICALLY NECESSARY (OR MEDICAL NECESSITY)**

Those COVERED SERVICES or supplies that are:

- a) Provided for the diagnosis, treatment, cure, or relief of a health condition, illness, injury, or disease; and, except for clinical trials as described under this health benefit plan, not for EXPERIMENTAL, INVESTIGATIONAL, or COSMETIC purposes,
- b) Necessary for and appropriate to the diagnosis, treatment, cure, or relief of a health condition, illness, injury, disease, or its symptoms,
- c) Within generally accepted standards of medical care in the community, and
- d) Not solely for the convenience of the insured, the insured's family, or the PROVIDER.

For medically necessary services, Blue Cross NC may compare the cost-effectiveness of alternative services, settings or supplies when determining which of the services or supplies will be covered and in what setting medically necessary services are eligible for coverage.

### **MEMBER**

A SUBSCRIBER or DEPENDENT, who is currently enrolled in this health benefit plan and for whom premium is paid.

### **MENTAL ILLNESS**

(1) When applied to an adult MEMBER, an illness which so lessens the capacity of the individual to use self-control, judgment, and discretion in the conduct of his/her affairs and social relations as to make it necessary or advisable for him/her to be under treatment, care, supervision, guidance, or control; and (2) when applied to a DEPENDENT CHILD in accordance with North Carolina law, a mental condition, other than intellectual disability alone, that so impairs the DEPENDENT CHILD'S capacity to exercise age adequate self-control or judgment in the conduct of his/her activities and social relationships so that he/she is in need of treatment; and a mental disorder defined in the current edition of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders of the American Psychiatric Association, Washington, DC ("DSM-IV"). Those mental disorders coded in the DSM-V as autism spectrum disorder, substance-related disorders, SEXUAL DYSFUNCTION not due to organic disease, and those coded as "V" codes are not included in the definition of Mental Illness.

### **NONCERTIFICATION**

An ADVERSE BENEFIT DETERMINATION by Blue Cross NC that a service covered under this health benefit plan has been reviewed and does not meet Blue Cross NC's requirements for MEDICAL NECESSITY/CLINICAL NECESSITY, appropriateness, health care setting, level of care or effectiveness or the prudent layperson standard for coverage of EMERGENCY SERVICES and, as a result, the requested service is denied, reduced or terminated. The determination that a requested service is EXPERIMENTAL, INVESTIGATIONAL or COSMETIC is considered a noncertification. A noncertification is not a decision based solely on the fact that the requested service is specifically excluded under your benefits.

### **NONHOSPITAL FACILITY**

An institution or entity other than a HOSPITAL that is accredited and licensed or certified in the state where located to provide COVERED SERVICES and is acceptable to Blue Cross NC. All services performed must be within the scope of license or certification to be eligible for reimbursement.

### **OFFICE VISIT**

Services provided in a PROVIDER'S office, including, but not limited to the following:

- Medical care
- SURGERY
- Diagnostic services
- REHABILITATIVE THERAPY and HABILITATIVE SERVICES
- MEDICAL SUPPLIES
- Mental health and substance abuse services (evaluation and diagnosis, group therapy, individual and family counseling).

### **OTHER PROFESSIONAL PROVIDER**

A person or entity other than a DOCTOR who is accredited and licensed or certified in the state where located to provide COVERED SERVICES and which is acceptable to Blue Cross NC. Examples may include physician assistants (PAs), nurse practitioners (NPs) or certified registered nurse anesthetists (CRNAs). All services performed must be within the scope of license or certification to be eligible for reimbursement.

### **OTHER PROVIDER**

An institution or entity other than a HOSPITAL, which is accredited and licensed or certified in the state where located to provide COVERED SERVICES and which is acceptable to Blue Cross NC. All services performed must be within the scope of license or certification to be eligible for reimbursement.

### **OTHER THERAPY (IES)**

The following services and supplies, both inpatient and outpatient, ordered by a DOCTOR or OTHER PROVIDER to promote recovery from an illness, disease or injury when provided by a DOCTOR, OTHER PROVIDER or professional employed by a PROVIDER licensed in the state of practice.

- a) Cardiac rehabilitative therapy - reconditioning the cardiovascular system through exercise, education, counseling and behavioral change
- b) Chemotherapy (including intravenous chemotherapy) - the treatment of malignant disease by chemical or biological antineoplastic agents which have received full, unrestricted market approval from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA)
- c) Dialysis treatments - the treatment of acute renal failure or chronic irreversible renal insufficiency for removal of waste materials from the body to include hemodialysis or peritoneal dialysis
- d) Pulmonary therapy - programs that combine exercise, training, psychological support and education in order to improve the patient's functioning and quality of life
- e) Radiation therapy - the treatment of disease by x-ray, radium, or radioactive isotopes
- f) Respiratory therapy - introduction of dry or moist gases into the lungs for treatment purposes.

### **OUT-OF-NETWORK**

Not designated as participating in the PPO network, and not certified in advance by Blue Cross NC to be considered as IN-NETWORK. Our payment for out-of-network COVERED SERVICES is described in this benefit booklet as out-of-network benefits or out-of-network benefit levels.

### **OUT-OF-NETWORK PROVIDER**

A PROVIDER that has not been designated as a Blue Options PROVIDER by Blue Cross NC.

### **OUTPATIENT CLINIC(S)**

An accredited institution/facility associated with or owned by a HOSPITAL. An outpatient clinic may bill for outpatient visits, including professional services and ancillary services, such as diagnostic tests. These services may be subject to the Outpatient Services benefit. All services performed must be within the scope of the professional or facility license or certification to be eligible for reimbursement.

### **POSITIONAL PLAGIOCEPHALY**

The asymmetrical shape of an infant's head due to uneven external pressures on the skull in either the prenatal or postnatal environment. This does not include asymmetry of an infant's head due to premature closure of the sutures of the skull.

### **PRESCRIPTION**

An order for a drug issued by a DOCTOR duly licensed to make such a request in the ordinary course of professional practice; or requiring such an order.

### **PRESCRIPTION DRUG**

A drug that has been approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and is required, prior to being dispensed or delivered, to be labeled "Caution: Federal law prohibits dispensing without PRESCRIPTION," or labeled in a similar manner, and is appropriate to be administered without the presence of a medical supervisor.

### **PREVENTIVE CARE**

Medical services provided by or upon the direction of a DOCTOR or OTHER PROVIDER that detect disease early in patients who do not show any signs or symptoms of a disease. Preventive care services include immunizations, medications that delay or prevent a disease, and screening and counseling services. Screening services are specific procedures and tests that identify disease and/or risk factors before the beginning of any signs and symptoms.

### **PRIMARY CARE PROVIDER (PCP)**

An IN-NETWORK PROVIDER who has been designated by Blue Cross NC as a PCP.

### **PRIOR REVIEW**

The consideration of benefits for an admission, availability of care, continued stay, or other services, supplies or drugs, based on the information provided and requirements for a determination of MEDICAL NECESSITY of services and supplies, appropriateness, health care setting, or level of care and effectiveness. Prior review results in CERTIFICATION or NONCERTIFICATION of benefits.

### **PROSTHETIC APPLIANCES**

Fixed or removable artificial limbs or other body parts, which replace absent natural ones following permanent loss of the body part.

### **PROVIDER**

A HOSPITAL, NONHOSPITAL FACILITY, DOCTOR, or OTHER PROVIDER, accredited, licensed or certified where required in the state of practice, performing within the scope of license or certification. All services performed must be within the scope of license or certification to be eligible for reimbursement.

### **PROVIDER-ADMINISTERED SPECIALTY DRUGS**

Specialty drugs that are available on the medical benefit typically require close PROVIDER supervision and are generally dispensed in an office, outpatient setting, or through an infusion agency.

### **REGISTERED NURSE (RN)**

A nurse who has graduated from a formal program of nursing education (diploma school, associate degree or baccalaureate program), and is licensed by the appropriate state authority in the state of practice.

### **REHABILITATIVE THERAPY**

Services and supplies both inpatient and outpatient, ordered by a DOCTOR or OTHER PROVIDER to promote the recovery of the MEMBER from an illness, disease or injury when provided by a DOCTOR, OTHER PROVIDER or professional employed by a PROVIDER licensed by the appropriate state authority in the state of practice and subject to any licensure or regulatory limitation as to location, manner or scope of practice.

- a) Occupational therapy—treatment by means of constructive activities designed and adapted to promote the restoration of the person's ability to satisfactorily accomplish the ordinary tasks of daily living and those required by the person's particular occupational role after such ability has been impaired by disease, injury or loss of a body part
- b) Physical therapy—treatment by physical means, hydrotherapy, heat or similar modalities, physical agents, biomechanical and neurophysiological principles and devices to relieve pain, restore maximum function and prevent disability following disease, injury or loss of a body part
- c) Speech therapy—treatment for the restoration of speech impaired by disease, SURGERY, or injury; certain significant physical CONGENITAL conditions such as cleft lip and palate; or swallowing disorders related to a specific illness or injury.

### **RESIDENTIAL TREATMENT FACILITY**

A residential treatment facility is a facility that either: (1) offers treatment for patients that require close monitoring of their behavioral and clinical activities related to their chemical dependency or addiction to drugs or alcohol, or (2) offers treatment for patients that require psychiatric services for the diagnosis and treatment of MENTAL ILLNESS. All services performed must be within the scope of license or certification to be eligible for reimbursement.

### **RESPITE CARE**

Services provided by an alternate caregiver or facility to allow the primary caregiver time away from those activities. Respite care is provided in-home or at an alternative location for a short stay. Services include support of activities of daily living such as feeding, dressing, bathing, routine administration of medicines, and can also include intermittent skilled nursing services that the caregiver has been trained to provide.

### **RESTRICTED-ACCESS DRUGS**

Covered PRESCRIPTION DRUGS or devices for which reimbursement by Blue Cross NC is conditioned on: (1) Blue Cross NC's giving CERTIFICATION to prescribe the drug or device or (2) the PROVIDER prescribing one or more alternative drugs or devices before prescribing the drug or device in question.

### **ROUTINE FOOT CARE**

Hygiene and preventive maintenance of feet, such as trimming of corns, calluses or nails that do not usually require the skills of a qualified PROVIDER of foot care services.

### **SEXUAL DYSFUNCTION**

Any of a group of sexual disorders characterized by inhibition either of sexual desire or of the psychophysiological changes that usually characterize sexual response. Included are female sexual arousal disorder, male erectile disorder and hypoactive sexual desire disorder.

### **SKILLED NURSING FACILITY**

A NONHOSPITAL FACILITY licensed under state law that provides skilled nursing, rehabilitative and related care where professional medical services are administered by a registered or LICENSED PRACTICAL NURSE. All services performed must be within the scope of license or certification to be eligible for reimbursement.

### **SPECIALIST**

A DOCTOR who is recognized by Blue Cross NC as specializing in an area of medical practice.

### **SPECIALTY DRUG(S)**

Those medications classified by Blue Cross NC that generally have unique indications or uses, or require special dosing or administration, or are typically prescribed by a SPECIALIST, or are significantly more expensive than alternative therapies. Specialty drugs may be self-administered or PROVIDER-administered and classified as GENERIC, BRAND-NAME, BIOLOGIC, or BIOSIMILAR.

### **STABILIZE**

To provide medical care that is appropriate to prevent a material deterioration of the MEMBER'S condition, within reasonable medical certainty.

### **SUBSCRIBER**

The person who is eligible for coverage under this health benefit plan due to employment and who is enrolled for coverage.

### **SURGERY**

The performance of generally accepted operative and cutting procedures including specialized instrumentations, endoscopic examinations and other invasive procedures, such as:

- a) The correction of fractures and dislocations
- b) Usual and related pre-operative and post-operative care
- c) Other procedures as reasonable and approved by Blue Cross NC.

### **TIER 1 DRUGS**

The PRESCRIPTION DRUG tier which consists of the lowest cost tier of PRESCRIPTION DRUGS, most are GENERIC.

### **TIER 2 DRUGS**

The PRESCRIPTION DRUG tier which consists of medium-cost PRESCRIPTION DRUGS, most are GENERIC, and some BRAND-NAME PRESCRIPTION DRUGS.

### **TIER 3 DRUGS**

The PRESCRIPTION DRUG tier which consists of higher-cost PRESCRIPTION DRUGS, most are BRAND-NAME PRESCRIPTION DRUGS, and some SPECIALTY DRUGS.

### **TIER 4 DRUGS**

The PRESCRIPTION DRUG tier which consists of the highest-cost PRESCRIPTION DRUGS, most are SPECIALTY DRUGS.

### **TOTAL OUT-OF-POCKET LIMIT**

The maximum amount listed in "Summary of Benefits" that is payable by the MEMBER in a BENEFIT PERIOD before Blue Cross NC pays 100% of COVERED SERVICES. It consists of the out-of-pocket expense (which is the annual maximum amount of coinsurance and any copayments) plus the deductible.

### **URGENT CARE**

Services provided for a condition that occurs suddenly and unexpectedly, requiring prompt diagnosis or treatment, such that in the absence of immediate care the individual could reasonably be expected to suffer chronic illness, prolonged impairment, or require a more hazardous treatment. Fever over 101 degrees Fahrenheit, ear infection, sprains, some lacerations and dizziness are examples of conditions that would be considered urgent.

### **UTILIZATION MANAGEMENT (UM)**

A set of formal processes that are used to evaluate the MEDICAL NECESSITY, quality of care, cost-effectiveness and appropriateness of many health care services, including procedures, treatments, medical devices, PROVIDERS and facilities.

### **WAITING PERIOD**

## **GLOSSARY** *(cont.)*

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The amount of time that must pass before a MEMBER is eligible to be covered for benefits under the terms of this health benefit plan.



## Non-Discrimination and Accessibility Notice

### Discrimination is Against the Law

- Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina (“BCBSNC”) complies with applicable Federal civil rights laws and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, or sex.
  - BCBSNC does not exclude people or treat them differently because of race, color, national origin, age, disability, or sex.
- BCBSNC:
- Provides free aids and services to people with disabilities to communicate effectively with us, such as:
    - Qualified interpreters
    - Written information in other formats (large print, audio, accessible electronic formats, other formats)
  - Provides free language services to people whose primary language is not English, such as:
    - Qualified interpreters
    - Information written in other languages
- If you need these services, contact Customer Service **1-888-206-4697**, TTY and TDD, call **1-800-442-7028**.
  - If you believe that BCBSNC has failed to provide these services or discriminated in another way on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, or sex, you can file a grievance with:
    - BCBSNC, PO Box 2291, Durham, NC 27702, Attention: Civil Rights Coordinator- Privacy, Ethics & Corporate Policy Office, Telephone **919-765-1663**, Fax **919-287-5613**, TTY **1-888-291-1783** [civilrightscoordinator@bcbsnc.com](mailto:civilrightscoordinator@bcbsnc.com)
  - You can file a grievance in person or by mail, fax, or email. If you need help filing a grievance, Civil Rights Coordinator - Privacy, Ethics & Corporate Policy Office is available to help you.
  - You can also file a civil rights complaint with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office for Civil Rights, electronically through the Office for Civil Rights Complaint Portal, available at <https://ocrportal.hhs.gov/ocr/portal/lobby.jsf>, or by mail or phone at: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services 200 Independence Avenue, SW Room 509F, HHH Building Washington, D.C. 20201 **1-800-368-1019**, **800-537-7697** (TDD). Complaint forms are available at <http://www.hhs.gov/ocr/office/file/index.html>.
  - This Notice and/or attachments may have important information about your application or coverage through BCBSNC. Look for key dates. You may need to take action by certain deadlines to keep your health coverage or help with costs. You have the right to get this information and help in your language at no cost. Call Customer Service **1-888-206-4697**.



ATTENTION: If you speak another language, language assistance services, free of charge, are available to you. Call 1-888-206-4697 (TTY: 1-800-442-7028).

ATENCIÓN: Si habla español, tiene a su disposición servicios gratuitos de asistencia lingüística. Llame al 1-888-206-4697 (TTY: 1-800-442-7028).

注意: 如果您講廣東話或普通話, 您可以免費獲得語言援助服務。請致電 1-888-206-4697 (TTY: 1-800-442-7028)。

CHÚ Ý: Nếu bạn nói Tiếng Việt, có các dịch vụ hỗ trợ ngôn ngữ miễn phí dành cho bạn. Gọi số 1-888-206-4697 (TTY: 1-800-442-7028).

주의: 한국어를 사용하시는 경우, 언어 지원 서비스를 무료로 이용하실 수 있습니다. 1-888-206-4697 (TTY: 1-800-442-7028)번으로 전화해 주십시오.

ATTENTION: Si vous parlez français, des services d'aide linguistique vous sont proposés gratuitement. Appelez le 1-888-206-4697 (ATS: 1-800-442-7028).

ملحوظة: إذا كنت تتحدث اللغة العربية، فإن خدمات المساعدة اللغوية تتوافر لك بالمجان. اتصل برقم 1-888-206-4697. المبرقة الكاتبة: 1-800-442-7028.

LUS CEEV: Yog tias koj hais lus Hmoob, cov kev pab txog lus, muaj kev pab dawb rau koj. Hu rau 1-888-206-4697 (TTY: 1-800-442-7028).

ВНИМАНИЕ: Если вы говорите на русском языке, то вам доступны бесплатные услуги перевода. Звоните 1-888-206-4697 (телетайп: 1-800-442-7028).

PAUNAWA: Kung nagsasalita ka ng Tagalog, maaari kang gumamit ng mga serbisyo ng tulong sa wika nang walang bayad. Tumawag sa 1-888-206-4697 (TTY: 1-800-442-7028).

સુચના: જો તમે ગુજરાતી બોલતા હો, તો નિ:સુલ્ક ભાષા સહાય સેવાઓ તમારા માટે ઉપલબ્ધ છે. ફોન કરો 1-888-206-4697 (TTY: 1-800-442-7028).

ចំណាំ: ប្រសិនបើលោកអ្នកនិយាយជាភាសាខ្មែរ លោកអ្នកជំនួយផ្នែកភាសាមានផ្តល់ជូនសម្រាប់លោកអ្នកដោយមិនគិតថ្លៃ។ សូមទំនាក់ទំនងតាមរយៈលេខ: 1-888-206-4697 (TTY: 1-800-442-7028)។

ACHTUNG: Wenn Sie Deutsch sprechen, stehen Ihnen kostenlos sprachliche Hilfsdienstleistungen zur Verfügung. Rufnummer: 1-888-206-4697 (TTY: 1-800-442-7028).

ध्यान दें: यदि आप हिन्दी बोलते हैं तो आपके लिए मुफ्त में भाषा सहायता सेवाएं उपलब्ध हैं। 1-888-206-4697 (TTY: 1-800-442-7028) पर कॉल करें।

ໂປດຊາບ: ຖ້າວ່າ ທ່ານເວົ້າພາສາ ລາວ, ການບໍລິການຊ່ວຍເຫຼືອດ້ານພາສາ, ໂດຍບໍ່ເສັຽຄ່າ, ແມ່ນມີພ້ອມໃຫ້ທ່ານ. ໂທ 1-888-206-4697 (TTY: 1-800-442-7028).

注意事項: 日本語を話される場合、無料の言語支援をご利用いただけます。1-888-206-4697 (TTY: 1-800-442-7028) まで、お電話にてご連絡ください。





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ECU PostdocMedical Insurance Plan  
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# BlueOPTIONS<sup>SM</sup>

**ECU Postdoc**

**Medical Insurance Plan**

**Group Effective Date:  
07/01/19**



**BlueCross BlueShield  
of North Carolina**

An Independent Licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association